

# EMMA MAKES FIRE SAFETY EU PRIORITY

As the author, I recently submitted a Written Declaration on Domestic Fire Safety to the European Parliament.

The Declaration urges member states and the European Commission to take measures to help reduce the number of domestic fires. 75-80% of all fire fatalities across the EU occur in domestic homes. A 2009 report about injuries in the EU indicated that 35% of fatal accidents in the home are as a result of fire and smoke.

The UK and Ireland have stricter fire-resistance standards for domestic furniture than other EU member states. Other member states such as Germany and Sweden are wary of the excessive use of flame-retardant chemicals. However, there are a range of voluntary standards in place which were established by CEN, the European Standardisation Committee.

I know from personal experience just how quickly a fire can start and spread, so I'm very glad to have co-authored this declaration which I hope will raise the issue of fire safety and help to save lives across the EU.



We need to do all we can to try and raise awareness of fire safety. Anything that people can do to give themselves more time – such as a working smoke alarm – is hugely important.

Not every country has the same awareness of fire as the UK, so it's vital that we urge member states to raise awareness of fire safety so that as many lives as possible are saved and we can be safe when we travel abroad.

We need to consider the fire safety aspect in processing our legislation to make sure new measures enhance fire safety across the board.

If there is an issue in your area that you would like to discuss, please get in touch with me.

# HELPING TO END SHARK FINNING

I recently gave my support to a campaign in the European Parliament condemning the practice of shark finning and calling for loopholes in legislation to be closed, which I am glad to say was voted through.

The practice of shark finning – where sharks are caught and have their fins cut off – is inhumane and driven by the demand for shark fin soup.

After the shark's fin has been cut off, the shark is released back into the water where it will die a slow and painful death.

I'm glad that the EU banned shark finning in 2003, but there were loopholes in that legislation which we have now voted to close.



Your European Parliamentary report from Emma McClarkin MEP

Winter 2012

# EU TALKS CONTINUE

EU talks continue to dominate debate and headlines. The last summit ended without agreement on the future of the EU budget. The proposal on the table was not one the Prime Minister was prepared to accept nor a number of other countries either.

issue and led a group of other countries who saw the Commission proposal as unrealistic. He has rightfully said he will veto a budget which exceeds a real terms freeze or which does not preserve Britain's rebate in full. I am very proud our Prime Minister is standing up for Britain.

The Commission wants to increase the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020 by €100 billion, around €14 billion more each year than current annual spending.

The summit will reconvene in early 2013. The EU needs to be realistic about its budget in the midst of crisis. We have already ensured that the UK will end its participation in EU bailouts - and thank God we are out of the Euro. The EU has to face up to its problems and learn to stop the unnecessary and unaffordable spending of tax-payers money. The British people would expect us to fight hard for the best deal for them and that is exactly what we will continue to do.

Conservatives want a good deal for the British taxpayer and are fighting for, at the very least, a freeze in real terms for the next MFF.

The Prime Minister was not alone on this

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to my latest parliamentary report. As the sole Conservative MEP for the East Midlands, this year has been busier than ever for me.

As well as representing our region in the European Parliament, I've been getting around the East Midlands as much as possible, meeting as many of you as I can.

In Europe, I've been leading the way on important issues such as online child protection, fire safety, helping SMEs, and rural broadband. Back home in the East Midlands, I've also been campaigning for this year's local elections and the recent PCC elections.

As we go into 2013, I look forward to working equally hard for our region. I'd like to end by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Emma McClarkin

# STAYING IN TOUCH

I always try to keep you up to date with everything I'm doing, both in Brussels and across the East Midlands.



One way of doing this is my website, which is continually updated with news about what I'm doing. You can visit it at [www.emmamclarkin.com](http://www.emmamclarkin.com) or by scanning the QR code on the right with your smartphone.

# EMMA VISITS UK UNDER-WATER RESCUE CHARITY

Earlier this year I visited SARbot UK, a water rescue charity and the UK's only underwater rescue service, based in Long Eaton, Derbyshire.



The primary water rescue services, the fire service and RNLI are only trained and equipped to rescue individuals from the water surface and neither have any statutory responsibility to do so. SARbot UK are the only organisation who can effectively rescue casualties who are underwater without placing the rescuer at risk.

I met with them to discuss possible EU funding for them to further develop their scheme. They will soon be taking part in a European

funded programme sharing their technology with the Dutch, who have lost several divers in the past few years while attempting rescues.

Meeting them and finding out about the service they operate and the technology they use was a real eye-opener. I was amazed to learn that patients can recover even after 90 minutes of being underwater.

The service they provide is key not only for search but also rescue operations and I would encourage everyone to support this new charity in ensuring its work and service continues.

You can visit their website at [www.sarbot.co.uk](http://www.sarbot.co.uk)

# EU LAW JARS WITH EAST MIDLANDS JAM MAKERS

Following concerns over new EU food hygiene legislation, I've recently sought to calm fears about the re-use of jam jars and other glass food containers.

New EU legislation bans the re-use of food containers, which were not designed for re-use. This is designed to prevent chemicals leaching out and contaminating food, but the fear has been that it also makes it illegal to re-use glass jars and sell them with other produce in them.



However, I have sought assurance and have been told that this is not what the regulation was intended to achieve and not how it would ever realistically be applied. But this is yet another example where the EU hasn't thought through the consequences of its legislation and created panic instead of clarity.

It would be ridiculous to stop kind-hearted people making jam for charity and selling it in recycled jars, and I'd advise people to carry on jam-making just as they have always done.

# RURAL BROADBAND BOOST

Following on from my campaign on rural broadband, I've welcomed the recent ruling by the European Commission that says a proposed UK support scheme for investing in rural and remote broadband is in line with state aid rules.

The decision followed lobbying by myself and other Conservative MEPs, and also came just a few weeks after I co-authored a letter to the Culture Secretary, urging the Government to ensure that superfast broadband quickly covers the whole of the UK.

The UK needs urgent investment in broadband infrastructure, and I have been calling for urgency on delivery of broadband for a long time. We have real problems in rural areas of the East Midlands and need to ensure communities are getting connected.

The process of approval has taken too long, and this is something the European Commission needs to look at for the future. However I'm delighted that this approval will enable the UK to get on with delivering the broadband network that we need, in order to grow our economy and support businesses of all size, but particularly small rural businesses.





# Out & About in 2012 With EMMA McCLARKIN MEP

## Giving young people a voice at the CF Conference

In October I helped organise a conference with the Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists, geared at young people who are passionate about politics or who would like to find out more and get involved.

I feel it is hugely important to maintain the interest of young

people in the region and beyond, as they will be the decision-makers of the future.

The conference was attended by many young people who joined us in Nottingham from across the whole region. We invited a host of MPs and MEPs who spoke about their route into politics and gave a helpful insight into the work they do. The debate was intelligent, engaged and fun!

It was the first event bringing our regional young Conservatives together and I hope this event will grow and grow in coming years.



Speaking at the European Youth Conference which I hosted.



On exercises with the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme.



Visiting the Sealwood Vineyard in Derbyshire this summer



Campaigning in Countryfile's 'Best Market Town', Louth, this year.



Discussing CAP Review at Lyndon Lodge Farm in Market Harborough



Promoting Conservative Friends of India at the party conference



EU Debate at Gainsborough Conservatives' Supper Club, with Cllr Jeff Summers



Campaigning for the Corby by-election earlier this year



With members of South Leicestershire Conservatives.



Campaigning with the new Northamptonshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Adam Simmonds, in Brackley



Out and about this summer, campaigning in Sileby

## Graduating from the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme

As an elected parliamentarian I was lucky enough to be offered the chance to join the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme (AFPS) to learn more about our great Armed Forces and I jumped at it!

During the scheme I wore my uniform with pride and joined our servicemen on exercise at bases throughout the UK as well as visiting the troops in Afghanistan. I am grateful for being able to have such a remarkable and valuable experience during which I learnt and experienced so much.

AFPS offered me the opportunity to spend 22 days with the Armed Forces to gain a better understanding of how they operate, interact and protect the UK.

When I graduated the scheme I left with even more pride and respect for the job our Armed Forces do and the contribution they make to our safety and to our communities.



Graduating from the AFPS

## Conveying our Conservative message is a priority

This year again has been a year full of campaigning, right across the East Midlands.

In May we had local council elections in many areas of the region, and in November we had elections for the first ever Police and

Crime Commissioners.

Myself and Team McClarkin enjoy helping associations with campaigning, as it not only allows me to see what things are like on the ground, but also enables me to meet members up and down the region.

Next year I'm looking forward to once again helping out. If your associations would like me to help them, please do get in touch and I will try my best to give you my support.

**Get in touch!**



With Chris Heaton-Harris MP at the CPF Conference in Leicester