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Defending your interests at EU level

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Welcome to my August newsletter

It was a long hot summer in the EU as the markets got the jitters at the lack of direction being shown on rescuing the Euro, sending shares into freefall. The failure of the Euro zone leaders, EU Institutions and European Central Bank to tackle the crisis demonstrates in glorious Technicolor the old adage of too many cooks.

I will go into more depth and share with you the exchanges I had with some of these figures below. Also this month we had news through a senior Downing Street aide

that Mr Cameron's government does not want a referendum on EU membership, and more on the ridiculous proposed rules governing motorcycles, trikes and quad bikes. I am also raising your awareness about local events where I will be participating in the coming month.

As always, if I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can find my contact details in this newsletter.

EU monetary affairs being conducted in sheer chaos

The first meeting following the European Parliament's summer break took place on Monday 29th August.

Members of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (of which I am one) met to discuss the sovereign debt crisis with several key players:

- Jean-Claude Trichet - President of the ECB (European Central Bank)
- Olli Rehn - Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs
- Jean-Claude Juncker - President of the Eurogroup (the Eurozone finance ministers)
- Jacek Rostowski - Minister of Finance for Poland (Poland current holds the EU's presidency)

The meeting took place against a backdrop of crisis in Angela Merkel's coalition in Germany, as she no longer had enough votes to secure backing for her and Sarkozy's

Eurozone 'rescue' plan. Some of Merkel's coalition partners have rebutted the Franco-German plans and said that EMU countries in crisis should be allowed to default.

I asked Mr Trichet to face the music and allow default. I told him that markets look to countries in trouble, but they also look to the reaction of the stronger countries in the Euro zone. In France too, the parliament there cannot agree on the constitutional zero deficit scheme.

I also asked him to reconsider lowering the ECB refinancing rate by 100 basis points (in other words, a full percentage point) to try to get our economies moving again. His view however is that his mandate is to control inflation and unemployment is not his concern.

Will the EU or ECB allow default? Unlikely. Even with Greece as close to bankruptcy as it is possible to get, despite the precarious nature of the Portuguese and Spanish economies, and despite the fact that Ireland is in the teeth of possibly the worst recession since the 1950's, the Polish Finance Minister was adamant that "no Treasury was small enough to fail". He added that while the Euro may not have been created out of solidarity, now solidarity was needed. In other words, we've got to keep this thing rolling whether you like it or not!

It is at best chaotic and at worst shambolic at the higher echelons of EU decision making. Each wing blames the other for the crisis and as a result the currency simply will not fly on the markets. Nobody can take responsibility. And it is for these reasons, and indeed many others that the UK can count its blessings that it is not part of this doomed political project. I will of course keep you posted of future developments.



I confronted Trichet on the mismanagement of EU monetary affairs.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED MY NEWSLETTER BY POST?

I am trying to e-mail my newsletter to as many people as possible as a way of keeping costs down.

Please e-mail me at marta.andreasen-office@europarl.europa.eu to have your name added to the distribution list.

Downing Street: No referendum on the EU

A senior Downing Street aide was quoted in a newspaper saying that the UK had a referendum on membership of the EU in the seventies and that we didn't need one now.

If ever the citizens of the United Kingdom needed to have their voice heard it is now!

The response to the Eurozone crisis from France and Germany demonstrates the direction that the EU is heading in. Whenever there is a crisis the solution is a deeper, more federal Europe, with Merkel and Sarkozy calling the shots. With the peripheral

countries in dire straits and reduced to going cap in hand for handouts, there is little to no chance of stopping greater and deepening EU control of our daily lives. Who will dissent? Greece? Spain? Ireland? Portugal? Italy? No chance. The big two have them where they want them: dependent and therefore compliant.

And the UK? We are being asked to finance an ever increasing EU budget to help poorer economies grow up to become competitive. We have already poured thousands of millions of our money into the EU budget. To what

benefit? A massive economic and financial crisis where we are asked to stump up more money to bail them out.

Why is it then that David Cameron wants to continue to finance this failure? Why does he ask us for austerity sacrifices here but is happy to waste our money there? Is this not reason enough for a referendum?

The answer has to be yes. Anything less is an abdication of the duty of care that a government has towards its citizens.

More news on crazy motorbike rules

My mailbox was crammed this month with letters from concerned bikers. You may remember in a previous newsletter I wrote that the European Parliament is looking at plans to regulate bikes, trikes and quad bikes.

I am trying to do much more than just give the many thousands of bikers in the UK a sympathetic hearing. The proposals show a distinct lack of understanding of how motorbikes work, discriminate against the disabled and, if implemented, could ironically make bikes less safe.

For instance compulsory ABS: ABS does not work well on loose surfaces or snow. The European commission's own internal Impact Assessment admits that the data on the effectiveness and costs of compulsory ABS is weak.

The anti-tampering measures will seriously affect disabled

bikers. It goes without saying that if you have a physical disability and wish to ride, modifications enable you to do so.

The latest news is that the EU also wants to ban bikes over 7 years old from our roads. Imagine if they tried the same thing with cars, there would uproar!



Listening to concerned bikers in Berkshire

I want to see this needless legislation thrown on the scrap heap where it deserves to be. It is actually an unwarranted attack on biking culture and a way of life. I am actively working on a campaign against this legislation. I will of course keep you posted as the campaign gathers steam in future issues.

MY STAND AT CONFERENCE

I will be having a stand at the UKIP conference where I will be delighted to meet you and answer any questions you may have. You will find my stand in the exhibition area.

The conference is from 8th-10th September.

FRINGE MEETING ON BUDGET

I will also be hosting a fringe meeting on the Friday afternoon of the conference entitled, 'Why we should not pay a penny more to the EU'. There will also be a Q&A session and I'm sure the topic will stimulate interesting questions!

CANAL TRIP IN HAMPSHIRE

I have been invited to be the guest speaker on a canal day trip which will be held on Saturday 17th September. We'll meet at 10:30 at Odiham Wharf, London Road, Odiham, Hampshire, RG29 1AL and it will be a relaxing day for us all to meet and enjoying a slow cruise down the Basingstoke canal.

Tickets cost £30 and include lunch. Alcoholic and non-alcohol refreshments will be available to purchase on board.

Please call Rob Shatwell to book on 07818 441148, I'm told only around 30 tickets remain.