



intouch with the South East

Dear Member

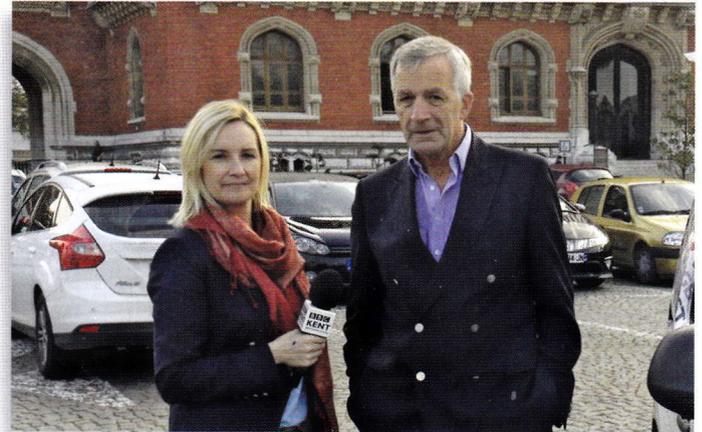
I was pleased to be elected to the European parliament for my third term in May and I am grateful for your support throughout the campaign. Moreover, I am acutely aware of the frustrations felt by many of you with the institutions in Brussels. The mandate I have is to make Europe work better for the UK. As your MEP I will support the Prime Minister's renegotiation plan and look forward to putting this reformed Europe to the people's vote in a referendum in 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Ashworth MEP

Joint working essential to combat Calais migration

The situation in Calais is of huge concern. I recently visited the town to see the situation and it became abundantly clear to me that there is no short term solution. At any time several hundred migrants are in Calais seeking to gain illegal entry to the UK. The wealthy European nations are a major draw factor



Richard speaking on BBC Radio after his meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Calais, Philippe Mignonet, regarding illegal migration

internationally for those fleeing war, climate change and extreme poverty and the UK is a destination of choice.

However, whilst Calais is a flashpoint because of the British border, it should be borne in mind that the numbers of migrants entering the UK are similar to those entering Germany, France and Sweden. This problem has been going on for many years and there is no quick fix. I believe the solution lies not in blaming one country or another, but by coordinating our efforts at the entry points into the EU. We must tackle the international criminal people-trafficking organisations which profit from this migration and I am leading a group of MEPs from affected member states to drive more effective coordination. ■



Richard meeting with Kent Summer School students during their visit to the European Parliament

TTIP: Important opportunity for South East jobs and business

The TTIP (EU-USA free trade agreement) negotiations are currently on-going. I am working with the UK government, European parliament and commission to scrutinise this process to ensure the UK has access to all the benefits in the form of jobs, businesses, and consumer protection.

How will this deal benefit you? It may increase exports from the South East to the USA by £3,700mn, bringing an extra £433 disposable income per year for the average family. This would be a huge boost to the local economy, supporting jobs and family incomes.

TTIP would make it easier for British businesses to sell products in the USA; while making it simpler and cheaper for you to purchase a wider range of goods online. We will achieve this by reducing import tariffs, regulatory convergence and mutual recognition without lowering safety standards and by setting global standards for future trade deals with other countries.

Unfortunately there has been recent scaremongering about TTIP. Many people have contacted me to raise concerns and I have pleased to have this opportunity to address these issues ■



Richard supporting CAMRA's manifesto for pubs and real ale

Richard with Steve Rogers of Pennyfarthing Jewellers, East Grinstead



Richard visiting car maker Rolls-Royce to discuss their major new development in Bognor which will bring in much needed local investment whilst securing 200 jobs



Richard supporting the NFU's Back British Farming campaign

TTIP Mythbuster

- 1 TTIP will not change the way the NHS is run:** All parties involved, the UK, the British Prime Minister, the EU, the USA, are united in this issue. No one wants TTIP to affect public services such as the NHS. TTIP will be negotiated in the same way as previous trade deals which have similarly not affected the NHS.
- 2 TTIP will not lower standards of food standards:** TTIP will make it easier for food producers to export their products however their products will still be required to conform to the importing country's food standards.
- 3 TTIP will be subject to democratic scrutiny:** Once an agreement is reached (still a long way off), it will be scrutinised by UK parliament and will have to be agreed by MEPs and the European council (representing the elected governments of the EU countries).
- 4 TTIP will not undermine UK sovereignty:** Investor to State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) is a mechanism most relevant to investment in developing countries. It protects foreign companies, which bring jobs and growth, against discriminatory acts of government contrary to the underlying trade agreement. It is not a universal right for companies to sue a government if its profits are affected. Its scope is limited to a government's commitments made in the underlying international agreement. Therefore ISDS is akin to a mechanism to claim for damages where a government unfairly breaches a contract. The UK has used ISDS clauses since 1975 and currently has 90 in operation in trade agreements. We have never lost a case under ISDS. Including ISDS in TTIP is about setting the highest global standards for future trade deals between other countries where investors have a greater need for such protection. Both the US and the EU are committed to ensuring that legislation which reflects legitimate public interest policies (e.g. environmental issues) cannot be undermined through ISDS and this will be a condition in the TTIP agreement. ■

EU Budget: We need to reprioritise

The Prime Minister and your Conservative MEPs secured the first ever EU budget cut. This was a huge achievement; however, there is more work to be done now. In recent years the long-term spending commitments entered into by the EU with the Member States outweigh the revenue available to meet them. As the EU legally cannot run a deficit, we have come to an impasse.

As a member of the Budget committee, I will not put my name to any budget that continues to leave unpaid bills in the EU. However, I do not believe that an increase in the budget is acceptable. Instead, a better budget is needed. I believe the EU has two alternatives: either a US style fiscal cliff, resulting in a severe cut across all spending areas, or a line-by-line review and reprioritisation towards those areas which offer greatest value for money. I am calling on my fellow MEPs to insist that we play a much greater role. ■

CAP Reform

I am very concerned about the impact of the reformed Common Agricultural Policy which comes into force in January 2015. Local farmers are not getting definitive answers from DEFRA or the commission to enable them to fully comply with the new regulations. The result of this could be heavy fines for farmers and such penalisation would be disproportionate and unfair. I recently met with the new Commissioner for Agriculture, Phil Hogan, to outline these issues. He was very receptive and has given assurances that he will work with us to minimise any adverse effects. ■



Richard discussing implementation of the CAP with the new Commissioner Phil Hogan

EU Budget – Did you know:

- Every member country contributes 1% of gross national income to the EU.
- Over 80% of the budget is invested directly in European countries for projects such as: infrastructure, transport, agriculture, supporting food security, research and Erasmus students.
- Just 5% of the budget is spent on central administrative costs of the institutions. ■



Richard meeting with Universities UK to discuss how to ensure continued EU investment in UK research and development

Out and About in the South East



Richard and Andrew Tyrie MP visiting Selsey RNLI Lifeboat Station, West Sussex



Richard with James Arbuthnot MP, Ranil Jayawardena and volunteers after a day of campaigning in Hampshire in May 2014



Richard talking to Pete in P&P Family Butchers, Haywards Heath



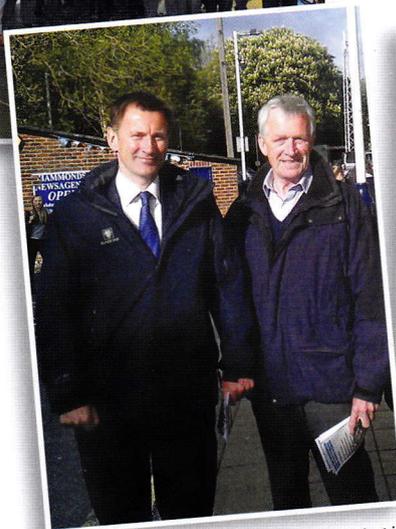
Richard hearing from the University of Kent about their mission to be the UK's European University



Richard debating EU current affairs with pupils at Beths Grammar School, Kent



Richard joining in a game of table tennis during his visit to Rotherfield St Martin Community Project, East Sussex



Richard and Jeremy Hunt MP campaigning in Surrey for the European Elections in May 2014



Richard with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for West Sussex, Colin Field, Mid Sussex MP, Sir Nicholas Soames and dignitaries at the opening of the Haywards Heath Town Day

Conservative MEPs for the South East are **Richard Ashworth, Nirj Deva, and Daniel Hannan**