

# Arlene McCarthy MEP

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## Goldman Sachs' explanation "not good enough"

### To contact Arlene:



0161 906 0801



[arlene.mccarthy@easynet.co.uk](mailto:arlene.mccarthy@easynet.co.uk)



[www.arlenemccarthy.labour.co.uk](http://www.arlenemccarthy.labour.co.uk)

Speaking ahead of a debate in the European Parliament with EU President, Herman Van Rompuy, on the situation in Greece Arlene as Vice President of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, has renewed her criticism of the Greek debt cover up by Goldman Sachs.

Arlene said: "Goldman Sachs have tried to justify their involvement in hiding Greek debt, saying in effect that others were doing it too, that even if wrong it wasn't technically illegal, and that they 'only' hid debt worth 1.6% of Greek GDP, equal to some 2.4 Billion Euros. Not only are these excuses not good enough, they show that even after the crisis there has not been a change of culture, banks cannot just blame their irresponsible behaviour on a lack of rules to restrain them."

"These deals have increased costs for Greek taxpayers and left a mess behind for Greece's citizens and the Euro zone. A major bank like Goldman Sachs' should never have been involved in this kind of activity. They have shown that they still have a long way to go to prove they have really changed."

"I will continue to work with the European Commission to ensure there is a full investigation of all firms that have engaged in such activities and that we take action to ensure that banks can never again take hundreds of millions of Euros in fees to help conceal public debt."



## Cameron's Euro MPs vote against plans to tackle tax dodgers and target tax havens

British Conservatives voted against proposals supporting the automatic exchange of information to crack down on those seeking to hide their money from the tax authorities.

Arlene said: "Tory Euro MPs' actions make a mockery of George Osborne's pledge at Tory Party Conference "to target tax evasion and offshore tax havens". We should judge the Tory Party by their actions not by their words. Weakening proposals which seek to crack down on tax dodgers using tax havens shows they are not serious about tackling tax cheats.

"The Tories cannot be trusted on tax, time and again they protect and prioritise the wealthy and privileged minority over law abiding taxpayers."

"If we have learnt one lesson from the financial crisis, it is that reforms must be based on more transparency and increased access to information on all financial transactions. Labour Euro MPs support, alongside 25 out of 27 EU member states, the introduction of automatic data-sharing in the fight against tax evasion. With an estimated 18.5 Billion Pounds lost to the UK every year, tax evasion robs our schools and hospitals of vital resources. The wider public can judge for themselves whether the motivation for weakening global and EU efforts against tax evasion and tax havens is linked to the fact that major Tory party donors themselves have non-transparent tax status."

To subscribe to Arlene's e-bulletin email: [arlene.mccarthy@easynet.co.uk](mailto:arlene.mccarthy@easynet.co.uk)



## FC United make it to Europe!

Arlene recently welcomed representatives from FC United to a special football supporter's event in the European Parliament. Arlene said: "I have been talking to FC United about the key work they are doing in engaging young people in Manchester and in planning for a local stadium.

"Tonight's event shows that it is not just the big premier league clubs that are working with the local community, we need to encourage and support their activities.

"The event will enable them to make links with other supporters groups and clubs across the EU's 27 Member

States. It is exciting to see that FC United already have links with a Leipzig club in Germany and these links present a great opportunity for fans to see their team get together for tournaments and training."

## Everyday must be Safer Internet Day



Over 50 countries in Europe and the rest of the world took part in activities to make internet usage safer for children and young people.

Whilst raising local awareness of the day Arlene said: "I have introduced new laws at European level to protect our children and young people online. But raising awareness about how to be safe on the internet is also key to protecting young people online."

"In Britain we are taking this issue very seriously, since it was established in 2006 The Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre in the UK has safeguarded 346 children, provided evidence for 714 arrests, disrupted 166 high risk sex offender networks and trained nearly 8,000 professionals."

"The theme for SID 2010 is "Think Before You Post". Many young people spend hours surfing and talking to friends on social networking sites like Facebook and Myspace. Children and young people need to be empowered to manage their online identity, not just in terms of online safety but also because of potential consequences when they are looking for jobs."

For more info go to: [www.saferinternetday.org](http://www.saferinternetday.org)

## Arlene's Campaigns

This month Arlene has added her support to the following European Parliament Written Declarations.

**On Modern Day Slavery:** 12.3 million people worldwide are categorised as modern slaves and an estimated 600 000 to 800 000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year many of whom are forced into prostitution. Action is urgently required to eliminate modern-day human trafficking and forced labour in the EU. We are asking the remaining Member States to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and urging all Member States to opt in to the EU law which relates to residence permits for victims of trafficking and to coordinated schemes to assist victims who want to go back to their home country.

**Fighting breast cancer in the EU:** 331 392 women in the EU are diagnosed with breast cancer every year and it is the leading cause of death in women aged 35 to 59. Mammographic screening can reduce deaths from breast cancer by up to 35% in women between 50 and 69. This declaration calls for urgent action to implement EU guidelines on breast cancer treatment to help reduce deaths, including nationwide breast screening and multidisciplinary specialist breast units - like our very own Nightingale Centre - the first breast cancer prevention centre in Europe.

Working hard for **YOU** in Europe