



Arlene McCarthy MEP

Sept '10 European Report

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Crucial law secured to reform Bankers' Bonus Culture



As Vice Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee Arlene secured backing for a crucial EU wide law to end the risk taking culture in banking that led to the global economic crisis. The law, agreed in negotiations between the European Parliament, Council and Commission, will mean new rules on bankers' bonuses must be implemented for the upcoming bonus season.

Arlene McCarthy said: "Two years on from the global financial crisis, these tough new rules on bonuses will transform the bonus culture and end incentives for excessive risk taking. A high-risk and short-term bonus culture wrought havoc with the global economy and taxpayers paid the price."

Arlene is now challenging the ConDem government and Financial Services Authority's attempts to weaken the new EU rules. A key element of the EU law is the limit on upfront cash bonuses and yet the FSA's plans appear to disregard the provisions and allow the continuation of big cash-in-hand bonuses. As the ConDem government continues to dither, delay and attempt to undermine the new rules, Arlene is putting pressure on Chancellor Osborne and Business Secretary Cable, asking them to ensure the full application of the law in the UK banking sector.

Arlene said: "It is outrageous that as the country faces severe cuts in public spending, bankers are continuing to prioritise their own pay and perks. The extra £10 billion they paid out in bonuses in 2009 could have provided for an additional £50 billion in lending to families and small businesses."

Griffin fails again to represent North West

Nick Griffin never misses an opportunity to promote his racist propaganda. During a recent debate on Iceland's bid for EU membership, Griffin warned them to stay out of Europe and "avoid becoming a Muslim ghetto like Londonistan".

Arlene said: "Of course the real issue is the need to put Iceland under pressure to repay the billions in compensation lost to UK taxpayers with the collapse of the "Icesave" savings account, a collapse which even threatened £6.5 million of donations belonging to Manchester's cancer hospital, Christies.

"Griffin once again showed he is not fit to represent the North West. Having spent the last 12 months chasing a Westminster seat in London, he continues to ignore the real issues that affect our region."

ConDemNation

Conservative attitudes towards Europe have not been softened by their Liberal Coalition partners. It's important that we track their record at a European level and expose their backward and damaging approach.

Since the ConDems came into Government they have already chosen to reverse the Labour opt-in to the progressive European Protection Order for victims of crime, which is specifically providing new protections for victims of domestic abuse.

They have also announced they will be opting-out from the new EU Directive against Sex Trafficking.

Cheaper Mobile Roaming

In July phone customers won control of how much they spend using mobile internet from another EU country and calling costs fell further, meaning mobile consumers now save in all 3 areas: calling, texting and accessing the internet.

Arlene who steered the law through the European Parliament when she was Chair of the Consumer Protection Committee said: "This is more good news on prices for mobile phone users. Since we brought in the law we have slashed costs by 73% on average compared to 5 years ago."

"Mobile phone companies were given ample opportunity to act on the cost of using phones in another EU country. The message is clear, we will take on industry when there is clear evidence of over-charging and we will win a fairer deal for consumers."

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Ministers must act to boost access to life saving organ transplants



Labour Euro MPs are calling on EU governments to act quickly to agree new rules to boost access to life-saving organ transplants. The new package will help improve the safety and quality of organs donated across the EU. By establishing these guarantees, the proposed rules should help boost access to a larger pool of organ donations, particularly helping people looking for a rare match.

Arlene said: "12 people a day die across the EU whilst waiting for an organ transplant. We need to ensure that patients are given the best possible chance of finding a matching organ. The new rules will mean one simple and safe system for all 27 member states of the EU, offering hope to the 56,000 European citizens on waiting lists for transplants."

100th International Women's Day



Arlene has been joined by Baroness Glenys Kinnock and Lucy Powell and over 100 women across the region for a fundraiser for The White Ribbon Alliance for Safer Motherhood, which succeeded in raising over £31,000 for the charity. Arlene said: "Each year more than 500,000 women die as a direct result of pregnancy and childbirth - the equivalent of three full jumbo jets of women dying every day. Behind the statistics lie lost lives, lost opportunities and lost loves."

For more information: www.whiteribbonalliance.org

Merseyside Fire Service leading the way in Europe on fire prevention



At the invitation of Councillor Les Byrom Arlene spent the day with Merseyside Fire Service and experienced firsthand how fire fighters protect the local community and reduce fire risk.

Arlene has led a campaign in Europe to introduce fire safer cigarettes (regular cigarettes have been one of the leading causes of house fires) and is leading campaigns on hotel fire safety and carbon monoxide poisoning. She said: "I was pleased to have the opportunity to learn more about their work in the local community and was thrilled to learn they have been approached to lead on a pan-European project involving fire services."

Arlene in the media....

Arlene was interviewed on:

- BBC's The Today Programme on Bankers' Bonuses
- BBC Radio One Newsbeat on Mobile Phone Roaming Cuts
- Sky News' Jeff Randall Show on Bankers Bonuses

A selection of headlines from recent weeks:

- Tameside News: Fight piracy and protect jobs and lives says MEP
- Runcorn & Widnes News: Halton MEP Arlene McCarthy calls for gun law reform
- Liverpool Daily Post: Euro-travellers rights to compensation delays
- Financial News: The woman behind Europe's new bonus rules
- The Independent: MEPs approve tough new curbs on the city's bonus culture

