



## Glenis Willmott MEP Labour's Leader in Europe

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### The Big Fish Fight



A recent channel 4 programme highlighted the waste in the fishing industry due to the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.

Every year trawlermen are forced to throw parts of their catch back into the sea because of quotas that are imposed on them.

In truth the current EU policy is failing. The twin objectives of meeting conservation needs whilst at the same time meeting the demands of food production using species quotas, has led to a rigid system whereby billions of dead fish are being returned into the ocean every year.

The campaign, led by celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall, is being supported by Labour MEPs, who, in the review of the CFP, are calling for a policy of regionalisation which will eliminate inefficient central regulation. It will allow Member States to work together in regional groups to implement appropriate management measures of our fish stocks and marine environment.

### Cancer—creating awareness

In the past few weeks I have been promoting World Cancer Day, which takes place on February 4th each year.

This year, I hosted an event in Brussels that brought together health care professionals and other experts in the fight to battle this awful disease.

40% of cancers are preventable, and small lifestyle changes can go a long way to preventing the disease. It will be a long hard struggle to get people to change their habits, but we must do it for the sake of the nations health.

We have made a good start through prohibiting smoking in public places, and persuading people to eat more fruit and veg, and to keep a healthy weight, but we must work harder to highlight the fact that certain cancers are preventable.

Information is key, which is why I have been campaigning for clearer food labelling. If we're serious about people making healthier choices then it is crucial we inform people of what's in the food they're buying.

### Join me in the Race for Life

As part of the campaign, I visited the UK Cancer Research shop in Beeston, and will be taking part in a Race For Life event in Nottingham on the 4th of June, which will not only raise money, but awareness of this terrible disease. If you would like to join me and take part, or perhaps sponsor my team, then please contact the office.



Glenis, whose mother died of cancer, is joined by cancer charity volunteer Pam Beaumont in Beeston.

#### Brussels Visit

Apologies for the delay in sending out more details on the proposed visit to Brussels. This will hopefully take place in the autumn and we'll send out more information as soon as possible.

## More research for Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's disease is one of the most devastating things that can happen to any family. The disease not only affects those who have it, but also puts a vast amount of pressure on the families of the sufferer.

Glenis has long called for more research into the disease, and was pleased with the strong vote the other week in the [European Parliament](#) in favour of this.

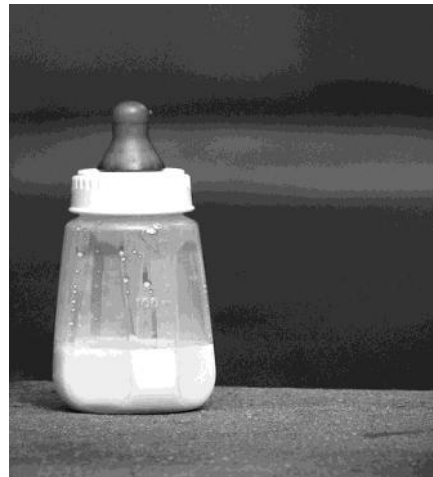
The support from MEPs will put pressure on the European Commission and on the UK Government to invest more in researching the ways in which Alzheimer's disease can be prevented.

This is one of the most pressing long-term challenges facing our health and care services, but it needs to be followed by action. While the EU has an [important role to play](#), the power lies with the member state governments, who take decisions on where to prioritise research spending.

We need to do all we can to find effective treatment, but we should also be looking at prevention, including whether lifestyle choices, such as changing the food we eat, could reduce the risk of developing the disease.

The European Parliament has also made it clear that far more should be done to help the people who care for Alzheimer's patients. In most cases, we are not talking about medical professionals but about wives, husbands, sons and daughters.

For more information on Alzheimer's, including help and support, please visit: [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)



## Glenis challenges health claim

An attempt by formula baby milk manufacturers to market their products with a specific claim about improving a baby's eyesight is being formally challenged by Glenis and some of her colleagues.

The claim, that milk containing a fatty acid called DHA will improve children's eyesight, has been formally approved by an EU committee that has the power to block or authorise claims that a particular food has health benefits. Glenis' concern is that baby milk is a very special product and this decision has been taken without public scrutiny. She and other Labour MEP's are calling for a proper debate about whether this kind of claim should be made.

She said: "If this particular fatty acid is really proven to be beneficial to babies' health when used in formula milk then we owe it to mothers and their children to ensure it is included in all products. If the link hasn't been proven, then companies shouldn't be allowed to make this claim."

More information at [www.info.babymilkaction.org](http://www.info.babymilkaction.org)

## Cross-border health

Patients have won new rights to seek treatment abroad after the European Parliament backed rules to facilitate cross-border healthcare.

Original drafts of the law could have undermined the NHS by allowing patients to choose expensive treatments abroad without safeguards to avoid spurious or inappropriate claims.

However, checks have now been added to the legislation to give the NHS overall control over what treatment is authorised. Safety clauses are also included to ensure that the NHS cannot be undermined by foreign patients coming to Britain under the new rules.



## And Finally....

A warm welcome to our newest members of staff. Josh Eades joins us as Communications Officer based in the constituency office in Nottingham, whilst Dan Hatton will be joining us as stagiaire (intern) and will be working with the team in Brussels.

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