



Glenis Willmott MEP Labour's Leader in Europe

Harold Wilson House, 23 Barratt Lane, Attenborough, Nottingham NG9 6AD
office@gleniswillmott.org.uk 0115 922 9717
www.gleniswillmott.org.uk
<http://gleniswillmott.blogspot.com/>



Fish Fight — people power counts

A public campaign to change European fishing rules has been boosted by [new proposals from the European Commission](#).

The [Fish Fight campaign](#), promoted by celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, and supported by Labour MEPs, calls for EU fisheries policies to be reformed to stop the practice of discards, in which dead fish are thrown back into the sea in order to avoid less valuable produce counting against a vessel's quota.

The Commission is now proposing major changes to the Common Fisheries policy in response to public concern.

And while the proposals aren't perfect, and there are still months of negotiations to come, Glenis believes it is an important first step.

She said: "Labour MEPs have been in the vanguard of the call for change and will continue to keep up the pressure."

Food Labelling win for consumers

Despite huge lobbying by the food & drink industry, shoppers will soon know much more about the food they buy, following the vote on [new food labelling plans](#) agreed in Strasbourg in July.

As the Shadow Rapporteur on the food labelling proposals, I've been heavily involved in negotiations, and have been campaigning for tough new rules to stop consumers from being misled by confusing or unclear labelling.

As I said in my [speech in the Parliament](#) we made some real progress, [on country of origin labelling](#), [on trans fats](#), on the labelling of all kinds of vegetable oil which should [help protect rain forests](#), and the fact that we now have compulsory back-of-pack labelling across Europe.

However, there were disappointments that mandatory front-of-pack labelling will not be introduced, though individual countries will still be able to use optional schemes—such as a traffic light system—so that shoppers can, at a glance, see the level of salt, sugar and fats that are in the food they buy.

I will continue to campaign on this, as well as pushing for the extension of rules on country of origin to cover meat in processed foods, such as sausages and ready meals, where the European Commission will undertake impact assessments with the possibility of introducing additional proposals to cover these products in two years' time.

It's estimated that hundreds of millions of pounds were spent by parts of the food & drink industry opposing many of the changes, so I'm delighted that we managed to make the progress we did. While we didn't achieve all we set out to do, it's still a major victory for the consumer.



Glenis on a recent visit to the Co-op Store in East Leake, near Loughborough, to discuss food labelling

In brief . . . holiday advice

Travel Rights

If you're flying off on holiday this summer, then your EU rights should help make the journey trouble free - but it pays to know [what you're entitled to](#)



Mobile phones

The EU has already taken action to drive down the cost of using a mobile in other EU countries. But with people now using mobiles for emails, sharing photos and other internet uses, the cost of downloading data can lead to frighteningly high bills.

There's [more action on the way](#) to lower the costs, but in the meantime make sure you know your rights on [roaming charges](#).



112 Emergency Calls

Hopefully you'll never have to use it. But if the worst does happen, then every second counts. So it is worth remembering that in an emergency, wherever you are in Europe, you can speak to the emergency services by [dialling 112](#).

European Health Card

Before you visit any EU country, make sure you get your [European health insurance card](#). It will help cover the cost of emergency treatment if you fall ill while you're away. It isn't a replacement for travel insurance, so you should still make sure you have adequate cover, but some insurers require you to have the European card.



Rare Cancer Event

The experience of being diagnosed and treated for cancer can be even more terrifying if you have a rare cancer.

Of the 280 types of cancer, around 250 are rare forms of the disease, about which little is known, making diagnosis and treatment harder. Of all the people affected by cancer, up to a third will have a rare cancer.

Cross-border clinical trials for treatments of rare cancers are a key component of dealing with the problem, and the EU directive which governs these will be revised next year.

To prepare for this, Glenis arranged for the Parliament's Health Working Group, of which she is co-chair, to focus on rare cancers, and invited two inspirational young men, Peter, age 25, from Sheffield, and Sam from Newark, who is just 14, to speak at the event.

The full story is on Glenis' [blog](#)

Tory votes kill 30% emissions target

A key vote on extending the EU's greenhouse gas emissions target to 30% was lost in the European Parliament this month by just [nine votes](#).

Glenis said: "David Cameron claims to be green, but this vote has shown the hollowness of his party's commitments on environmental policy. These proposals would have gone through had the Conservative MEPs given them their support."

The government's claim to be winning the argument on EU emissions is now in tatters, and is just another example of the Tories failing to live up to their pre-election claims. It looks like Cameron's commitment to lead the "greenest government ever" can be added to a long list of broken promises.



There will now be a short intermission....

- The Parliament is now closed for the summer recess, and will re-open on 29 August.
- Kieron Merrett has been appointed as the new stagiaire (intern) in the Brussels office, starting after the recess.
- The UK office will be open throughout the summer if you need to contact us.
- There will be no e-bulletin published in August.
- If you're going away on holiday, have a good break.

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