

# Anneliese Dodds MEP

## The South East's Voice in Europe

News from your Labour MEP - December 2015

### Working for the South East

It's important to me that I get out across our region to speak with as many people as possible and make sure my constituents know what I'm doing as your Labour MEP- fighting for the best deal for the South East.

### Launching our campaign to keep the UK in the EU

We don't yet know the date for the referendum, but we have already started the debate about Europe here in the South East. From Milton Keynes to Dover, hundreds of Labour members have taken part in our training events to get the information they need to engage with the debate. Many Constituency Labour Parties have appointed a 'Euro Champion' who will coordinate the campaign in their area. If you don't know who your Euro Champion is, or would like to become one, please ask your CLP Chair for more information. If becoming a Euro Champion is too much of a commitment but you would like to join our European Taskforce to be kept in touch with the campaign, please visit: [www.thebestforbritain.uk/](http://www.thebestforbritain.uk/)

### Seeing how the EU supports conservation work in Oxfordshire

I visited RSPB Otmoor to learn about how the EU is supporting conservation efforts there, and discuss wider biodiversity issues, including the important role played by the EU's Birds and Habitats directive. You can find out more about my visit here: [www.anneliesedoddsmep.uk/visit\\_to\\_rspb\\_otmoor](http://www.anneliesedoddsmep.uk/visit_to_rspb_otmoor)

### Fighting for LGBT equality in Brighton

I spoke at Unison's LGBT conference in Brighton on the role that the European Parliament plays in fighting for LGBT equality across Europe – an issue I, as a member of the LGBTI intergroup, am passionate about. You can read more about this here:

[www.anneliesedoddsmep.uk/unison\\_lgbt\\_conference](http://www.anneliesedoddsmep.uk/unison_lgbt_conference)

### Visiting Bracknell & Wokingham College

I was invited to speak to students at Bracknell and Wokingham College about the work that I do, both in the South East and in the European Parliament, and talk about the reasons the UK should remain a part of the EU. You can read more about this here: [http://www.anneliesedoddsmep.uk/bracknell\\_and\\_wokingham\\_college](http://www.anneliesedoddsmep.uk/bracknell_and_wokingham_college)



Unison's LGBT Conference

### Did you know: Less than one in every 27 people in the UK is from another EU country?

The vast majority of migration into the UK is from outside the EU – less than 3.6% of the population of the UK is made up of migrants from other EU countries, whilst the IPPR estimates that 1.8million UK Nationals are currently living in other EU countries.

Source: [www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/briefings/immigration-category-workers-students-family-members-asylum-applicants](http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/briefings/immigration-category-workers-students-family-members-asylum-applicants)

## The South East's Voice in Europe

My work as an MEP in the European Parliament is often very varied; from meetings with European Commissioners to votes in the whole Parliament on new EU wide legislation, and from asking questions on behalf of my constituents to calling for action on tax injustice in the committees of which I am a member.



### Putting an end to food speculation

Within the Economics Committee, I am responsible for one of the most significant pieces of legislation to have been passed following the financial crisis. The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive aims to make stock markets better regulated and more transparent. Crucially, it also aims to stop financial traders making a quick buck by speculating on the future prices of everyday things like food and fuel.

In the past, when investment bankers and others have bet on the prices of things like wheat and oil, they have forced prices up and made life more expensive for ordinary people. This new Directive should put a stop to that, but industry have been lobbying hard to make sure that the new regime, when it is implemented, is as weak as possible. I've been leading the charge in Parliament to stop that happening, and making sure that the regulators in charge of the new regime implement it properly and stop the scandal of food speculation once and for all.

### A busy time at conference

It was great to see so many friends and comrades from South East Labour at conference this year. It was certainly a fascinating conference: the first with Jeremy as leader, and one that marked the launch of Labour's 'In' campaign for the European Referendum under Alan Johnson. I spoke at a range of events this year, including a debate on whether we should have a 'Southern Powerhouse' to match the work going on in the north, a rally for SERA (Labour's environment campaign), a roundtable discussion on science, research and development; and much, much more besides.

It was great to see so much enthusiasm at conference, including so many new members – and to see our fight to keep the UK in the European Union take centre stage.

### Fighting for the rights of people with disabilities

As the Chair of the Montenegro Delegation, I have been campaigning to strengthen the rights of disabled people in Montenegro. One big issue Montenegrin people with disabilities face is that most public buildings, such as the parliament, are not accessible for people with mobility impairments. I am very pleased that the construction works to make the parliament accessible have begun and I will keep fighting for the rights of disabled people across Montenegro, the UK and the EU. This work will include supporting calls for the impact of austerity on disabled people's rights to be acknowledged by the EU and fighting for a travel card for people with disabilities that works across Europe to be implemented as soon as possible.



## Did you know: Only 1p in every £1 we pay in tax goes to the EU

The total cost of membership of the EU is very low – around 1 pence in every £1 we pay in tax. The benefits we gain from membership are so much higher – business chiefs estimate that every British family benefits by around £3,000 per year from the trade that we have access to as a member of the European Union. The South East alone benefits significantly from research funding grants from the EU - £4.8 billion in recent years.

## Helping constituents

Unlike UKIP MEPs, I am working hard across our whole region and in the European Parliament on the issues constituents tell me matter most to them.

So far this year, I have responded to 46,998 constituents' letters and emails on a wide range of casework and policy issues with 88% rating these replies as very good or excellent.

The word cloud highlights some of the issues recently raised with me:



## Cloning farm animals

Regulation on firearms    Data in cancer research

**Using GM crops in animal feed**

Refugee Crisis    Food Speculation

**Net neutrality**



## Campaigning for Labour

I am regularly out on the doorstep across our region speaking with South East residents and campaigning for Labour. Recently, I've been out at by-elections in Epsom and Oxford, speaking with members in Canterbury and Sheerness and helping with the Oldham West by-election by phone canvassing. If you're able to help campaign for Labour then please let me know and I will put you in touch with your local Labour campaign team.

I am also very keen to support as many Labour South East fundraisers as possible, and have recently spoken at fundraising events in Epsom and Bracknell. If you would like me to support your Labour Party fundraiser then please get in touch.

## Keeping in touch

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Follow  @AnnelieseDodds

Watch  [www.YouTube.com/AnnelieseDoddsMEP](http://www.YouTube.com/AnnelieseDoddsMEP)



You can contact me about issues relating to my work as your Labour MEP for the South East via [Contact@AnnelieseDoddsMEP.uk](mailto:Contact@AnnelieseDoddsMEP.uk). For Labour party issues please email [AnnelieseJDodds@Gmail.com](mailto:AnnelieseJDodds@Gmail.com).