

# Anneliese Dodds MEP

## The South East's Voice in Europe

News from your Labour MEP - April 2016

### Campaigning to remain in a social Europe

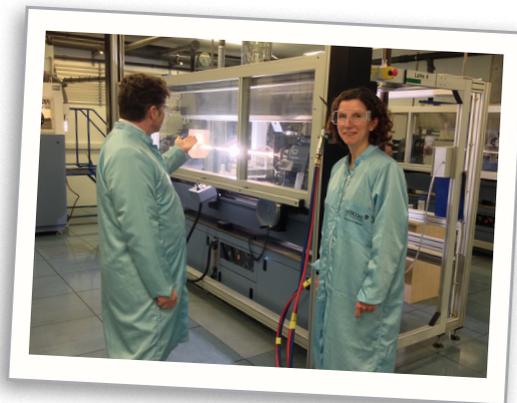
I know lots of you are very busy with the local elections and then will be carrying on straight into the European Referendum campaign. Thanks for all of your hard work, and the very best of luck to your local Labour Candidates.

I've been busy trying to get out on the campaign trail across the region and have been out on the doorstep in Crawley, Oxford, Hastings and Guildford. I've also had meetings with representatives of the Communications Workers Union and met with Unite Shop Stewards from Rolls Royce to discuss their efforts to keep us in the European Union. I've got many more campaign sessions organised and am really looking forward to catching up with old friends as well as meeting lots of our great new members.

### Learning about high-tech engineering jobs in Southampton

I was delighted to visit the technology firm Fibercore, based in Southampton, to see how they have been developing exciting optical fiber technologies using scientific research carried out at the University of Southampton.

We discussed the importance of high tech engineering jobs in Southampton and across the South East. I was pleased to meet with some of the firm's young employees, who expressed their concerns to me about the practical impact that leaving the EU would have on them.



### Welcoming Jeremy Corbyn to Oxford

Jeremy Corbyn visited Oxford earlier this month to hold a rally ahead of the local elections and the European Referendum. Along with the great local MP, Andrew Smith and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner candidate Laetisia Carter, I was delighted to welcome Jeremy to the stage and talk about the need for the party to be out there campaigning for the UK to be at the heart of a reformed European Union.

### Did you know: EU law cuts red tape for businesses

The majority of EU law actually cuts red tape, because it aims to replace 28 different national laws with a single set of common rules for all of Europe - saving businesses money and hassle. It's little wonder that since 1998 over 600 major foreign companies have chosen to locate their European Headquarters in the UK, with half of them overtly citing EU membership as a core reason for their decision to invest in the UK.

## 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.



### **A step forward in the fight against tax fiddling**

April saw a major milestone in my ongoing campaign for tax justice, when the EU announced plans to make multinational companies report exactly where they make their money and where they pay their taxes. This kind of transparency is vital if we are to stop many hundreds of billions of pounds being lost to tax evasion and aggressive tax avoidance. I called for this kind of “country by country reporting” in my Parliamentary report last year, and it is something that Labour MEPs have lobbied for time and time again with the Tories and UKIP voting against us at every turn. The proposal isn’t perfect – the new rules will only apply to the very biggest companies, and

the reporting requirements are not as thorough as we would have liked – but this is a massive step forward, and one that simply wouldn’t have happened without Labour pressure for combined action at EU level. You can find out more about what I think of the new rules by watching this short video of my speech in Parliament: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UTCbPBHHhY>. Unfortunately tax dodging affects us right across the South East. For example, Hastings’ Labour council had to struggle to unpick complex ownership arrangements when a Panamanian firm bought Hastings Pier.

### **Taking my new assistant to Strasbourg!**

Whilst I have been on maternity leave since January and won’t be returning to Brussels full time for a while, I was determined to attend the Strasbourg session this month so that I could take part in some very important votes.

Isabella was a huge hit at the Parliament and she attended a series of meetings as well as the votes in the Strasbourg Chamber. Her appearance in the Parliament did cause a bit of a stir, and she has appeared in the papers across Europe!



### **Making the case for the South East's small scale cider producers**

This month, together with the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) and my Labour colleague Clare Moody MEP (for the South West), I met with the EU’s Economic Commissioner Pierre Moscovici to raise important issues for small scale cider producers in the region. These included keeping the current UK duty exemption for cider producers making less than 70 HL (hectolitres) of cider per year.

There are many hobbyists and farm gate producers in the South East and it is important that we protect and support them. I am pleased that the European Commission is taking our concerns seriously and that the Commissioner announced during the meeting that the EU will include a case study about UK producers as part of its evaluation of the EU Directive for Excise Duty on Alcohol.

**Did you know: The European Commission can only propose laws, not impose them?**

The European Commission heads the direction and strategy of the European Union. It can only propose new laws to be adopted by member states, but it is up to each of the national governments to decide whether or not to adopt the law. The European Parliament is also responsible for approving the Commission and holding it to account, and has the power to dismiss it.

## 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 over 4,200 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:



## **Nature Directive**

**Trophy Hunting**

**Maltese bird hunting**

## **Glyphosate in Farming**

## **New Alliance on Food Security**

**Firearm legislation**

**Antibiotics in food**



## Campaigning for Labour

I am regularly out on the doorstep across our region speaking with South East residents and campaigning for Labour. I've recently been campaigning in Guildford, Oxford, Crawley and Hastings. 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 and other events across the region as possible. I've recently supported events in Oxford and London. If you would like me to support your Labour Party fundraiser then please get in touch.

## Keeping in touch

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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).