



Welcome to the latest addition of my newsletter. Below is an overview of my recent work in the European Parliament.

If you have any questions or want to draw my attention to an issue you are concerned about, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### [Regulating fracking](#)

This week I, along with my fellow Labour MEPs, supported the inclusion of mandatory environmental impact assessments for all exploration and extraction of unconventional fossil fuels in the EU, including shale gas. I have received many emails from constituents concerned about fracking, so am pleased that the European Parliament as a whole supported this move.

With a number of projects being considered in the UK and across Europe, it is important that we ensure a robust framework is in place to investigate, early on, the full potential impacts on the environment and people's health.

I was very disappointed that Conservative and UKIP MEPs voted to exclude this vital step. As a result, this draft legislation will now have to be discussed and negotiated with representatives from the national governments across the EU. However, raising your concerns on this issue is very important, and I would encourage you to highlight them to your local MPs, AMs and the UK Government if you have not done so already.

### [Tory and UKIP MEPs vote against anti-discrimination measures](#)

Tory and UKIP MEPs this week voted against measures to tackle caste based discrimination through EU development programmes and trade agreements. Discrimination against people on the basis of social status poses a serious risk to young women and girls who are vulnerable to sexual abuse, exploitation and slavery. This vote is extremely disappointing and demonstrates clearly that neither the Tories or UKIP take the issue of human rights seriously.

Labour MEPs called on the Commission and the European External Action Service to come forward with a plan to end caste based discrimination and pledged the support of the Parliament in setting this up. Combating the problems of marginalisation and stigmatisation faced by many people on a daily basis is crucial and this legislation is a key step towards bringing an end to all types of discrimination.

### [Tobacco industry regulation](#)

It is clear that action needs to be taken to limit the number of people taking up smoking. In Wales 22.6% of the population smokes and there are over 11,000 new childhood smokers per year. Placing picture warnings on cigarette packets will help to raise awareness about the health implications of smoking and I am disappointed that opposition MEPs voted to water down proposals for tougher rules for regulating the tobacco industry. However, I am pleased to report that 65% of the packets must now be covered with warnings, which I believe is a step in the right direction.

Labour MEPs also supported a ban on menthol and flavoured cigarettes, which was achieved but unfortunately, due to Tory and UKIP MEPs, this will be delayed for five years. There are around 100,000 deaths per year in the UK due to tobacco and half of all smokers will die from smoking related diseases so revising tobacco industry regulation is vital if we are to save lives in the future.

### [Supporting trade between the EU and China](#)

Over one billion euros are traded each day between China and the EU



#### **Contact me :**

4th Floor  
Transport House  
1 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9SD  
T: 029 20 227660  
Vernon House  
39 Rhosddu Road  
Wrexham  
LL11 2NS  
T: 01978 350052

E: [contact@derekvaughanmep.org.uk](mailto:contact@derekvaughanmep.org.uk)

W: [www.derekvaughanmep.org.uk](http://www.derekvaughanmep.org.uk)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/derekvaughanmep](https://www.facebook.com/derekvaughanmep)

Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/derekvaughan>

and there is huge potential to develop this trading relationship in the future. This is why I have voted in favour of establishing a mandate to open negotiations on an EU-China investment agreement.

The Welsh Government has demonstrated their commitment to increasing Wales' links with China through a memorandum of understanding, which was established with the Chongqing Municipal Government. This cooperation should be encouraged because it will help to develop economic and social gains in Wales.

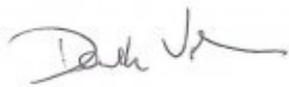
#### [Supporting local authorities to deliver EU funds](#)

This week the European Parliament agreed on a report that looks at how regional and local authorities are affected by budgetary constraints, specifically with European Structural Funds expenditure. I wrote an opinion for the Budgets Committee on this report earlier in the year so I was pleased to see it get the support of the whole Parliament. Regional and local administrations are currently facing difficult financial decisions against a backdrop of cutbacks at member state level. We must ensure that regional and local authorities are fully equipped to invest structural funding into projects that will increase growth and jobs in all regions, including in Wales.

#### [In the constituency](#)

At the Labour Party Conference this month I spoke about youth unemployment and how the EU and Labour leadership can help to solve the problem. More than 20 percent of young people in the UK are unemployed and the Tory youth employment scheme 'Youth Contract' is failing them - it looks like it will meet less than 10 percent of its original target. I am pleased that EU funds have helped to set up the Young Recruits Program in Wales and I will continue to make the case for young jobseekers in the European Parliament so that we can offer real, practical solutions for young Welsh jobseekers.

In other news, It has been a pleasure to visit several schools and universities in North Wales this month and over the coming weeks I will be visiting organisations in Swansea, Caerphilly, Milford Haven and Cynon Valley. I am always keen to hear from constituents and attend local events so if there is an event or issue you would like me to support, please contact my office via [contact@derekvaughanmep.org.uk](mailto:contact@derekvaughanmep.org.uk) or by calling 029 20 227660.



**Derek Vaughan MEP**

**Member of the European Parliament**

**Labour, Wales**

[Forward this email](#) to a friend.

Derek Vaughan MEP  
4th Floor, Transport House, 1 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9SD, United Kingdom.

[Unsubscribe or update your details](#)

Alternatively reply to this email with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

This email was delivered to [siobhan.dillon@derekvaughanmep.org.uk](mailto:siobhan.dillon@derekvaughanmep.org.uk).  
powered by [mailvivo](#).