

# Alex Mayer MEP

Labour Member of the European Parliament  
for the East of England

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## Merry Christmas!

2017 was definitely an improvement on 2016, in my view! The snap general election showed Labour is united and radical and whilst we didn't win, we are making sure we stay election ready, because who knows when the next test may come? That's why I was so pleased that over fifty of our CLPs took part in November's national campaign day and that we had the most number of delegates ever at our regional conference in Huntingdon.



It was also a huge pleasure to chair two question and answer sessions with Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell in Norwich and Great Yarmouth. Both events were packed and I know people went away really fired up.

I hope you have a great Christmas break and come back refreshed and ready for the campaigns ahead in 2018.

### Pay up now!



Patients and hardworking NHS doctors and nurses agree. It is time to scrap the public sector pay cap and give NHS staff a pay rise. I've been pleased to back UNISON's campaign in Luton and Dunstable, Addenbrookes, Queen Elizabeth, Norwich and Norfolk and Peterborough hospitals as well as being the keynote speaker at a public services rally in Kings Lynn.

### Under Brexit orders, and they're off

With race courses in Newmarket, Huntingdon, Fakenham, Great Yarmouth, and Chelmsford the free movement of thoroughbreds is a big issue for our region. The British Horse Racing Association have flagged up concerns about the future of the tripartite agreement post-Brexit. This allows racehorses with excellent health records to travel simply between France, Ireland and the UK but is part of EU structures.



## Remainers are from Venus, Brexiters are from Mars

I visited Mars! Well really Airbus in Stevenage, who have a research area that mimics Mars. They make world class satellites under the EU's Galileo programme. However space firms have told me they must plan to move staff outside the UK in 2019 in order to comply with new EU contacts.



## A Dog's Life

This time of year marks a surge in puppies being illegally imported into Britain from Eastern Europe. I teamed up with the Dogs Trust at Snetterton who want a tougher regime of licensing and registration.



## Lest we forget

It was an honour to lay a wreath this Remembrance Sunday. So many lives have been lost in conflicts especially as European nations fought each other. It is so important not to forget and to always work for peace.



## Ryanair still flying in the face of workers rights

After a harrowing meeting with Ryanair pilots who work at Stansted I spoke out about the employment practices at the budget airline in the European Parliament.

Pilots I met told me of a "climate of fear" especially around being a member of a union. If you've got a house near Stansted and children in local schools the threat of being moved to a far flung base if you speak out can be

paralysing. They also said that because they are self employed they don't get sick pay, so they turn up to work feeling ill. How safe is this?

I was pleased to be able to raise these issues on Look East, which then led to further pilots and cabin crew getting in touch with me. Ryanair need a turbulent ride until they end these employment practices which are unfair and wrong.



## Join me in Brussels

It was great to welcome a group of visitors from across the East of England to the European Parliament. My next visitors trip is in February. For more detail and to apply visit my website [www.alexmayer.eu/brussels-trip-february-march-2018](http://www.alexmayer.eu/brussels-trip-february-march-2018)



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