

Stephen Kinnock MP

March 2018 Newsletter



A Strong Voice For Aberavon

News from the Commons



IMMIGRATION MINISTER APPEARS IN FRONT OF EU SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Immigration Minister appeared in front of the EU Scrutiny Committee and I questioned her about the way the government and Prime Minister have contradicted themselves on transition and immigration, explaining how this shows that they are more interested in posturing than they are in negotiating a Brexit that works for Britain and protects citizens and their rights.

<http://bit.ly/2FrpS1v>



NO DEAL IS NO OPTION

In a Westminster Hall debate on alternatives to a no-deal outcome in negotiations with the EU, I argued that a no deal is not an option, the dangers a no deal would mean for our economy, and that we should push for an EEA/ EFTA Brexit. <http://bit.ly/2Fm2Dph>



EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA AND THE SINGLE MARKET ARE NOT SYNONYMOUS

During the debate on alternatives to a no-deal outcome in negotiations with the EU, I made the point that the European Economic Area (EEA) and the single market are not the same thing. <http://bit.ly/2HgKKZv>



NORWAY OPTION TICKS EVERY ONE OF THOSE BOXES

As the Minister responded to the debate on on alternatives to a no-deal outcome in negotiations with the EU, I challenged her on how an EEA EFTA Brexit not only preserves market access, jobs & opportunities, but that it also ticks all of the government's leave boxes: ending ECJ jurisdiction and direct effect, allowing the reform of free movement, collaboration on trade and security, and the ability to strike trade deals.

<http://bit.ly/2FILEHR>



FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE WTO AND EU TRADE COMMISSIONER QUESTIONED BY EXITING EU COMMITTEE

Pascal Lamy, the former Director of the WTO and EU Trade Commissioner was questioned by the Committee for Exiting the EU. I asked about steel, Brexit the WTO and dealing with Chinese dumping; and the implications on trade of the transition deal that the government have signed up to. <http://bit.ly/2Fkv5o>

News from the Commons



CHANCELLOR APPEARS BEFORE EU SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chancellor appeared before the EU Scrutiny Committee and I took the opportunity to question him on Brexit and the EEA, and also called out the Tories Kafka-esque confusion about what is and isn't included in alignment.

You can watch the exchange at <http://bit.ly/2FrhhM7>



BREXIT SECRETARY APPEARS BEFORE EU SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Brexit Secretary, David Davis MP, appeared before the EU Scrutiny Committee. During my questions to him, he revealed that it may not be possible for the UK to participate, as the PM said we would, in various EU Agencies.

You can watch the exchange at <http://bit.ly/2oPXvUj>



COMMITTEE FOR EXITING EU: BRUSSELS MEETING

I went with the Committee for Exiting the EU to Brussels, for very useful meetings with Michel Barnier and Guy Verhofstadt. I wouldn't say Barnier and Verhofstadt are frustrated by the UK government's shambolic Brexit approach but they are definitely curious about it. There is urgent need for clarity on future relationship, before negotiating guidelines are signed off by EU27 in late March.



ERASMUS+

I was honoured to chair meeting in Parliament about Erasmus+ programme, which does so much to give our young people, internationalist values, skills & networks they need. Vital that the government urgently make a post 2020 commitment to the programme.



BETTER BREXIT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

It was great to host another fantastic Better Brexit For Young People APPG event in Parliament. There was lots of discussion on what young people, especially from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland want from Brexit and what Brexit should mean for devolution and young people. The key takeaways were that young people want and deserve a voice, investment and understand the need for dialogue.



THE WHOLE IDEA IS A NON-STARTER AND SHOULD BE SCRAPPED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

In the House of Commons I challenged Rory Stewart MP to scrap plans for a new prison in Port Talbot with immediate effect and invited him to attend a public to update concerned residents, so he can hear directly from residents about the opposition to the proposals. <http://bit.ly/2FCF4fq>

News from the Commons



EU SCRUTINY COMMITTEE BRUSSELS MEETING

I was back in Brussels, for my sins, this time with EU scrutiny committee. It was the third time I've met with Monsieur Barnier since October, and he's unfailingly courteous, clear and consistent. It was a very productive Q & A about steel, financial services, Northern Ireland and a range of other key issues.



CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST THE TRUMP STEEL TARIFFS

During questions to the Secretary of State for Wales, I explained the cost of steel tariffs for the Welsh steel industry and also to America itself, and asked him what the government has done to stop the Trump steel tariffs hurting the British steel industry. <http://bit.ly/2tNoODv>



HOLDING THE WORLD CUP IN RUSSIA THIS SUMMER RISKS VINDICATING THE PUTIN REGIME

When the Prime Minister updated the House on the ultimatum given to Russia over the poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter, I spoke about my experience of the Russian state as head of the British Council through the Litvinenko crisis, and asked the Prime Minister if she agrees that the World Cup in Russia risks vindicating Putin and his regime. <http://bit.ly/2IsXIVl>



IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A COMMON SENSE BREXIT THAT STRIKES A BALANCE BETWEEN PROSPERITY AND SOVEREIGNTY THE EEA IS THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN

I called for an EEA based Brexit, a deal that builds on the architecture of the EEA for deal that can reunite Britain, satisfying both Leave and Remain voters. In the EEA-EFTA model, we have the answer to protecting market access, jobs and opportunities; to a friction-less border in Northern Ireland; and to the call to take back control on immigration, in our courts and in this place. <http://bit.ly/2Dulhtg>



SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS THAT GOVERNMENT FAILINGS MEANS WE MAY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO EXTEND ARTICLE 50

The Committee for Exiting the European Union published its report saying that Government failings mean we may have no choice but to extend Article 50. This report makes clear the grave concern that Parliament and the Committee have about the ability of the government to successfully conclude a Withdrawal Agreement before the 'meaningful vote' in Parliament in October. <http://bit.ly/2u3x2HV>

News from the Commons



SERGEI MAGNITSKY

During an urgent question in the House on the Government's actions to address dirty money being laundered in the UK, I asked why the UK is the only country to have done nothing to track down, arrest and seize assets of those associated with the brutal murder of Sergei Magnitsky, despite having been presented with clear evidence. <http://bit.ly/2FV0iC0>



MANAGING CUSTOMS AT THE BORDER AFTER BREXIT

I asked the Minister what the government are doing to be ready at the border in Dover after Brexit, and his response exposed how unprepared the government are for managing customs at the border after Brexit.

You can watch the exchange at <http://bit.ly/2IEPDgq>



CAMBRIDGE ANALYTICA

During an urgent question in the House over the revelations surrounding Cambridge Analytica, I asked about the role of Cambridge Analytica in the Brexit referendum and the implications for the referendum result are if it is revealed that Cambridge Analytica and Leave.EU broke electoral law.

You can watch the question, and the response I received, at <http://bit.ly/2FWBxpg>



WE NEED THE WESTMINSTER GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS WALES

In the delayed House of Commons debate to mark St David's Day, I spoke about how the Tories stand by while Welsh Labour stands up for Wales. We need a government that will support our steel industry, give the go ahead to the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon, stop the ill-judged plans for a Baglan prison, ensure fair funding for Wales and a Brexit that can reunite our country.

You can watch my speech on <http://bit.ly/2IALkTu>



MAGNITSKY ACT

I hosted a briefing in Parliament with Bill Browder about the UK's Magnitsky Act. It was a fascinating discussion, especially in the wake of the Skripal poisoning and Glushkov assassination. It is clear that we need to respond decisively and overwhelmingly to prevent future Russian state sponsored terrorism on our streets.

News from the Commons



AFAN VALLEY ADVENTURE RESORT

It was great to meet with Peter Moore and Gavin Woodhouse in Parliament to discuss their plans for an adventure resort in the Afan Valley. The Afan Valley Adventure Resort is an incredibly exciting and imaginative project that will be a global first, right in the heart of our very own Afan Valley



EEA EFTA MEETING

Prof. Carl Baudenbacher of the EFTA Court gave an expert talk at an event in Parliament. It was a great discussion about the only Brexit that can reunite Britain: an EEA EFTA based Brexit. EEA Brexit would protect our economy, allow us to take back control and reunite the country.

News from Aberavon



ABERAVON MP CALLS ON NEW PRISONS MINISTER TO SCRAP PLANS FOR A PRISON IN PORT TALBOT WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

Speaking in the House of Commons, I called on the new Minister for Prisons to call time on the UK Government's plans to build a prison in Port Talbot, describing the idea as a 'non-starter' and saying the plans should be 'scrapped with immediate effect'. I also encouraged him to visit Port Talbot to attend a public meeting and hear directly from concerned residents about their opposition to the proposals. <http://bit.ly/2FBc0Vm>



WASPI DEMO ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

It was great to be in Cardiff for the WASPI rally on International Women's Day, and also to be there with the Aberavon WASPI group! We're demanding justice for women who worked hard, paid in their whole working lives, and who deserve to be treated with the respect that they have earned. <http://bit.ly/2FkUvtn>



ANDREW SCOTT

I visited Andrew Scott at their head office in Margam. I spoke with their Managing Director, Mark Bowen who brought me up to speed with the current opportunities and challenges facing their business, the business is a large employer and turned over £40m in 2017. They were instrumental in the re-building of Blast Furnace 5 at Tata Steel and have carried out many other projects on site. <http://bit.ly/2DtdtPB>



RPC TEDECO-GIZEH

I visited RPC Tedeco-Gizeh based in Kenfig Industrial Estate. The factory produces plastic products for the drinks industry and employs around 100 people from the Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend areas. In addition to the 100 highly skilled jobs, the business is supporting 60 others in the supply chain locally, and as part of the wider group employs over 500 full time members of staff in Wales and supports more than 700 jobs in the supply chain. <http://bit.ly/2p0wEEc>



ABERAVON STREET SURGERY

I have started a series of street surgeries across the constituency, with Aberavon the first ward targeted. I was joined by the local councillor Steffan Ap Dafydd and Sandfields West councillor Rob Wood, we went to the Baglan Moors area.

There was lots of discussion about the proposed prison on Baglan Moors, potholes, drainage, and changes to the state pension age for women.

<http://bit.ly/2pq2Px0>

News from Aberavon



HIGH SHERIFF AWARDS 2018

I was delighted to attend the High Sheriff's Awards in Baglan Community Church. Lots of inspirational people from the community being recognised for their efforts.



SPECIFIC

It was great to be invited by Specific to the fabulous Bay Campus to learn more about the opportunity to build homes that are power stations. It is game changing technology, and Specific are at the forefront of this cutting edge expertise.

They showed me their active classroom and we discussed the policy and regulatory changes needed to support the implementation of energy positive buildings. <http://bit.ly/2DGuZc4>



THROWN IN THE DEEP END WITH PORT TALBOT RNLi

I really enjoyed going out on the boat with the RNLi Port Talbot volunteers. After meeting at the Lifeboat Station on Aberavon beach and talking to the volunteers, I was suited up to join them on the boat, as they took me around the bay from Morfa beach to the harbour and along the coastline. They even let me drive the boat for a bit!

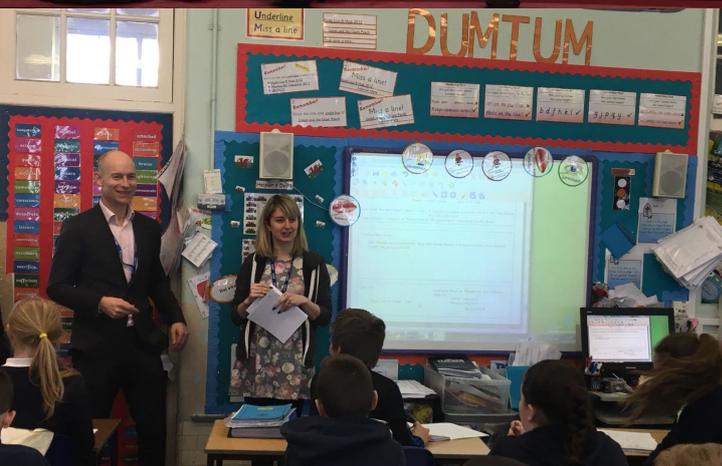
<http://bit.ly/2HOrd2S>



AFAN SPARTANS BOXING

I was delighted to attend Afan Spartans Boxing and witness the youngsters being put through their paces. Afan Spartans is based in the Taibach Community Education Centre and have a brilliant team doing excellent work with the young people in our Community.

<http://bit.ly/2DHcj2i>



SANDFIELDS PRIMARY

I enjoyed my visit to Sandfields Primary, where I was shown around the school, told of some of the work that the pupils have done and chatted to staff and pupils about Parliament and how it works.

News from Aberavon



SKEWEN STREET SURGERY

Following on from my first street surgery in Aberavon, I was joined by Councillor Mike Harvey and David Rees AM, knocking doors in Skewen on a cold Saturday morning.

It was good to talk with local residents on the doorstep, lots of issues around parking and fly tipping.

<http://bit.ly/2FNGOU7>



BRITON FERRY COFFEE MORNING

I held my regular coffee morning in Briton Ferry and was joined by Councillor Hugh James and David Rees AM. It was a busy coffee morning where I received an update on the Brunel Dock and spoke with members of Friends of Jersey Park.

Political Digest



VICTORIA DERBYSHIRE SHOW: RUSSIA

I appeared on the Victoria Derbyshire show to discuss Russia, it's people, and the "re-election" of Putin as President.

You can watch the appearance on <http://bit.ly/2DF5pEm>



SKY NEWS: BREXIT

I was interviewed on Sky News about Brexit and spoke about how triggering Article 50 without a plan, calling election in middle of process, and thinking we can have a frictionless border in Ireland with no relationship with Single Market or Customs Union, the Government are letting the country down. <http://bit.ly/2u0nA87>



WE CANNOT LET FOOTBALL ACT AS A SMOKE SCREEN—WE MUST POSTPONE THE WORLD CUP

I wrote an article for *Politics Home* calling for the World Cup to be postponed to summer 2019 and relocated to France, which will be hosting the Women's World Cup.

<http://bit.ly/2u3Y41T>

Political Digest

BBC
RADIO



LIVE Westminster



RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS EXPELLED
May: Russian response 'demonstrates complete disdain'

NEWS 16:08 PLACE FOR THESE PEOPLE OR THEIR MONEY IN OUR COU

BBC
RADIO



Good Morning Britain
DEVELOPING STORY
STEPHEN KINNOCK MP
Labour MP for Aberavon



cymru
wales



BREAKING NEWS
RUSSIA SPY POISONING
Jeremy Corbyn warns against 'hasty judgements'

BBC RADIO 4'S TODAY PROGRAMME: RUSSIA

BBC Radio 4 The Today Programme about the Russian chemical weapons attack and attempted murder in Salisbury, Russia, the Labour Party and postponing and relocating the 2018 World Cup away from Russia.

<http://bit.ly/2DEPZQu>

BBC NEWS: RUSSIA

I was interviewed on the BBC News channel after the Prime Minister announced the expulsion of 23 Russian diplomats. I said that we must take unequivocal measures against the Russian use of chemical weapons in UK. There is a need to engage with Russia, which is what I did as St Petersburg British Council head, but we can't allow the World Cup in Russia to vindicate and showcase the Putin regime after this attack. <http://bit.ly/2HA4J5M>

BBC RADIO 4'S PM PROGRAMME: TRUMP STEEL TARIFFS

I spoke to BBC Radio 4's PM Programme and called for Trump to exempt the UK and EU as a whole from his punitive 25% tariffs on all steel.

You can listen to the interview on <http://bit.ly/2tOuVaM>

BBC RADIO WALES: RUSSIA

I spoke with BBC Radio Wales after the Prime Minister announced it was highly likely that Russia was responsible for the poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter.

What the Russians have done here is completely unacceptable. I called for co-ordinated action with FIFA, looking even at the possibility of delaying the world cup and having it in a different country. <http://bbc.in/2paJshL>

GOOD MORNING BRITAIN: TRUMP TRADE TARIFFS

I was interviewed on ITV's Good Morning Britain about the trade tariffs announced by Donald Trump. I spoke about how it is a deeply damaging move, it is bad news for steel and the whole manufacturing sector, both here in the UK and in the USA.

You can watch the interview on <http://bit.ly/2FESmoy>

BBC NEWS: RUSSIA

I was interviewed on the BBC News channel and called for a clear Labour voice in solidarity with our international allies and within the UK over the Russian use of chemical weapons, an attempted murder on the streets of Salisbury.

Watch my interview on <http://bit.ly/2FL0eZt>

Political Digest



BBC RADIO WALES: DONALD TRUMP'S PROPOSED STEEL TARRIFS

I spoke with BBC Radio Wales about Donald Trump's proposed steel tariffs that will hurt British as well as American steelworkers and do little to tackle Chinese dumping and overproduction. You can listen to the interview at <http://bit.ly/2FXbXB4>



BBC NEWS: PM'S BREXIT SPEECH

I appeared on the BBC News channel and talked about the Prime Ministers Mansion House speech on the road to Brexit and explained why we must have an EEA based Brexit. You can watch the interview on <http://bit.ly/2oTxFhs>



BBC NEWS: CORBYN'S BREXIT SPEECH

I spoke to Huw Edwards on BBC News after Jeremy Corby's speech on Labour seeking a Customs Union with the EU after Brexit. I also called for a common sense EEA EFTA based Brexit.

You can watch my interview at <http://bit.ly/2Hcpgkwz>



LBC: BREXIT AND A CUSTOMS UNION

After Jeremy Corbyn's speech outlining Labour's desire to seek a Customs Union or Partnership with the EU after Brexit, I talked to LBC about the speech and called for cross party support for a common sense EEA EFTA based Brexit.

You can listen to the interview at <http://bit.ly/2I56SaN>



EEF STEEL CONFERENCE: WHAT AN INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY COULD/SHOULD MEAN FOR THE STEEL SECTOR

I attended the EEF steel conference and took part in a panel discussion around what an industrial strategy could and should mean for the steel sector. From the steel executives, steel unions, and steel MPs, there was a clear and unanimous message: the Government must now urgently commit to the Steel Sector Deal.



BBC RADIO 4 TODAY PROGRAMME: EXPULSION OF BRITISH COUNCIL FROM RUSSIA

I spoke to the Today Programme about the Salisbury attacks, action against Russia and the Russian counter-measures. I talked about my experiences working for the British Council following the Russian assassination of Alexander Litvinenko and the FSB intimidation that followed. <http://bit.ly/2FKEH38>

Political Digest



ABERAVON MP CALLS OUT GOVERNMENT AND FCA FOR ALLOWING A FREE FOR ALL WHICH HAS LEFT MANY STEELWORKERS AND PENSIONERS WORSE OFF

Following the publication of the Work and Pensions Committee's report into the actions of financial advisers around the British Steel Pension Scheme transfer, I called for urgent action on pension misspelling, called out the FCA for failings, urged the government to produce a white paper, and supported Work and Pensions Committee report. <http://bit.ly/2oSTBtS>



SHARP END: PROPOSED US STEEL TARIFFS

I was interviewed by Adrian Masters on ITV's the Sharp End about Donald Trump's proposal to place tariffs on steel. Nobody benefits from a trade war, it will result in retaliatory measures from EU, and the people who will suffer are the steel workforce.

You can watch my interview at <http://bit.ly/2D9rStf>



MP CONDEMNS AGGRESSIVE TRUMP TARIFFS ON STEEL

Following the publication of the Work and Pensions Committee's report into the actions of financial advisers around the British Steel Pension Scheme transfer, I called for urgent action on pension mis-selling, called out the FCA for failings, urged the government to produce a white paper, and supported Work and Pensions Committee report. <http://bit.ly/2oSTBtS>



STEELWORKERS WILL JUDGE THERESA MAY ON HER APPROACH TO DONALD TRUMP'S NEW TARIFFS

I wrote an article for Politics Home, saying that the Prime Minister must ensure that, as a minimum, high quality British steel products exported to the USA are exempted from this tariff. She must also secure assurances from the President that, when the details of these tariffs are announced, that they be proportional and part of a wider international effort to crack down on Chinese dumping. <http://bit.ly/2Fkllqz>



PRIME MINISTER FOUND WANTING AS TRUMP STEEL TARIFF EXECUTIVE ORDER IS MILESTONE MOMENT FOR FUTURE OF UK STEEL INDUSTRY AND FUTURE OF RULES BASED GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM

After the Donald Trump signed the Executive Order confirming 25% tariffs on British steel imports to the USA, I issued a statement about how the Prime Minister had abjectly failed to stand up for British steelworkers, and that by signing this Order the President had attacked one of the United State's closest allies. <http://bit.ly/2oT1qjd>

Stephen's Next Surgery

Stephen Kinnock
Member of Parliament
for Aberavon

Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th April

9.30-10.30am

Noddfa Community Centre

Dunraven Street, Glyncoirwg
SA13 3AD

Contact Stephen

My office is open Monday - Thursday between 10am and 1pm for a drop-in advice surgery with a caseworker.

Outside of these times you can call to make an appointment.

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As your MP, I'd like to stay in touch and hear your views.

You can visit my website to sign up to my mailing list:

www.stephenkinnock.co.uk

I send out a monthly newsletter and may also contact you to ask for your opinion on issues that may be important to you.

