

November & December Report from Claude Moraes MEP



Dear Friends

Welcome to my end of year Newsletter.

2010 has been a very busy and productive year for Labour in Europe. It has also been a very tough year in which the European Union has been under pressure associated with the wider recession.

This report is a round up from the European Parliament on this year's work. If you are receiving my report for the first time, it outlines what I and other Labour MEPs are doing on your behalf. As a London MEP, and Deputy Leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party, I have been privileged to work at the heart of two main themes this year.

First, Labour in Europe is successfully promoting London.

Ever more results are being secured at European level on the issues that directly affect Londoners, for example tackling international terrorism, the quality of air in London, better EU wide anti discrimination protection and safer roads in London. In particular, this has been a very strong year for advancing your consumer rights in Europe.

Second, the post-Lisbon European Parliament is proving to be an ever stronger global platform for progressives.

As Socialists and Democrats Group Spokesperson on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, I've not only seen this development first hand, but also taken a lead in drafting and organising legislation in the European Parliament.

I regularly update my website and Facebook page on these themes and the issues below and hope that this report to you will be both informative and interesting.

Finally, I'd like to extend my warm wishes for the holiday season and New Year to you.

Claude Moraes

Labour MEP for London

Your Consumer Rights – What Europe is doing for You

The festive season is a good time to review the consumer rights Labour has won for you in the European Parliament. Catherine Stihler MEP (Labour's Consumer Spokesperson) and I are working hard on the European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Labour has promoted and secured a wide range of consumer rights in Europe. These include advanced product guarantee rights, an EU Rapid Alert System for unsafe products, strict hygiene and food safety standards and protections against being ripped off online.

To read in more detail about the consumer rights Labour has secured for you, please click [here](#)

Countering Cross Border Crime and Terrorism

People trafficking, drug and gun trafficking, serious organised crime, cyber crime and international terrorism are all cross border issues. Instruments like the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) are therefore important to the UK's interests, for example the EAW was successfully used by UK authorities to retrieve and charge London bombing suspect Hussain Osman after he had fled to Italy. I have called however for the EAW to be urgently reviewed to iron out problems such as the inappropriate issue of warrants and to improve procedural rights (e.g. translation rights for UK suspects which are now being brought in).

I recently wrote an article on Labour List about what Europe is doing to tackle cross border crime in the UK. Only by working with our European partners can ensure that our response to coordinated international terrorism is both coordinated and international itself.

You can read this article in full [here](#)

Cleaner Air in London

As a London MEP, I want to promote a green, sustainable and healthy capital city. One key goal here is improving air quality.

In December, I met with European Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik along with Simon Birkett of the campaign Clean Air in London and Green MEP Jean Lambert. We discussed how London is breaking EU air quality laws. If the UK fails to take necessary measures to comply with legislation, the Commission could refer the case to the European Court of Justice.

With the 2012 Olympics fast approaching, I've also written on Labour List about the European Council's Air Quality Directive. I believe that Labour mayoral candidate Ken Livingstone will lead on this issue, as it's clear from the current statistics that more must be done to meet air quality aims by incumbent Mayor Boris Johnson.

You can read more about my meeting with Commissioner Potočník [here](#)

And you can read my article on air quality in full [here](#)

The EU Budget

The Labour approach to any EU budget is that we do not want to see dogma driven cuts which endanger public services over and above what is absolutely necessary to reduce the deficit

It is clear in the context of austerity in the UK that an EU budget freeze is the preferred option of Labour MEPs and the Labour leader Ed Miliband. As a result, Labour MEPs voted against the EU budget but also tabled amendments to the budget that would cut more than 1 billion Euros worth of wasteful spending on areas such as agricultural and export subsidies.

You can read more about the position of Labour MEPs on the [EPLP website](#)

LGBT Rights in Europe

In November, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) released its 2010 report on homophobia and discrimination in Europe. I was involved in the launch of this report with Morten Kjaerum, Director of FRA.

Many important advances have been made in the area of LGBT rights in Europe, and many still need to be made both within the EU and in Europe more widely. I will be writing about this issue, and discussing LGBT rights in Serbia, on Labour List.

You will be able to read this article [here](#).

2010 Round up in Brief

In this section, you can read in brief a summary of the major achievements, events and developments of 2010 for myself and Labour in the European Parliament.

Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme

During the summer, I worked with other groups in the European Parliament to ensure a balance between promoting our security and protecting our civil liberties when sharing financial data with the United States.

In an unprecedented flexing of the European Parliament's increased powers under the Lisbon Treaty, MEPs halted the deal until we felt it fully promoted European interests.

You can read more on this issue [here](#)

France and the Roma

The French expulsions of Roma provoked international outrage. As S&D Group Spokesman on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, I led the parliamentary pressure on the European Commission to act. I highlighted the basic fact that EU citizens have the right to free movement in Europe.

The result has been unprecedented – the European Commission is bring legal action against France on grounds of a breach of human rights, the first time this has happened to a Member State.

For more of what I've been saying on the issue, please see [here](#)

Resettling Refugees in Europe

I am spokesperson for this issue in our Group, which reached the European Parliament during the summer.

I also wrote report on a new draft law, in which EU Member States welcoming legitimate, full status refugees could receive a financial incentive. This proposal must be adequately funded and I will continue to work hard on this important global issue.

You can read more on this issue [here](#)

Bankers' Bonuses

The EU is now requiring that a portion of bonuses be deferred for up to five years as well as ensure that half of any bonus is paid in a way that is linked to a bank's performance, for example in shares.

You can read more on this issue [here](#)

And Finally...

I organised two key reports within our Group for the December 2010 Plenary – the European Protection Order on Violence Against Women and the first legislative Human Trafficking Directive.

Opposition Watch

Conservative MEPs elect new leader

I was very concerned that key EU laws like the Human Trafficking Directive and the European Protection Order on Violence Against Women are not being supported by the UK coalition government.

In another development, Michal Kaminski MEP has stepped down as the leader of the European Conservative and Reformists (ECR) in the European Parliament, the Group that includes UK Conservative MEPs. Michal Kaminski has said he's left because the other main party in the ECR, Poland's Law and Justice Party, is "being taken over by the far right".

Labour Party News

In the New Year, I'll be reporting back to the following Labour CLPs personally:

Cities of London & Westminster - January 25th 2011

Hackney North CLP - February 24th 2011

Ilford South CLP - March 24th 2011

Islington North CLP – April 20th 2011

Hornsey and Wood Green CLP - April 27th 2011

Ealing Central & Acton CLP - April 28th 2011

Colleagues at Tribune magazine including the publisher and Labour Euro candidate at the last European elections Kevin McGrath are now regularly reporting news on key EU topics and what Labour and the Socialists and Democrats are doing in the EU. You can read Tribune magazine [here](#)

List of events and meetings

LIBE – the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee in the European Parliament

TRAN – the Transport Committee in the European Parliament

S&D – the new name of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament. The Democrats are our sister party, the Italian *Partito Democratico*

IMCO – the Internal Market and Consumer Committee in the European Parliament

November

01 November – London Labour Regional Board meeting

05 November – Report back to Lewisham East CLP

09 November – TRAN Meeting on Bodyscanners

09 November – EPLP Meeting

10 November – LIBE Working Group

10 November – Speech to EU staff on ethnic diversity

10 November – Meeting with the Board of Deputies of British Jews

10 November – Meeting with Commissioner Cecilia Malmström

13 November – London Labour Biennial Meeting

16 November – S&D Bureau and Coordinators meeting

17 November – S&D Group meeting on extremism

17 November – S&D Group meeting on European social democracy

18 November – European Scrutiny Committee Tripartite Meeting

18 November – Report back to Kingston and Surbiton CLP

22 November – IMCO Committee Meeting

23 November – IMCO Committee Working Group

23 November – S&D Coordinators Group meeting
24 November – Meeting with Cecilia Malmström on asylum
24 November – S&D Group meeting on Immigration and Employment
24 November – Friends of Pakistan Group meeting
25 November – Extraordinary LIBE Committee meeting
25 November – European Trade Union meeting on Seasonal Workers
25 November – Talk at Finchley Fabian Society
27 November – Labour Party National Policy Forum
29 November – LIBE Prep Meeting
30 November – EPP Working Group on Roma Inclusion

December

01 December - Frauke Sommer, European Commission Policy Coordinator for trade relations with South Asia
06 December – Meeting on Human Rights and Business
07 December - Meeting of the EP Trade Union Intergroup to explain my report on seasonal workers and new legislation on Intra-Corporate Transfers
07 December - Bureau meeting of the Trade Union Intergroup
07 December - Working group - migration and employment
07 December – Task force on copyright law in the EU
07 December – HGW E Citizen’s Europe event
07 December – Speaking at event on Preventing Diabetes in the EU
08 December – Hearing on health care for undocumented migrants
08 December – Meeting with European Commission on Air Quality
09 December – Speech on organised crime to Freedom Legality and Rights in Europe Group
11 December – Speaking at the One Society, Many Cultures conference
13 December – Labour Movement for Europe AGM
16 December – Hackney South CLP Christmas social