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Member of the European Parliament for Scotland
EUROPE MATTERS: JULY 2009
E-NEWSLETTER

Introduction

Hello! Welcome to the first e-newsletter of the new European parliamentary term (2009 – 2014). If you have any questions about my work in Parliament, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support,

Catherine

The European Election 2009

It is a privilege and an honour to have been elected to represent Scotland in Europe for another five years.

I would like to thank everyone for their support during the European elections. The campaign was a real opportunity to have genuine dialogue with people about the sort of Europe they wish to see and it was a real pleasure to travel the length and breadth of Scotland.

Over the next five years I will work hard to bring home the best deal for communities all across Scotland. MEPs vote on important laws that, to date, have benefitted thousands upon thousands of workers, consumers and families throughout the country. I will be working hard in the parliament to advance Labour values in Europe and if I can be of assistance in any matter, please get in touch.

If you would like more information on the newly elected European Parliament, please visit http://europa.eu/institutions/inst/parliament/index_en.htm

The First Polish President

On the 14th July 2009, the new European Parliament overwhelmingly supported the election of Jerzy Buzek as the first Polish President of the European Parliament. Jerzy is a former engineer, academic lecturer and Prime Minister of Poland (1997 – 2001).

The election of Jerzy is historic and truly symbolic. It marks the first time that a citizen from a former communist member state has filled this important position. This election reflects

Poland's growing political stature and Jerzy's presence gives the European Parliament greater political weight.

He is a well respected figure within politics and I hope that he will do an excellent job as the 28th President of the European Parliament.

Support for Clean Coal

I have thrown my full weight behind Scottish Power Consortium's bid for €180 of European Energy Programme for Recovery (EEPR) funding which has been allocated to the UK.

Scottish Power's Longannet Power Station is one of the four UK sites which is eligible to bid for the funding. Scottish Power has a long standing history in Fife and are expertly placed to help stimulate the low carbon industry. Carbon Capture and Storage will go a long way toward delivering substantial environmental and economic benefits to Scotland. Scottish Power are fully committed and determined to advance the use of this technology.

If Longannet are successful in their bid, this would be a massive boost for the economy of Scotland and local employment.

This month a joint letter of support from all the Scottish MEPs was sent to the European Commission and Scottish Power.

For more information on EEPR, please refer to http://ec.europa.eu/energy/grants/2009_07_15_en.htm

Hope Not Hate

On the 14 July 2009, the Hope Not Hate campaign delivered its petition to the European Parliament on the same day as the BNP took their two seats in Brussels. 90,000 people signed the petition: "Not in My Name"

It is vital that we expose the extremism of the BNP. We must let people throughout Europe and the world know that they are 'not in our name' and do not represent us. To learn more about the 'Hope Not Hate' campaign, please visit <http://action.hopenothate.org.uk/index.php/content/home-wk/>.

However, it would be erroneous to give too much weight to the 'success' of the BNP. Despite the election of the BNP, their success owed more to voters staying at home on June 4, rather than a surge in their support. The BNP effectively slipped in through the back door and we must not let this happen again.

As Labour Euro Parliamentarians, my colleagues and I will work closely with our European partners to 'advance democracy, social justice, prosperity, peace and sustainable development in the UK, EU and throughout the world'.

Get in Touch!

For more information about my work in the Parliament, or if you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office – I am happy to help!

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