



# Catherine Stihler MEP

## *MEP for Scotland*

Working Hard for You

Autumn News 2011

### SOCIAL EUROPE

Our achievements in *YOUR* workplace

1. Equal pay
2. 4 weeks paid holiday per year
3. Safeguarding health and safety at work.
4. Maternity, paternity and adoption rights
5. Equal rights for part time/ agency workers
6. Safeguarding health and safety at work.
7. Anti-discrimination rights

### EUROZONE CRISIS

I was recently appointed to lead a report on the need for Better Governance across the eurozone. The report passed overwhelmingly in Parliament last month.

Without better governance we will not correct the economic imbalances that continue to threaten the stability of the eurozone. If we do not create jobs and support our public services, then

growth will stagnate and a double dip recession will be more more of a reality than a possibility.

It is possible to regain control of our economies without ‘killing off’ education, research and encouraging social justice. Growth forecasts are being downgraded across the Western world, combined with austerity measures that have the potential to

ruin the economic recovery process.



*We need to keep investing in areas such as research—instead of cutting jobs, we need to be innovative and create them or face a future of stagnate growth.*

### NEW RIGHTS FOR AGENCY WORKERS'

Agency workers' now have the same rights as permanent members of staff thanks to new EU laws.

The equal rights will come into effect after workers complete a **twelve week**

**qualifying period.** By law agency workers will receive equal treatment in areas such as **pay, holidays and rest breaks.**

The new rules mean that from day one of a

new job, agency workers' are entitled to full use of the workplaces facilities, also information on internal job vacancies and equal opportunities to apply for permanent jobs.

## OIL-GAS SAFETY

The European Parliament has recently approved proposals to assist oil and gas workers' who raise safety concerns.

This action must be taken in light of the major oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico last year.

It is vital that an elected safety representative can raise questions and speak out if hazards are detected in order to prevent disasters. We need to empower workers with the confidence to speak out. No technology will prevent disasters if warnings are ignored.

## ROBIN HOOD TAX

The European Commission have laid the foundations for a Robin Hood Tax—formally known as a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT). A small levy on financial transactions has the ability to raise billions for areas such as **health** and **education**, whilst contributing towards the **cost of the economic crisis**.

The financial sector is largely under taxed—the hard working majority do not benefit from such exemptions. Bankers' bonuses are set to run into billions this year at a time when the incomes of most Scots are being frozen or cut. Employment is a much needed safeguard against poverty. An FTT is an innovative and effective way of raising funds for job creation and is an initiative that shall encourage large scale projects.



For more information on the Robin Hood Tax see [www.robinhoodtax.org](http://www.robinhoodtax.org)

## CONTACT ME:

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