

Update

From
Richard
Howitt



September / October 2009

Your Labour Euro MP for the East of England

Please distribute at your General Committee meeting and to other interested party members

BUILDING BRITAIN'S FUTURE

A cross section of people, representing local councils, business, voluntary groups and the general public debated the Government's new "Building Britain's Future" policy document, given its **East of England** launch by Chancellor Alistair Darling, which Richard joined together with **Stevenage** MP Barbara Follett and **Cambridge** PPC Daniel Zeichner, (see picture).

How Labour can fight back, was the subject of Richard's report to the Party's Regional Board meeting in **Cambridge**. Richard also spoke at Party meetings in **East Thurrock** and the **Hertfordshire** County Party meeting in **Hatfield**, and attended Party socials held in **St Albans**, **Stevenage**, **Cambridge** and **West Suffolk**.

To read "Building Britain's Future" see www.hmg.gov.uk/buildingbritainsfuture



BLOODIED BUT UNBOWED

"Labour MEPs continue to play a leading role in the European Parliament despite our reduced numbers, and play a full part in a united 180-strong group of Socialists and Democrats," says Richard.

Richard Howitt MEP was reappointed Labour Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs, and elected Socialist Spokesperson on Human Rights for the first time. Richard was re-elected as Chair of the European Parliamentary Labour Party and continues to represent the Labour MEPs on Labour's National Policy Forum.

TOM PAINE BI-CENTENARY

Richard was keynote speaker at special bi-centennial celebrations held in **Thetford** - birthplace of the author of "The Rights of Man" and a founding father of the United States.

"Support for minimum income, for the abolition of slavery and for the French revolution may have been unpopular in his time, but have become an enduring part of the history of the Labour movement and of socialist politics," Richard said.

NOT IN MY NAME

Richard met up with Searchlight Editor Nick Lowles to receive a 90,000-petition stating "not in my name" - to mark the two new BNP MEPs taking their seats in the European Parliament, (see photo below).

"The BNP are now working together with the French National Front, the Bulgarian Attack party and the Hungarian nationalists who have their own militia who wear a Nazi-style uniform," says Richard.

Richard is appealing to everyone to see the true facts about the BNP and add their own name to the petition by logging in to <http://notinmyname.tv>



TORIES IN TURMOIL

No sooner had David Cameron gone through with his decision to split the British Tory MEPs from their European counterparts, than he was faced with resignations and rebellion from within, says Richard.

"Five of the eight countries where the Tories cobbled together new partners to form a Parliamentary group were represented by just a single MEP, showing how marginalised they have become."

"Within one day, their Finnish MEP member resigned whilst one of the Tory MEPs stood as a rebel candidate against one of their Polish partners in an internal election - despite a personal 'phone call from Cameron - and was expelled in the very first week of the new Parliament," Richard added.

"In retaliation the Polish party know for its openly homophobic views ousted the Tories from leading the new group."

"The Tories are a divided party with no influence amongst the few friends they have, let alone in the European Parliament as a whole."

SUFFOLK GOES FOR GOLD

Richard hosted a visit from Foreign Secretary David Miliband MP to **Ipswich** to highlight efforts to ensure sporting and economic benefits locally from the 2012 Olympics. The pair met locally-based former swimming world champion Karen Pickering to discuss her role as Team Ipswich Ambassador before taking part in a question-and-answer session with local youngsters.



From left to right Olympic Swimmer Karen Pickering, Richard Ellis, Chair of the Regional Development Agency, Foreign Secretary David Miliband and Richard Howitt MEP.

See Richard at Labour Party Conference:

All visitors and delegates from constituencies and trade unions in the East of England are invited to the East of England Reception 19:30-21:00, Sunday 27th September – Hall 4, The Hilton Metropole.

Also see Richard speaking throughout the week:

SUNDAY 27th September

13.00 - 14.30 - Royal Albert Hotel, Kings Street - Labour Movement for Europe, 'E.U. Co-operation and the Copenhagen Summit'

20.30 - 22.00 - UMI Hotel, 60-64 Kings Road - Electoral Reform Society Reception, 'Class 2010 - The Reformers Reception'

MONDAY 28th September

12.00 -12.45 - Alexandra Room, Grand Hotel, 97-99 Kings Road - Justice for Colombia Fringe.

12.45 - 14.00 - Sandringham Suite, Queens Hotel, Kings Road - Labour Friends of Palestine and Middle East.

18.00 - 19.00 - JAM, 9-12 Middle Street - Young Fabians Annual Reception.

19.30 - 21.00 - Cambridge Room, Hilton Metropole - Joint Unite - Society of Motor Manufacturers Panel Discussion, 'The Future of Automotive Manufacturing in the Low Carbon Economy'.

TUESDAY 29th September

07.30 - 09.00 - The Old Ship Hotel, Business for New Europe - Breakfast debate 'What role for the EU in light of the G20?'

12.00 - 14.00 - Empress Room, Grand Hotel, 97-99 Kings Road - EPLP Fringe, 'Winning the argument on Britain in Europe'.

WEDNESDAY 30th September

13.00 - 14.00 - Umi Suite, UMI Hotel, 60-64 Kings Road - Smith Institute, 'What next for Europe?'

NORWICH NORTH BY ELECTION

A strong campaign involving many activists from across the whole of the East of England couldn't prevent the loss of the Norwich North seat in July. Richard joined campaigning efforts throughout the by-election and paid tribute to Labour's candidate Chris Ostrowski who campaigned vigorously for months, firstly as a European Candidate for the June election and then, with almost no break, in the Parliamentary by-election.

"Although it is very disappointing to have lost the seat there is no reason why we cannot re-gain it at the coming General Election," said Richard.

Also in the constituency, Richard...

- Welcomed **Bedfordshire** teachers on a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels.
- Met with the Association of Colleges in the East Region meeting in **Madingley, Cambridgeshire**.
- Visited the **East of England** Development Agency.
- Attended showing of artwork and congratulated students graduating from **Norwich** University College of the Arts.
- Welcomed new European Funding to improve freight rail transport between **Felixstowe** and **Peterborough**.
- Launched a new free advice surgery organised by the **Waveney** Trades Council, (see photo below).



FREE 'PHONE-IN FOR CURRENT AND POTENTIAL EUROPEAN LIAISON OFFICERS

Are you a European Liaison Officer? Would you like to be a liaison officer for your CLP? Join Richard for free on his next telephone conference on:-

Tuesday 15th September 6.30pm - 7pm.

For details of how register in advance, please email chris@richardhowittmep.com

Contact Richard by phone: 01223 240202, by fax 01223 241900

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