

## Conservative MEPs

# Delivering for Britain

1. **Fighting for British jobs** – In contrast to Labour MEPs, Conservative MEPs have consistently opposed job-destroying EU legislation like the Working Time Directive – which could cost the UK economy hundreds of thousands of jobs.

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2. **Working for British business** – Conservative MEPs have worked to open new markets and opportunities in Europe for British firms – in sectors such as services, telecoms and energy – and secured specific commitments from the European Commission on cutting EU red tape.

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3. **Defending British traditions** – Conservative MEPs defeated attempts by the EU to ban the sale of goods in pounds and ounces. Conservative MEPs also ensured strong consumer protection rules, for example limiting the cost of mobile phone 'roaming' charges and ensuring honesty in air fares advertised online.

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4. **Campaigning against the EU Constitution** – All Conservative MEPs were elected in 2004 on a pledge to oppose the EU Constitution. While Labour and the Liberal Democrats have broken their promise of a referendum on the new Treaty, Conservatives have consistently campaigned for the British people to have their say.

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5. **Controlling EU finances** – While Labour and Liberal Democrat MEPs have repeatedly voted for more EU spending, Conservative MEPs have voted to limit the EU Budget and to scrap wasteful spending, such the practice of holding European Parliament meetings in Strasbourg as well as Brussels. Conservatives have vigorously defended the British budget rebate.

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## Changing and Reforming the EU

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- 6. Tackling Climate Change** – Conservative MEPs played a key role in securing agreement in the EU on new legislation to cut carbon emissions and to promote more use of renewable energy. Conservatives also secured new legislation to control the use of dangerous chemicals, to promote more recycling and to cut pollution of air and water in Europe.
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- 7. Refusing to approve the EU accounts** – The EU Court of Auditors has been unable to give the EU accounts a clean bill of health for fourteen successive years. Conservative MEPs are the only British party to have voted to refuse to sign off the EU Accounts every year since 1998 and to table clear, comprehensive proposals for reforming the system.
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- 8. Tackling Global Poverty** – Conservative MEPs have consistently pressed a new world trade deal with a particular focus on the needs of the poorest countries. They have worked for reform of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and of EU development policy, and campaigned for respect for human rights and democracy around the world.
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- 9. Reforming MEPs' pay and expenses** – Conservative MEPs are committed to the highest standards of propriety in public life and have consistently supported reform of the system, including the new MEP Statute. The Conservative 'Right to Know' regime is the most rigorous and transparent regime of any British political party.
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- 10. Promoting better animal welfare** – Conservative MEPs have successfully campaigned for improvements in animal welfare – including new laws to ban battery cages for chickens, to improve the conditions in which pigs are reared and to ban trade in cat and dog fur.
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