Mary Honeyball MEP

Welcome to my annual report for 2012. This report is designed to tell you about the work I have been doing over the last 12 months on your behalf.

I believe it is important elected representatives are accountable, transparent and in touch with those they represent. I seek to build communication channels in many different ways, and you can see how to contact me at the end of this report.

A copy of this annual report is also available on my website www.thehoneyballbuzz.com

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Mary’s work on women and equality

This year I commissioned research which examined the impact of advertisements for sexual services in local newspapers on sex trafficking. The report, written by two academics from the University of Cambridge, was launched in June this year.

The study found that there is a direct link between adverts in newspapers and human trafficking.

I sent the report, *Reading Between the Lines*, to the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, hoping he would address the concerns identified in the report. The Mayor must ensure that proper resources are available to minimise human trafficking in the future.

You can read this important report by visiting my website: [www.thehoneyballbuzz.com](http://www.thehoneyballbuzz.com)

This has been an important year for women in business. The question of introducing quotas to improve the presence of women on top company boards has gained momentum.

While some see this as a controversial issue, as a member of the Women’s Committee I support the work that has been done in this area so far. I discussed the issue at a panel discussion hosted by the former BBC journalist, Shirin Wheeler, at the European Commission offices in London on International Women’s Day.

In May I spoke to a delegation of women who visited Brussels as part of the Strategic Leadership Programme for Women. The Programme was created with the aim of increasing the number of women leaders in decision-making roles in the North West of Ireland/Northern Ireland. Initiatives like the Strategic Leadership Programme enable women to develop confidence, knowledge, skills and leadership capacity. It also gives them a network with their peers and enables them to make contact with women who have already succeeded as leaders.

It has been a fantastic year for women in sport, both as sportswomen and for female sports presenters who now are receiving the recognition they deserve. To mark the achievements of our female British athletes I produced an e-book celebrating the work of British female Olympic and Paralympic athletes past and present. You can find a copy on my website.

I have also updated my directory of female politicians in Britain and Europe. It includes biographies of British MPs, Peers and MEPs. You can find the new, updated version by visiting my website.

**WRITTEN DECLARATION**

In February 2012 I launched a Written Declaration (WD) calling for the European Commission to continue and increase its commitment to reduce the number of vaccine preventable deaths in its future work.

I was delighted the WD was accepted as a Resolution of the European Parliament.

It will help NGOs like UNICEF and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation who will be able to channel aid into programmes that increase vaccination coverage for children across the globe.

I asked Bill Gates about this when he visited the European Parliament in January 2012.
Mary’s work on culture and education

**Education, Training and Europe 2020**
Earlier this year, my report on Education and Training was voted through the European Parliament. The report explored the progress that Europe is making in achieving the goals that were set in the EU 2020 strategy. These tasks were set for the EU and member states and ranged from tackling the prevalent problem of young people leaving school with inadequate qualifications, to boosting the number of adults who participate in education and training.

My report assesses the current situation and offers suggestions about how we can improve our chances of meeting these important targets by 2020. I have suggested, for instance, that the system in place in the UK until recently whereby young people from poor families are given small grants from the age of 16 to help fund their stay in school be introduced Europe wide.

**Grants**
I have proposed a European wide grant system, such as we had in place in the UK for all 16 year-olds to help fund their continuing education

would benefit from increased EU support under the new ‘Creative Europe’ programme.

**Erasmus for All**
The new Erasmus for All programme, currently under consideration, would bring together all the current EU and international schemes for education, training, youth and sport, replacing seven existing programmes with one. This would increase efficiency, make it easier to apply for grants, as well as reducing duplication and fragmentation.

**Future work of the Committee**
We are currently waiting for the European Commission to put forward its proposals on music licensing. I cannot say now what the exact details of these proposals will be, but I hope that the Commission can come up with a way forward to tackle the thorny issue of how remuneration to artists is distributed.

**Lux Prize**
The European Parliament Lux Prize is incredibly important for European film. The prize seeks to reward film makers who look to collaborate with others from across Europe, allowing them to transcend borders.

Last years winner was the *Snows of Kilimanjaro*, a film exploring the issue of class and social division.
Mary in the media

A healthy presence in the media is important and the British press is just beginning to recognise why it must cover stories from Europe, especially those which impact on people in Britain. This year many of my campaigns have received media attention including:

The closure of Twickenham Film Studios:
The studios were threatened with closure after claims it did not generate any revenue. A huge campaign ensued and I wrote to the European Commission raising my concerns. I was interviewed by BBC London news and the story featured across all parts of the media. After several months of unrelenting and high profile campaigning a suitable buyer came forward, bought the studios and promised to keep it for the purpose it had been built.

Women on company boards:
I have written for the New Statesman and been interviewed by both the Today programme on Radio 4 and the BBC Politics Show on the issue of better representation for women on company boards. You can read my most recent article, written in October, on the New Statesman website.

A week in the life of...
I understand that MEPs may be considered relatively remote. Much of our working week is spent in Brussels and some weeks in Strasbourg. I wanted to get across to people the kind of things we actually do in Brussels. During a relatively busy week I kept a diary and penned a piece for Public Service Europe. If you are interested in capturing a sense of the work we do you can read my Brussels diary at Public Service Europe.

Other media:
I appeared on Channel 5 News in March to debate with media expert Jonathan Gabay the offensive nature of an advert made by the upmarket department store Harvey Nichols which depicted several women doing the ‘walk of shame’ following a night out.

The advert had been referred to the Advertising Standards Authority for investigation.

You can watch the interview by visiting my website. I’ve especially enjoyed appearing in regular debates on the London radio station LBC, this year appearing on shows hosted by Nick Ferrari and Iain Dale, among others, where I have debated issues such as female representation in politics and the Eurozone crisis.

FOR MEDIA REQUESTS

A selection of interviews and a selection of my media clippings are available on my website, www.thehoneyballbuzz.com/media

Please contact my press officer Sarah MacKinlay: sarah@maryhoneyball.net with media enquiries
Mary’s campaign work and visits

It is important to visit as many Labour Parties as possible either in a campaigning capacity or to talk to members about the work I do in the European Parliament. The visits are intended to provide accountability to Labour Party members.

At Labour Party Conference this year I hosted a dinner to which all London conference delegates were invited. It was an excellent evening and I really enjoyed meeting the delegates, many of whom were first time attenders at conference. I hope they all enjoyed it.

Above: Campaigning in Dollis Hill

Mary in Orpington
Discussing with CLP members her work in the European Parliament

Mary with Camden CLP campaign team

Mary campaigning in Southfields

Mary in Hammersmith & Fulham

Mary at the London CLP delegate Dinner
Mary’s casework

Many wonderful events helped to showcase London in 2012. The Olympics were a huge triumph, not just the event itself but the hard work leading up to it, the support of local community groups and, of course, our athletes who aside from their excellent sporting achievements, acted as proud ambassadors.

Every year my office receives letters from all over the world on such varied issues as human rights to the protection of vulnerable animals. This year was no different.

Work in Asia

I received correspondence, for example, on the fate of minority tribes like the Arakan and Rohingya people of Burma. There are always events in less fortunate corners of the world that cry out for our help.

Animal transportation

I also received many letters from concerned people on the issue of animal transport within Europe. Transporting animals humanely is extremely important. We have the means to ensure they travel in suitable conditions, and I have written back to all those who wrote to me on the matter explaining I support continued pressure to limit journey times and improve conditions for animals in transit.

Brake systems

During the past year concerns were raised around new safety features such as the ABS brake system proposed for motor cycles and also on testing for the roadworthiness of classic and historic cars. It is important that the concerns of enthusiasts and passionate users of such vehicles are taken into account in any new EU regulations.

Hypnobirthing

I was approached by a campaign group on a legal matter over the registration of the term ‘hypnobirthing’. They wished to register the term as a trade mark.

A legal ruling warned such registration was not allowed as it would limit other practitioners from working in the area.
Mary’s work on osteoporosis

I have campaigned on the issue of osteoporosis for 10 years in my position as co-chair of the European Parliament Osteoporosis Interest Group.

Osteoporosis is a debilitating chronic disease which can lead to serious pain, reduced mobility, and an increasing degree of dependence. It is a condition disproportionately suffered by women.

Osteoporosis does not receive as much coverage as other seriously debilitating diseases, yet it is estimated to cost EU Member States around €32bn a year.

Even with this knowledge it is not anywhere near the top of EU governments’ health care priorities. As a result awareness of osteoporosis falls behind that of other chronic diseases by around 20 years.

In December 2011 I spoke at a meeting organised to discuss the fight against osteoporosis at European level.

The meeting was organised by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF).

The IOF work to improve the available knowledge on prevention, diagnosis and treatment and raise awareness of the disease and its effects.

One of the many things we discussed at the meeting was the 2011 International Osteoporosis Foundation report which presents some shocking statistics. Here are some of the most striking:

Some statistics on osteoporosis

- The total health burden of osteoporotic fractures, measured in quality-adjusted life years (QALY) lost, was estimated at approximately 850,000 QALYs across six countries
- The health care cost, including pharmacological prevention, was estimated at €30.7 billion – corresponding to 3.5% of the total spending on health care in those countries
- In 2025 the projected number of fractures will increase by 29% reaching 3.2 million fractures, with health care costs increasing to Euro 38.5 billion
- The economic burden of osteoporotic fractures in these countries exceeds those for migraine, stroke, MS, and Parkinson’s disease, and is similar to the burden of rheumatoid arthritis

If you would like to know more about the risk factors associated with osteoporosis and possible preventative measures then visit the IOF website: www.iofbonehealth.org/
I like to hear from constituents and those involved in the work I do. Please feel free to contact me in any of the following ways:

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