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Hello and welcome to my newsletter!

Brexit continues to dominate the headlines and, given it is the biggest set of interlocked problems facing the country in three generations, shows no sign of abating. Meanwhile, your Labour MEPs in the European Parliament are as busy as ever. This newsletter will keep party members up to date with my own activities in the Parliament, in the region and in London where, as Leader of the Labour MEPs, I attend Shadow Cabinet and the NEC. I will also share my thoughts on the latest chaotic twists and turns of the Brexit negotiations.

Brexit

Brexit negotiations with the EU have been stalled. Instead, Theresa May has had to spend her time negotiating with the various factions of her party. Despite locking all her cabinet ministers in Chequers without their phones for almost 12 hours in order to try to get agreement on her latest fudge, she failed, with David Davis and Boris Johnson resigning within the next two days, as did several junior ministers. Far from being a “soft” Brexit, as Boris Johnson claimed, the Chequers proposal would cut Britain’s service sector out of the European single market, hitting the economy and losing countless jobs. Services amount to 80% of the UK economy and are also vital for manufacturing where post-sales services of products like aircraft engines and computer equipment are part of the value added. The “customs arrangement” proposal would involve imposing huge bureaucracy on our exporters. The package amounts to saying to the EU:

"We're leaving, so we want you to change your whole system to cater for us after we've left" - hardly a strong negotiating position!

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DoorstepEU

Keep up to date with the Brexit news with my DoorstepEU app. Clear, concise analysis of Brexit coverage, updated several times a week. Separate the fact from the fiction. You can download it for free on the App Store or the Play Store.



March for a People's Vote

I was impressed by the turnout of over 100,000 people - including several groups from Yorkshire - at the demonstration in London on 23 June to demand that the final Brexit deal, when we have one, be put to a vote of the British people. The government has been reluctant to even let Parliament have a vote on the deal. Given that it is likely that the deal will be very different to what was promised by the Leave campaign and by Brexit ministers, forcing it through without scrutiny or approval would be an outrage.



There was an extraordinary turn-out at the People's March last month, amid increasing demand for a vote on the final deal.

Visit to the Textile Centre of Excellence



More than 7,000 litres of water are needed to make just a single pair of jeans. But in the heart of Huddersfield, textile experts are working on new technology that would reduce this by more than 75%. It would also radically cut the number of chemicals used. This is just one of the many fascinating projects I heard about on my visit to the Textile Centre of Excellence this month. I spoke with Managing Director Bill MacBeth about the history of textiles in Yorkshire, the many cutting-edge projects they are working on thanks to European funding

Speaking with Bill Macbeth about how they use trailblazing technology to prevent counterfeiting of suits in Huddersfield.

and, sadly, the dire implications of Brexit for textiles in the UK.

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Leaked Tory government's white paper on fisheries is a flop

I exposed how the Theresa May's plans for the fishing industry after Brexit threaten to collapse the fishing industry vital to many of the coastal towns in our region. Watch the video here.

[PLAY](#)

Football crazy, Brexit mad

Football's in the air in the European Parliament as we near the final of the World Cup. England did the nation proud, with a young, hard-working squad exceeding all expectations. But while all eyes are fixed on the tournament in Russia, there are lingering questions over what Brexit will mean for our local football teams.

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World Refugee Day

20 June was World Refugee Day. On my visit to the Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh earlier this year I saw that more than half a million people – the equivalent of a city the size of Leeds or Sheffield – are crammed into hastily erected bamboo and canvas shelters and tents. If you are able to help by making a donation, please go to the Red Cross appeal page [here](#).

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