



**Edward McMillan-Scott**  
 Vice-President of the European Parliament



Activity Report – Yorkshire & Humber – Winter 2011/2012

[www.emcmillanscott.com](http://www.emcmillanscott.com)

# Winning Campaign for Child Rights

Edward McMillan-Scott has long campaigned for better child rights across the EU. He has helped to get Yorkshire & Humber children returned when they have been abducted abroad by a parent.

He has championed the ‘Maddy Line’ – a missing child hotline and alert system for Europe, proposed by Kate and Gerry McCann, parents of missing Madeleine, who he invited to a hearing at the European Parliament. He was supported by Diana Wallis (far right) and others in getting a majority of MEPs to back the idea. The EU has put up €1M to fund research.

Edward with the McCanns and colleagues in support of the ‘Maddy Line’.



▲ A recent article in Liberal Democrat News highlighting Edward's campaign to scrap the Brussels/Strasbourg fiasco.

## Emphasising the benefits of the EU

Edward McMillan-Scott has been an MEP for Yorkshire & The Humber since 1984, but public opinion has never been so Euro-sceptic he says: “As a long-standing pro-European, I am delighted that Nick Clegg is emphasising the benefits of EU membership. With such a Euro-sceptic media, we must give the public the facts.” Edward is a regular contributor to the Yorkshire Post, Liberal Democrat News and other media.

Edward was first elected as a Conservative MEP for a Euro-constituency stretching from Harrogate to Scunthorpe. After protesting at David Cameron's split from the mainstream in Europe, Edward joined the Liberal Democrats in March 2011, and currently shares responsibility for the region with Diana Wallis.



## Improving the vote for Lib-Dems

Edward (r) and Diana Wallis joined the by-election campaign for Michael Beckett, who improved the share of the vote in Thornton-le-Dale, although the North Yorkshire County Council seat stayed with the Conservatives. A former Conservative agent once commented “We could get a pig in a blue ribbon elected here”.

◀ Edward with Diana Wallis and Thornton-le-Dale candidate Michael Beckett, pictured outside the constituency HQ.

## Supporting Palestine's bid for full UN membership

The decision by UNESCO to recognise Palestine as a member came as Edward visited Ramallah, before speaking at a major conference on Palestine's bid for full UN membership. Another speaker was chief Palestine negotiator Saeb Erekat (pictured right).



Edward is a relation of T E Lawrence (of Arabia) who was a friend of Chaim Weizmann, founder of the Israeli state, and also of the Arab peoples: "Israel used to be the only democracy in the Middle East.

"Today, the best thing to be is a friend of democracy and the Palestinians have shown the Arab world how to do it" commented Edward, chief parliamentary observer at the last Palestine elections.

## Freedom of expression at the European Parliament



Edward chaired a major conference on human rights at the European Parliament with a range of distinguished speakers who had won the parliament's Sakharov Prize for freedom of expression over the years.

Among them were friends of the foremost dissident Andrei Sakharov – who died in 1975 – and his wife, Elena Bonner.

◀ Here, as a newly-elected MEP, Edward discusses the setting up a pro-democracy fund with Bonner in her Moscow flat. She died earlier this year and Edward commented after a visit to Moscow: "Bonner was the first to criticise the autocratic nature of the Putin regime. We shall miss her, and so will Russia." Edward visited Moscow with liberal group leader Guy Verhofstadt recently to encourage liberals and reformists in elections there.

## Eurozone Crisis – time for the EU to get a grip

Edward has been active in encouraging the EU to get a grip on the Eurozone crisis. As Vice-President of the European Parliament, he is responsible for relations with national parliaments. Pictured here ▶ leading a delegation of MEPs in the Bundestag, he said: "Germany is the richest country in the EU and will always play a leading role in economic discussions – but the UK must be there too."



## Let the trains take the strain

Edward has been campaigning to get Craven ◀ quarries to move their loads from lorries to the railway. Recently, the owners were granted extensions of their mining activities and Edward has urged them to use the famous nearby Settle-Carlisle line: "We need to think sustainably."

## Helping the flow of the Arab Spring

Edward has followed the Arab Spring closely, visiting the region six times since the fall of Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak. Jointly with Guy Verhofstadt, leader of the liberal group in the European Parliament, he has urged free and fair elections. Here he meets ▶ Bothaina Kamel, the only female presidential candidate in Egypt.

