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CAMERON SMEARS: "COME CLEAN" WARNS FORMER TORY EURO-LEADER

A former leader of the Conservative Euro-MPs hit out today [Friday 23 April] at Conservative press officers¹[1], who have been accused of smear²[2] and heavy tactics by senior journalists³[3] this week.

Mr Edward McMillan-Scott MEP (Yorkshire & The Humber), who joined the LibDems last month after a dispute with the Conservatives over their new European allies said:

"The Tories say one thing in private and pretend another in public. I experienced these tactics of disinformation and distortion for many months. Instead of playing dirty politics, the Tories should come clean on whether they tried to smear Nick Clegg - and produce the dossier on their controversial European allies", said McMillan-Scott.

McMillan-Scott faced Conservative "bullying tactics"⁴[4] after exposing the extremist past of Polish MEP Michal Kaminski⁵[5], who now leads the Tories' EU group, which *The Economist* called a "shoddy, shaming alliance"⁶[6].

McMillan-Scott said that his web research showed that Poland's Law and Justice Party (PiS) was an unacceptable partner, yet Cameron insisted on making the link despite warnings from his own officials who, the MEPs were told, had done an in-depth examination⁷[7].

1[1] **Media attacks on Nick Clegg put pressure on Conservatives** by Allegra Stratton and Polly Curtis, *The Guardian*, 23 April 2010 - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/apr/23/nick-clegg-media-attacks>

2[2] **Does one good smear deserve another?** BBC blog by Nick Robinson, 22 April 2010 - http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/nickrobinson/2010/04/one_good_smear.html

3[3] **Tories and Poland: this is an admission from David Cameron that EU allies' homophobia is a problem** - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/blog/2010/apr/22/tories-poland-eu-allies-homophobia>

4[4] **Conservative defector condemns party's 'vile letter' and hostility towards Europe** by Toby Helm and Anushka Asthana, *The Observer*, 14 March 2010 - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/mar/14/tory-euro-attack-mcmillan-scott>

5[5] **Kaminski Uncovered** - [http://www.emcmillanscott.com/resources/Kaminski_Uncovered\\$2Bfinal070210.pdf](http://www.emcmillanscott.com/resources/Kaminski_Uncovered$2Bfinal070210.pdf)

6[6] **Cameron's ransom / The Tories in Europe** by Bagehot, *The Economist*, 31 October 2009 - http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=E1_TOSQODQN

6[7] **Conservatives ignored secret report on extremist Polish allies** by Toby Helm, *The Observer*, 11 April 2010 - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/apr/11/conservatives-report-extremist-polish-allies>

During Thursday's debate Gordon Brown and Nick Clegg strongly attacked Cameron for leaving the European mainstream and forming extremist links in Europe^{8[8]}.

^{8[8]} **Election 2010: Gloves off in second leaders' debate**, BBC News website report, 23 April 2010 - http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/election_2010/8638738.stm