



## **Edward McMillan-Scott MEP**

Liberal Democrat MEP for Yorkshire & the Humber

News Release

Contact: Elspeth Finlay (Communications Officer) Mobile: 07730 682677

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### **YORKSHIRE & HUMBER MEP GETS EU HUMAN RIGHTS PORTFOLIO**

Commenting on the re-election of Edward McMillan-Scott, Liberal Democrat MEP for Yorkshire & Humber, as Vice President of the European Parliament with the portfolio for Democracy and Human Rights and democracy, as well a new responsibility for Transatlantic Relations, **British Foreign Office Minister and Liberal Democrat MP for Taunton Deane, Jeremy Browne** said:

“I am delighted at Edward’s re-election. He has proved a passionate, determined and highly effective campaigner for human rights and democracy.

“As the British Foreign Minister responsible for human rights and a fellow Liberal Democrat, I am greatly looking forward to working with Edward to pursue this agenda, which is so central to the enlightened interests of the UK and Europe as a whole.

“With the Arab Spring continuing, and tentative steps towards political reforms in Burma, the presence of strong and credible voices, fighting for human rights and democracy at home and abroad, is absolutely essential.

“I am convinced Edward is the right man to help ensure that we maximise the collective weight of the European Union in defending and promoting human rights and democracy.”

On the first anniversary of the Egyptian revolution, McMillan-Scott recalled that he was the first outside politician to get to Cairo the day after Hosni Mubarak's fall. He has been back to the region six times since then, encouraging reform and liberal, secular forces.

McMillan-Scott commented:

“The international community – except China and Russia - recognise that the revolutions in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia will continue to need intensive care. The spirit of freedom cannot be crushed in Syria and Yemen and I believe that Europe should be using every means to support the revolutions there, short of military involvement.”

Last week, McMillan-Scott met activists who had got to Strasbourg from Homs to appeal for support.

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1.

McMillan-Scott is the only Briton on the European Parliament's governing Bureau. He was first elected as an MEP for Yorkshire & Humber in 1984 and first elected Vice-President in 2004. He was re-elected on 18 January 2012. On 27 January he once again received the portfolio for Democracy and Human Rights and gained responsibility for transatlantic relations.

2.

Edward McMillan-Scott was the first outside politician to get to Cairo the day after Hosni Mubarak's fall. He recently wrote about the Arab Spring in a Yorkshire Post article which you can read here:

[http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/debate/columnists/edward\\_mcmillan\\_scott\\_spark\\_of\\_liberty\\_flickers\\_as\\_arab\\_spring\\_hopes\\_fade\\_1\\_4245920](http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/debate/columnists/edward_mcmillan_scott_spark_of_liberty_flickers_as_arab_spring_hopes_fade_1_4245920)