



# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EDWARD McMILLAN-SCOTT  
VICE-PRESIDENT

## PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

### LEADING MEP TO CHALLENGE TORIES OVER EUROPE

A leading MEP who defied the Conservative leadership over its European links is preparing a legal challenge after the party rejected his appeal against expulsion.

Mr Edward McMillan-Scott (Yorkshire & The Humber), re-elected a Vice-President of the European Parliament on July 14, for which the Conservative whip was removed, was expelled on September 15 without notice or reason. His appeal was heard on December 11, but was rejected by a panel of three Conservative Party office-holders, a Brussels press conference was told today (Thurs - 14 Jan).

McMillan-Scott, who stood against Polish MEP Michal Kaminski because of the latter's "anti-Semitic, homophobic and racist links", revealed that his stand was partly motivated by the 'family shame' - his maternal grandparents were imprisoned by Winston Churchill as senior members of the British Union of Fascists. The first ever Vice-President responsible for Democracy and Human Rights, McMillan-Scott has opposed totalitarianism throughout his political life and now focusses on reform in regimes such as China.

A former leader of the Conservative MEPs, McMillan-Scott was the architect of their link with the EPP Group which was replaced in July by David Cameron's ECR Group. He will in future sit as an Independent Conservative, while seeking to rebuild the relationship with the EPP. McMillan-Scott explained that he had written to David Cameron last week and had made numerous private contacts with senior figures since the Conservative Party Conference to arrive at a positive conclusion. All had failed. He said:

"After I stood and won re-election as European Parliament Vice-President against the controversial Polish MEP Michal Kaminski, the Conservative whip was withdrawn from me. Kaminski's anti-Semitism has been widely reported, most recently by BBC's *Newsnight*<sup>1</sup> special report.

"My reason for standing against Kaminski was that he represented the rise of disguised extremism at a key moment in European politics - the start of a new European Parliament which saw gains by the far right in 13 out of 27 EU countries. Last week, by chance on the day the Party delivered its dubious verdict, my aunt Diana Bailey revealed part of my personal motivation on the BBC Radio 4 programme<sup>2</sup> *Mother was a*

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<sup>1</sup> BBC TV *Newsnight* programme, <http://www.viddler.com/explore/emcmillanscott/videos/2/>

<sup>2</sup> BBC Radio 4 programme *Mother was a Blackshirt*, <http://www.viddler.com/explore/emcmillanscott/videos/3/>

*Blackshirt* - the family secret since 1940 that my maternal grandparents were interned by Winston Churchill as leading members of the British Union of Fascists.

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"I was expelled from the Party without notice or reason in September. There is no shame in losing the whip on a point of principle: to be expelled for the same thing was disproportionate and plainly against natural justice.

"My appeal was heard by a panel of Party office-holders and in-house lawyers last month. The arguments raised on my side were compelling. But the panel dutifully upheld the expulsion until after the next European Election in 2014.

"My lawyers – the best in their field – say the expulsion was unconstitutional, against natural justice and grossly disproportionate. Paul Daniels, a partner in the leading firm of solicitors Russell Jones and Walker has advised that I have a clear action for breach of contract in the High Court. I am taking further advice, including from Counsel. This is not about me: it is about the values of the next British government.

"To put things in context, the only other Conservative parliamentarians expelled recently were Jeffrey Archer in 2001 for five years, following imprisonment for perjury; and Den Dover (72) last year, ex-MP and ex-MEP, who allegedly fiddled £600,000 in his expenses. His expulsion was for only two years. In the context of the Westminster expenses scandal, for which no Conservative was expelled, or the serial disloyalty of Europhobes like Daniel Hannan, this will be seen by many as a serious case of double standards.

"In my case (I am now 60) the Party seeks to prevent my candidacy in the next European Election, merely for making a stand on matters of personal conscience. This raises very serious ethical, legal and political issues.

"As a Conservative Party member for 42 years, an MEP for 25, leader of the MEPs for four and a Board member for three years, this is no longer the Party I knew.

"I will now sit as an Independent Conservative, continuing to follow the Conservative whip in voting and serving my constituents in Yorkshire as always without regard to party. I told the BBC radio's *Today* programme the day after my expulsion, 'They can take me out of the Conservative party but they cannot take the Conservative out of me'<sup>3</sup>, but even my loyalty is now being stretched."

**ENDS**

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<sup>3</sup> BBC Radio 4 *Today* Programme, <http://www.youtube.com/user/emcmillanscott#p/a/u/0/N0sbfEUBBIg>