

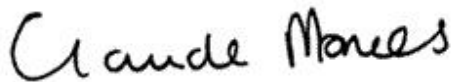


## STRASBOURG ROUND-UP, November 2005

Dear Friends,

November was one of the busiest months of our year so far. Please find below, the latest round-up of my work. Thank you for all your feedback to my monthly reports and requests for me to speak at your GCs and constituency events. I am now working regularly with CLPs for the local election campaign 2006. Please let me know what campaigning you may be involved in and where I can help.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported us this year - volunteers, interns, and CLP colleagues who have helped with setting up meetings and events. I wish you all the best for the festive season and for a prosperous New Year.



**Claude Moraes MEP**  
**Labour Member of the European Parliament for London**



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## NEWS FROM STRASBOURG AND BRUSSELS

### **CLAUDE MORAES PUSHES FOR ANSWERS ON CIA SECRET PRISONS IN EUROPE**

Last month I continued to probe the European Commission for answers to allegations that the CIA has been operating secret flights and detention centres in Central Europe. As a member of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee in the European Parliament, I asked for a European Parliamentary enquiry on the allegations, which is now going to take place.

#### **Links:**

\* [Read my comments in the Independent Newspaper >>](#)

<http://news.independent.co.uk/europe/article324587.ece>

\* [Read my speech in the European Parliament >>](#)

### **CLAUDE MORAES AND UEFA LAUNCH PARLIAMENTARY WRITTEN DECLARATION ON TACKLING RACISM IN FOOTBALL**

On 30 November, I held a press conference to launch a written declaration against racism in football where I urged the European Commission to set up an anti-racism campaign for next summer's World Cup in Germany and called for governing bodies, national associations, leagues, clubs, players and supporters to do more to fight racism in football. The written declaration, which has cross party support, calls on UEFA and other

competition organisers to take a tougher line on racist abuse on and off the pitch, and to give new powers to referees.

Paul Elliott, former Chelsea, Celtic and AS Bari player, and invited representatives from the 'Kick it Out' campaign group were amongst those who gave their views on the progress in tackling racism in football.

The press conference was followed by a special hearing on racism in football hosted by the European Parliament cross-party group on Anti-Racism and Diversity, Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE), and London-based NGO 'Kick it Out' which highlighted good practice from London clubs such as Charlton AFC and Arsenal FC.

**Links:**

\* More information >> <http://www.claudemoraes.net/events.html>

\* Download the Written Declaration >> [http://www.claudemoraes.net/files/declaration\\_leaflet.pdf](http://www.claudemoraes.net/files/declaration_leaflet.pdf)

**CLAUDE MORAES ADDRESSES KING BAUDOIN FOUNDATION ROUNDTABLE ON MINORITY RIGHTS IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE**

More Information >> <http://www.kbs-frb.be/code/home.cfm?lang=en>

**CLAUDE MORAES LAUNCHES EUMC REPORT ON IMPACT OF 7/7 LONDON BOMBINGS**

On 10 November, as President of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup I launched a report with the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) on the impact of the 7 July London bombings across the EU which provides a valuable analysis of the political reality following the 7/7 attacks. As I underlined in an interview last month on the Politics Show, the crucial message for the future is that engaged discussion of these issues must continue to be a priority.

Developing the EU anti-terrorism policy has been a key priority for the UK Presidency and a new strategy has been approved this month setting out the measures at the EU's disposal such as data retention policies, the European Arrest Warrant and actions against terrorist financing. Last month, I asked the Commission and the Council to report back on progress of proposals on the European Arrest Warrant, Data Retention and measures to counter the financing of terrorist organisations (see 'My Questions' below).

**Links:**

\* Download the report >> [www.eumc.eu.int](http://www.eumc.eu.int)

**LABOUR MEPS WELCOME YES VOTE FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY**

Last month, Labour MEPs supported a compromise package on the REACH chemicals directive, a proposal to register and regulate all 30,000 chemicals uses in Europe. From children's toys to computers to washing-up liquid, there are 30,000 chemicals in use in Europe. For 90% of them, there is little knowledge of their safety and possible associated health risks.

We need to ensure these chemicals are tested. Recent medical evidence shows that each one of us has 300 more chemicals in our bodies than our grandparents did. We also know that there are increasing rates of asthma, cancer, hormone disruption and other unknown health problems, which could be linked to chemicals we find in everyday products.

Although some in the chemical industry protest that such testing is costly, anyone who recalls the asbestos debacle will know that money invested in the testing now can save thousands of lives and millions of pounds downstream. With the burden shared with our fellow countries in the EU, this is well worth doing. If it can be done while minimising animal testing, so much the better.

**Links:**

\* [See my 'Explanation of Vote' >>](#)

**CLAUDE MORAES ON FRENCH RIOTS / SOCIAL COHESION IN LONDON**

In light of the disturbances in France, I was asked to comment on the causes of the riots by various press and media, including the Today programme on BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio London, CNN, BBC Radio 'Yesterday in Parliament', EuroNews, BBC World and BBC Europe Today, The Financial Times, and The Guardian newspaper.

I spoke on this when I addressed the AGM of the National Assembly Against Racism on 26 November. I have also tabled a Parliamentary question to be put to the European Commission on the sharing of best practice on integration policies between European countries.

In November, I also addressed two key local government events in London - the Local Government Association (LGA) conference on "Community Cohesion", and the AGM of the London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium. The events highlighted good practice in social cohesion policy in London and the benefits of EU structural funds, and looked at where we can do better.

## **PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ASKED BY CLAUDE MORAES MEP**

In November, I asked Parliamentary Questions on the subjects below to the European Commission and the Council. The answers to these questions should shortly appear on [www.EUROPARL.eu.int](http://www.EUROPARL.eu.int), the website of the European Parliament. If you have problems accessing the full questions and answers, please contact my office by email at [cmoraes@europarl.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:cmoraes@europarl.fsnet.co.uk).

### **\*US DETENTION CENTRES IN POLAND AND ROMANIA**

Following recent allegations that the CIA set up secret terrorist detention centres in Poland and Romania I asked, given the serious nature of these allegations, whether the Commission would commit to an investigation on the matter given that an EU member state and an EU candidate country were involved.

[Read my question >>](#)

### **\*VIOLENCE AND RACISM IN FOOTBALL**

In November, I asked the Council whether it had any plans it had for cooperation on security and the use of technology to deal with violent football spectators at the 2006 Football World Cup in Germany. I followed this up with a question that I previously put to the Commission on plans for EU campaigns against violence and racism in the run-up to the tournament. I also raised this at a press conference to launch a written declaration against racism in football (see item above).

[Read my question >>](#)

### **\*EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANT**

In light of the declaration made earlier this year by the Polish Constitutional Government that the European Arrest Warrant was incompatible with its constitution, I asked the Commission whether it had reported recently on such barriers to the operation of the European Arrest Warrant.

[Read my question >>](#)

[What is the European Arrest Warrant?](#)

### **\*INTEGRATION AND EQUALITY**

Following the recent disturbances in France, I asked the Commission for its view on the events and the lessons to be learnt for wider integration and equality issues across the EU. I also asked whether the Commission for its view on the voluntary sharing of best practice on integration policy between member states.

[Read my question >>](#)

## **CONSTITUENCY VISITS & MEETINGS in NOVEMBER** included:

- \* Spoke at Edmonton Labour Party GC meeting with Andy Love MP.
- \* Spoke at welcome reception for ECOSY (European Community Organisation for Socialist Youth) visit to London with James Purnell MP.
- \* Spoke on community cohesion at LGA conference on "Realising Cohesion".
- \* Addressed representatives from London-based voluntary and community sector organisations on Capital Inclusion and the legacy of EU structural funds at the AGM of the London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium.
- \* Met with the Vice Chancellor and staff of London Metropolitan University to discuss EU funding help with future projects.
- \* Met with the Pakistani ambassador to the EU to discuss medium and long-term aid to Pakistan in the EU budget.
- \* TUC European Network meeting.

- \* In November, I also met with the Archbishop of Canterbury on his visit to the European Parliament. I also met London rabbis and EU Jewish organisations, Free Church leaders, and the Federation of Islamic organisations in the EU, visiting the European Parliament.
- \* Addressed a Socialist Greek Delegation and NGOs on UK policy on social cohesion.
- \* Met with Iranian opposition leaders to discuss UK policy on Iran.

## **DIARY DATES**

\* **12-15 December**, European Parliamentary Plenary Session, Strasbourg

\* **Thursday 15 - Friday 16 December**, EU Summit, chaired by Prime Minister Tony Blair (meeting of EU Heads of State or Government), Brussels

Links: UK EU Presidency - [www.eu2005.gov.uk](http://www.eu2005.gov.uk)

## **GET IN TOUCH**

For further information about my work please get in touch by email at [cmoraes@europarl.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:cmoraes@europarl.fsnet.co.uk) or visit my website at [www.claudemoraes.net](http://www.claudemoraes.net).