

Would you have Friends Like These?

The Conservatives' decision to leave the European Peoples' Party leaves them with some unsavoury allies in Europe who hold controversial views on Islam, race relations, climate change and homosexuality.

In addition the small size and influence of the parties they are joining forces with are a far cry from the large and influential parties the Conservatives are leaving behind.

Some of the Tories' dubious new European allies:

Tory mates are homophobic, racist and support Pinochet

Michal Kaminski MEP, Leader of the Tories' new European grouping, from the Polish Law and Justice Party, called homosexuals 'fags' in a TV interview and when challenged he said "That's how people speak, what should I say? They are fags." July 2000 online video clip interview

Konrad Szymanski, another Law and Justice MEP, claimed this April that the European left "is obsessed with pushing through the latest homosexual demands by any possible means." European Parliament, 1 April 2009

He also said that "The European left has hijacked the report on fundamental rights in the EU to promote pro-abortion and homosexual demands, which have nothing to do with fundamental rights." European Parliament, 14 January 2009

One of the Law and Justice Party's MPs sparked outrage for his comment that President Obama's election would mean "an impending catastrophe, the end of the civilisation of the white man". Artur Gorski, PiS MP, to the Polish Sejm, November 2008

And in 1999 Michal Kaminski visited London to meet former Chilean military dictator General Pinochet, saying "This was the most important meeting of my whole life. Gen Pinochet was clearly moved and extremely happy with our visit." BBC Polish service 1999

Tory mates deny climate change

Vaclav Klaus, the founder of the Czech Civic Democrats, has attracted criticism for his position on climate change, which he has described as a 'global myth'. A Civic Democrat MEP Ivo Strejcek said that "Policies relating to climate change are based to a large extent on alarmist ideologies. The evidence for climate change is controversial." European Parliament, 4 February 2009

Tory mates think life is hard on rich white men

Derk Eppink, an MEP from Belgium's Lijst Dedecker, has said "As a Dutchman living in Flanders I have the impression that the life of a white, heterosexual Dutchman with a good job and an expensive car is not easy. He has to pay taxes and has to shut up. He gets blamed for racial and sexual discrimination, the fact that he earns much money is deemed 'anti-social' and his car pollutes the environment. As he does not belong to any minority group, he is 'unlucky'. Soon he will have to pay penance for slavery." From his book Avonturen van een Nederbelg, (2004, p.245)

That's just a small snapshot of who the Tories' friends are in the European Parliament as part of their fringe grouping, out of the mainstream of European politics.



Labour MEPs are your voice in Europe. From building **strong economies** to working for a **fairer society**, from **fighting crime** to **tackling climate change**, the solutions will need to be local, national and European. To achieve **fairness**, **equality**, **prosperity** and **social justice** in a fast changing and modern world, Britain needs politicians in Europe with **strong values** and the ability to influence and to achieve.

In Brussels and in Strasbourg Labour MEPs deliver for the people of Britain.

The Conservatives may present themselves in Britain as a decontaminated brand or a party on the side of progressive change. But Labour has been keeping a close eye and ear on what Tory politicians have been saying in the corridors and chambers of Brussels, Strasbourg and on American television chat shows.

So here is a run-through of what real life Tory MEPs have said on the issues that matter. These are real words, from real Tories, and they show the true face of a party resistant to progress and without an agenda for the present, let alone the future.

Real Tories, Real Words.

TORY MEP BACKS TAX

DODGERS...

"It is quite understandable when they legally want to transfer their money to lower-tax regimes."

Syed Kamall MEP for London. European Parliament, 24 April 2009

Tory MEP calls for NHS charges "I know they are controversial but I don't think people who are in a job would actually be against spending say £10 to see their GP or being fined £10 if they don't show up to an outpatients."

Charles Tannock MEP for London. Channel 4 News, 27 August 2009

Tory MEPs fail to protect your rights at work

"The European social model is outdated, it is destructive, it prevents job creation and it acts against entrepreneurship."

Martin Callanan MEP for the North East. European Parliament, 11 March 2009

Tory MEP denies Climate Change and fails to protect the Environment...

"Wind turbines are garden ornaments, not power stations"

Roger Helmer MEP for the East Midlands.

Nottingham Evening Post, 16 June 2009

"Climate hysteria is increasingly remote from reality"

Roger Helmer MEP for the East Midlands. European Parliament, 21 May 2008

When asked if Conservative MEPs had voted for regulation of hedge funds:

"Well I don't remember that I must admit, and I'll have a word with my Chief Whip about it, in which case discipline will be necessary. I think it's most unlikely."

Leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament Timothy Kirkhope MEP.

Newsnight, 2nd September 2009

Tory MEP expelled from party for standing up to homophobia and racism

"On July 14, in Strasbourg, I stood and won against a Polish MEP, Michal Kaminski, for the post of Vice-President of the European Parliament, because he symbolised the rise of disguised extremism in Europe."

Although Kaminski was nominated by the new Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) created by David Cameron, I decided to take the issue head on, even at the discomfiture of my own party. I did this at great personal and political risk - I could have lost everything and have now lost the whip - but I did it on principle. It was not my principle - it was a higher one. To oppose a menacing political movement at a key moment in Europe's politics."

Edward McMillan-Scott MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber. Yorkshire Post, 30 July 2009

Tory MEP says condoms will not prevent AIDS
"There is little evidence that promoting the use of condoms actually prevents the transmission of AIDS."

Charles Tannock MEP for London. European Parliament, 7 May 2009

"The health care system we have is kind of a relic....I wouldn't wish it on anyone"

Daniel Hannan MEP for the South East. Fox News, 12 Aug 2009

Tory MEP Denies Homophobia...

"'Homophobia' is merely a propaganda device designed to denigrate and stigmatise those holding conventional opinions, which have been held by most people through most of recorded history"

Roger Helmer MEP for the East Midlands. On his blog, July 19 2009

Tory MEP Praises Enoch Powell

"[He was] somebody who understood the importance of national democracy, who understood why you needed to live in an independent country and what that meant, as well as being a free-marketeer and a small government Conservative."

Daniel Hannan MEP for the South East. Reason TV, Spring 2009