



Stephen Kinnock MP

February 2017 Newsletter



A Strong Voice For Aberavon

News from the Commons



STEEL 2020

As Chair of *Steel 2020*, a sub-committee of the steel APPG, I launched the APPG's industrial strategy for steel: [Steel 2020: Forging a future for the British steel industry](#).

The product of an 8 month inquiry which took evidence from across the steel industry and its supply chain, and from the shop floor to the boardroom, the report lays out a blueprint industrial strategy for the UK steel industry that will enable it not only to survive, but to thrive. <http://bit.ly/2jRXjly>



GOVERNMENTS INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

After launching the *Steel 2020* Report I headed to the Commons chamber to question Greg Clark, Secretary of State for BEIS, on why steel only had a fleeting mention in the Government's Industrial Strategy.

Given the vital nature of steel as a foundation industry, it is pretty astonishing that it gets only one passing mention on about page 100 of this Green Paper. <http://bit.ly/2jtAi8e>



BREXIT DEBATE

As the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill had its second reading in Parliament, I voted in favour of triggering Article 50. But I did not vote for handing the Government a blank cheque, which is why in my speech I emphasised the importance of securing a transitional arrangement that truly protects the national interest.

<http://bit.ly/2l3Sva3>



SIR IVAN

Sir Ivan Rogers came before the European Scrutiny Committee. During the meeting I asked him about the 40-60€ liability that the UK faced on leaving the EU and how the EU could legally enforce it; I asked about the need for a transitional deal between the triggering of Article 50 and actually leaving the EU; and I asked him how robustly is the UK engaging in negotiations.

You can watch the meeting at: <http://bit.ly/2kqReO1>



A SECTOR DEAL FOR STEEL

During topical questions to Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for BEIS, I asked him about a sector deal for steel as part of the Government's industrial strategy:

The Government's industrial strategy has sector deals for a number of sectors, which is welcome. Given the vital cross-cutting foundational nature of the steel industry, will the Minister now commit to a sector deal for steel? <http://bit.ly/2liXyDI>

News from the Commons

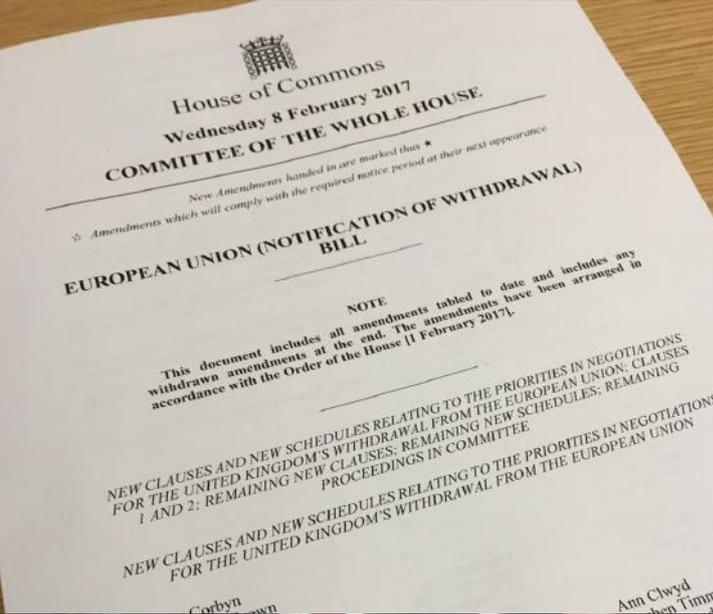


A BETTER BREXIT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

I chaired the first meeting of the APPG on a Better Brexit For Young People. Organised by MyLifeMySay they united a host of different youth groups, to discuss the best ways for the voices of young people to be heard in the Government's Brexit negotiations. <http://bit.ly/2jBgQ74>

WELSH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

As a member of the Welsh Affairs Committee I visited Liberty Steel in Newport and also heard about the plans for tidal lagoons in Cardiff and Newport.



EU (NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL) BILL CLAUSES

For the third reading of the EU (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill, Labour tabled a number of targeted amendments that were debated, and voted upon.

Our amendments were not about delaying or preventing Article 50 being triggered because we respect and accept the outcome of the referendum result. They were aimed at ensuring that the government consults Parliament in an appropriate and timely manner, and they were also designed to ensure that we protect the security, jobs and livelihoods of the British people.

I supported the Funding For Wales Amendment which asked for a funding guarantee so Wales would not lose out financially.

You can read online the amendments I supported: <http://bit.ly/2kpLyR6>



EU (NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL) BILL

As Parliament continued to debate the triggering of Article 50, I intervened in the Yvette Cooper's speech, to ask whether she agreed that the Government could request an extension to the Article 50 process if we have not been able to conclude a positive deal agree?

You can read the exchange at <http://bit.ly/2kShD7e>

Afterwards I was interviewed by BBC News: <http://bit.ly/2kBigM>

WE MUST DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO HALT AND REVERSE THE SETTLEMENTS

Parliament debated the occupied Palestinian territories and I spoke in the debate on the "Regularisation Bill" legalising the illegal; the importance of the December UN Security Council motion; the need to end the policy of settlement and occupation if peace is every to be achieved; and what the British government should do to help bring about an end to he illegal settlements policy. <http://bit.ly/2lvqgRS>



News from the Commons



EU SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON STEEL

Nick Hurd, Minister for Climate Change and Industry appeared before the European Committee and I was able to ask him about what the Government has done to help the steel industry. I opened proceedings and asked him about the lesser duty rule, market economy status for China and investment for innovation, modernisation and training.

You can read the exchange at <http://bit.ly/2kwmEhS>

WE NEED A GOVERNMENT THAT DOESN'T TREAT OUR INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITIES AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT IN BREXIT TALKS

A leaked Government document showed that the British steel industry is to be considered a "low priority industry" for Brexit talks.

Once again we see a government who approach the British steel industry with a toxic combination of incompetence and indifference. The government seem totally unaware of the fundamental importance of the steel industry not only to other manufacturing sectors, but to the fate of communities up and down the country. You can read my full statement at: <http://bit.ly/2IOG43a>

ARTICLE 50 VOTE

This month Parliament voted to enable the Government to trigger Article 50, which is the start of the official process for Britain to leave the European Union. **I voted in favour of triggering Article 50.** I am a committed pro-European and campaigned passionately on the Remain side in the referendum, so my decision to vote the way I did was one of the most difficult that I have ever made.

But the fact of the matter is that the debate in this country was had, the votes were cast, the ballots were counted, and my side of the argument lost. The rules are the rules, and any attempt to frustrate the process would serve only to further corrode our democracy, and to cause deep and lasting damage to our institutions. I am in no doubt that the result of the referendum will eventually weaken our economy, erode our sovereignty, and diminish our place in the world; but I am, above all else, a democrat. Article 50 has to be triggered because the **will of the people must be respected.**

But I did not vote for handing the Government a blank cheque, which is why in my speech I emphasised the importance of securing a transitional arrangement. You can read my full speech <http://bit.ly/2l3Sva3>

Labour tabled a number of amendments to the Bill. Our amendments were not about delaying or preventing Article 50 being triggered. They were aimed at ensuring that the government consults Parliament in an appropriate and timely manner, and they are also designed to ensure that we protect the security, jobs and livelihoods of the British people.

Labour's amendments included a meaningful vote in Parliament on the final Brexit deal; protecting workers' rights, securing full tariff and impediment free access to the Single Market; robust and regular Parliamentary scrutiny; guarantee legal rights for EU nationals living in the UK; regular consultation with the governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland; and seek to retain all existing EU tax avoidance and evasion measures post-Brexit.

It was very disappointing that the government is steamrolling through, and all our amendments fell but before the debate they made three important concessions on the article 50 bill: they announced that parliament will have a vote on not only the withdrawal arrangements but also the future relationship with the European Union; the vote parliament has on the draft withdrawal agreement will take place before it is concluded; and the UK parliament will debate and vote on the draft withdrawal deal before the European parliament or council. This fell short of what Labour had asked for but we will continue to hold the government to account throughout and push for the best possible Brexit deal.

Triggering Article 50 is the start of the long process of Britain leaving the European Union. Once it has been triggered it is then incumbent on the Government, and Parliament through scrutiny, to ensure that we secure the best possible deal for Britain, for Wales and for Aberavon.

News from Aberavon



ABERAVON MP HAILS PACKAGE TO SECURE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE BRITISH STEEL INDUSTRY AND COMMITMENT OF WORKFORCE

The Tata Steel UK workforce in Port Talbot and across the United Kingdom overwhelmingly voted to accept the deal to restructure the British Steel Pension Scheme and see Tata invest in the long term future of the UK business.

It marks the beginning of a new chapter for the British steel industry. The industry still faces challenges that must be overcome, but what we have seen is that the workforce will strain every sinew and make every sacrifice necessary to save our industry. It is about time that the government showed a similar commitment and took the necessary steps to help our industry move from surviving to thriving.

My full statement is available at <http://bit.ly/2IKThxs>

CAMPAIGNING IN BAGLAN

It was good to join local activists in Baglan and deliver the newsletter prepared by Councillors Carol Clement-Williams and Peter Richards about the work they have done in Baglan.



ABERAVON FUNDING FAIR

Following on from the success of last year's Funding Fair I took this year's event to Cwmavon with even more funding and advice providers.

In addition to the four lottery funders there was funding advice from Tata Steel, Pen Y Cymoedd Windfarm Community Fund CIC, and Neath Port Talbot Project Development & Funding Unit.

Over the course of the 200 people attended representing 84 groups.



BAGLAN MEN'S SOCIETY

I was delighted to attend Baglan Men's Society meeting and speak to them about Brexit, Trump and life in Parliament. It was an enjoyable evening with a challenging and interesting Q&A session. Thank you for the warm welcome to me and Helle.



CAMPAIGNING IN BRITON FERRY

Snow could not deter us from campaigning in Briton Ferry. It was great to be out with Councillor Hugh James, David Rees AM and the team delivering newsletters.



News from Aberavon



PORT TALBOT HARRIERS

Port Talbot Harriers are raising funds to replace their condemned, crumbling portakabin. As a member of the Harriers I am supporting their fundraising activities and have made a supportive video which you can view at: <http://bit.ly/2IPG6ad>

You can help them reach their target figure by donating through their crowdfunder page: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/PTH-Building

Political Digest



NEWSNIGHT

I was interviewed for BBC's Newsnight on the Brexit vote and how the referendum has changed how we must approach the European question.

I'm pro-European with my heart and my head but the referendum has overridden the way that I would normally look at the European question and now we have to accept the reality and push the Government to secure the best possible deal for the British people. <http://bbc.in/2lOEuyg>



BERCOW ON TRUMP

I took part in a Sky News debate on whether the Speaker was right to speak out on Donald Trump addressing Parliament. I agree with what John Bercow said, it is not an automatic right for someone to address Parliament, it is something that has to be earned and Mr Trump has to earn that right. You can see the debate at <http://bit.ly/2k2N7mG>



CO-OP CONFERENCE

I addressed the Co-op conference and spoke about the importance of the left championing growth and why responsible business is the key. I also outlined why reforming the Companies Act would push businesses into playing a greater role in creating a fairer economy.



WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

I was interviewed for BBC Radio 4's Week In Westminster about the Speaker, John Bercow's, comments on Donald Trump addressing Parliament. The Speaker was right to stand up for what our Parliament signifies. It stands for the values of democracy; of equality before the law; of an independent judiciary; of non-racism; of tolerance and inclusion. Its not about politics, its about those fundamental values. <http://bbc.in/2kRWauD>

Political Digest



THE WORLD IN 2017

I took part in a Fabian Society panel debate about 'The World in 2017'. I spoke about Russia, Trump, Brexit and what the left could and should be doing.



MAKE VOTES MATTER

I did an interview for Make Votes Matter on why I support using a proportional representation system.

First Past The Post creates a political culture which is based on confrontation. This adversarial culture tends towards more short-termism, Countries with Proportional Representation are better equipped to make long term policy decisions in the national interest.

Watch the full interview at: <http://bit.ly/2IRV8x8>



SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

I appeared on BBC Radio Wales' Sunday Supplement programme to discuss the Article 50 vote in Parliament.

On the programme I said that we must suspend our disbelief and trigger Article 50. We have taken a massive risk with the future of our country by voting to leave. But we can't go back over that ground and have to move forward.

The negotiations are going to be difficult, I hope Theresa May is ready for a bumpy ride, as that is what she will get.

<http://bbc.in/2kB6qnE>

Friday Advice Surgeries 2017

13 January	Sandfields	Sandfields Library Morrison Road, Sandfields, SA12 6TG	16.30-17.30
7 April	Briton Ferry	Briton Ferry Library Neath Road, Briton Ferry, SA11 2QN	16.00-17.00
23 June	Margam & Taibach	Taibach Community Library Commercial Road, Taibach, SA13 1LN	15.30-16.30

Saturday Coffee Mornings 2017

4 March	Bryn & Cwmavon	Bryn Community Centre Maesteg Rd, Bryn, SA13 2RY	10.00-12.00
18 March	Glyncorrwg, Gwynfi & Cymmer	Noddfa Community Centre Dunraven Street, Glyncorrwg, SA13 3AD	10.00-12.00
13 May	Skewen	Memorial Hall Skewen Park, Skewen, SA10 6DP	10.00-12.00

More dates and venues for advice surgeries and coffee mornings will be confirmed shortly.

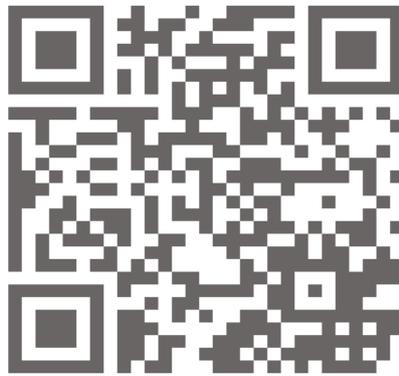
Keep In Touch

As your MP, I'd like to stay in touch
and hear your views.

You can visit my website to sign up to my mailing list.

www.stephenkinnock.co.uk

I send out a **monthly newsletter** and may also contact
you to **ask for your opinion** on issues that may be
important to you.



Contact Stephen

My office is open Monday-Thursday between
10am and 1pm for a drop-in advice surgery with
a caseworker.

Outside of these times you can call to make an
appointment.

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