



Geoffrey Van Orden's *eDispatch*

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Conservatives



Giles Watling - our Tory candidate for the Clacton constituency - 9 October

"I didn't become an MEP in order to promote the EU - I want us to govern our own country. I speak up for British interests and for the people of the East of England. My priorities are the prosperity and security of the United Kingdom." **Geoffrey Van Orden MBE MEP**

NO MORE COMPLACENCY

There was a moment when we feared the Scottish vote could go the other way. I am not sure that our people were fully conscious of the fact that we might be sleep walking into catastrophe. Similarly, if we do not wake up, the next General Election will put Labour back in power. Then there will more EU and, just as Alex Salmond wanted in Scotland, an even bigger flood of immigration. In many respects, Mr Salmond and Mr Farage have much in common - they sound appealing, but they offer a bogus prospectus and can't deliver. It's time once more to look at reality and rally to the cause. For their part, **Conservative Ministers must now set out more clearly what changes they want to see in our relationship with Europe, explain the timetable leading up to the 2017 referendum, and nail the immigration problem and its "human rights" cousin.** I see a major part of my job over the coming months as doing all that I can to push for this. There's no time for complacency.

SCOTLAND

Thank God! Our country remains intact. Last Thursday a good majority of Scots - 55% against 45% - voted to maintain the United Kingdom. This was in spite of Alex Salmond being given every advantage in the poll - he was allowed to choose the question; decide the date; and recast the electorate to include 16+. So he can't complain. The previous Sunday I had been deeply concerned that I would wake up on Friday and find my country no longer existed. The consequences of this would have been catastrophic - in terms of who we are, our families, our standing in the world, our national security and defence, and our economy. There would have been an enormous crisis in confidence. And over 300 years of glorious history and shared endeavour would have been dissolved. For what? So that Mr Salmond's dream of a tartan socialist republic could be realised. I therefore went to Edinburgh to give a hand. I found 'No' voters were deliberately reticent. Many came up to me with tales of intimidation. Not surprisingly, they didn't want to display their colours. Let us hope that Mr Salmond has not stirred violent elements to plague the future. What is clear is that the referendum process has opened a wide-ranging constitutional debate across the UK. But the last thing I want to see is more layers of government. The simple expedient of English and Welsh votes for laws that only apply to England and Wales should suffice.

CLACTON

My great concern, four months ago, was that if UKIP did well in the European elections its bandwagon would keep rolling to May 2015. And **the only plausible consequence of further UKIP success would be to put Mr Miliband into N^o10.** Douglas Carswell's defection merely adds to this perverse phenomenon. I was dismayed and deeply disappointed at Douglas's very selfish act. I regarded him as a close colleague. We shared many views. I helped him as he mended a fractured constituency and built up its membership. Only a few months ago we were campaigning together to ward off the UKIP threat during the European elections - our theme was that only the Conservatives had the desire and the power to bring about the changes on immigration and the EU that we all desperately wanted. I have not had a conversation with Douglas since he turned his coat. I can only imagine that he wants to destroy the Conservative Party so that, from the ashes, a new party would emerge more to his taste. It seems he is prepared to see Labour returned to power in order to give substance to this fanciful illusion - ignoring the fact that Labour would, meanwhile, have destroyed our country.

So I am absolutely clear. **We need to get behind Giles Watling, the excellent Conservative candidate for the Clacton constituency, and make sure he wins. This is no time for playing games, for a protest, or whatever. It's too serious for that - the General Election is just 8 months away.**

Please do not hesitate to ask for more information on any of the many topics on which I am engaged.

I welcome invitations to speak throughout the East of England

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