Jim Nicholson

June 10th, 2004

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2004
On the 10th June, Jim Nicholson, the UUP candidate, seeks your support to continue his work for the people of Northern Ireland in the European Parliament. Jim Nicholson is the only candidate with proven experience, commitment and knowledge of the European scene. His record as an MEP since 1989 speaks for itself.

CREATING INFLUENCE FOR UNIONISM
Jim Nicholson is a Euro-realist. He argues that the EU is the position of a mainstream Unionist, supporting cooperation between free nations for mutual advantage. He is opposed to over-regulation and harmonisation measures in key areas where Westminster is the best judge. Jim Nicholson welcomes the Prime Minister’s decision to let the British people decide on any new European Constitution. The EU Constitution would have profound effects on the way we are governed. The people should have their say when it is agreed, not when it is just a slogan to attract electoral interests. An EU Constitution might have been useful if it just consolidated existing treaties. In reality, it is yet another attempt to create an EU super-state. Jim Nicholson will continue to oppose the EU Constitution in the European Parliament and in the referendum. The priority of the EU must not be to create a federation but to revive the Eurozone’s flagging economy.

KEEPING OUR OWN CURRENCY
Since 2002, the Euro has co-existed with the British Pound and the Swedish and Danish crowns. The currencies are of equal status. The exchange rates are determined by the foreign exchange market. The market determines the price of the currency. The exchange rate affects the cost of imported goods and services. Jim Nicholson holds that the Euro is a concept that is feasible. Jim Nicholson is happy to have his say on the issue.

GOVERNED ACCORDING TO OUR LAWS AND CUSTOMS
The EU, regrettably, has not been as effective Jim Nicholson would like in dealing with international terrorism – or our own homegrown terrorism. Sensitive cooperation between countries in the fight against international crime is welcome but it can be achieved without resort to a European Police Force and European arrest warrants. The US is a key European country. The US is a key European country. The US is a key European country. The US is a key European country. The US is a key European country. The US is a key European country. The US is a key European country. The US is a key European country. The US is a key European country.

A GENUINE SINGLE MARKET
Jim Nicholson is convinced, instead of trying to concoct an EU super-state, time and effort would be better spent on opening up our markets to the world. There is a belief that some states do not enforce the rules as rigidly as the UK and that British business is disadvantaged. Not only is there not sufficient consultation before rules are adapted for UK implementation, we need simpler, effective mechanisms to address complaints. Jim Nicholson is proposing a Single Market Ombudsman to intervene where domestic barriers to free trade exist and to allow Northern Ireland businesses to compete on a level playing field.

MAKING TRANSPORT EFFICIENT
A modern economy simply cannot function without an efficient transport infrastructure. This is an area where the UK could earn valuable lessons from some of our EU partners. While access to the mainland from Northern Ireland has been improved, Jim Nicholson knows there is no room for complacency. Road and rail travel times within Northern Ireland and the island of Ireland can be improved. Belfast to Dublin takes over 2 hours by train to cover a distance of 100 miles. Yet, in France, the Paris-Marseille route (nearly 500 miles) takes just three hours. Jim Nicholson will fight for urgent EU assistance with further track and rolling-stock upgrades.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF REGIONAL POLICY
Jim Nicholson is convinced that, instead of trying to concoct an EU super-state, time and effort would be better spent on opening up our markets to the world. Whether it is with the USA or with the Middle Eastern oil, should stimulate research into alternative energy technologies.

Jim Nicholson believes that Northern Ireland’s constitutional destiny is a key European concept. As such, we should not be afraid of forming alliances with likeminded people.

CAREING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
The Assembly had some success in securing EU funding for schemes like the ‘Green City’ in Derry. However, Jim Nicholson is concerned that the Assembly’s role in spending EU money is still too limited. The Assembly, with the backing of Jim Nicholson, can fight for more control over the use of EU funds.

A EUROPE OF NATIONS, NOT A SUPER-STATE
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A COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT
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