# REPORT: Emma McClarkin MEP Parliamentary Activities 2018-2019

In a busy year, I have fought hard for the East Midlands; ensuring the region’s voice is heard loud and clear across the continent.

Across 2019, I have spoken out at events I have attended across Europe to protect the integrity of the United Kingdom and protect the rights of both UK citizens in the Europe and Europeans in the UK. My efforts this year have been a part of the imperative task for the United Kingdom to make use of Brexit as an opportunity to champion free trade, equality and drive change to make sure no one is left behind. This has demanded my championing of the Commonwealth to promote closer cooperation between its members, the UK and the EU. Efforts on this matter included hosting multiple discussions on EU-Commonwealth cooperation post Brexit, and attending a Trade Delegation to the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Summit. Back in the East Midlands, I co-hosted a roundtable with Lord Callanan, Minister of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union. We brought together businesses from across the region to update them on the Government’s Brexit negotiations and to listen to their priorities. Whilst I know that a good deal is favourable, I also believe we should not fear a no deal scenario. A free and independent trade policy, where we are still governed by WTO rules, provides a wealth of new freedoms for UK businesses. Whatever the outcome of the negotiations, I am determined to make the most of the opportunities that leaving the EU presents.

In June, I participated in a panel at the British American Business Council’s ‘Annual Interview’ with US Ambassador to the UK, Woody Johnson, to discuss how the UK and US can continue to find common ground and work together to strengthen the transatlantic relationship. In discussing the main areas of opportunity for a UK-US free trade agreement, we considered how the UK can work with the US to reform the World Trade Organisation. I travelled to Washington DC in July to further these discussions and I am pleased that considerable progress has been made.

With sport being one of my great passions, this April, I was very pleased to host a conference in the European Parliament with Damian Collins MP, bringing together FIFA, UEFA, the UN, Europol and other key organisations to discuss how to tackle corruption in football. The panel discussed the importance of sharing information between internal governing bodies in sport, in order to co-ordinate their approaches. The conference demonstrated the need for open, honest discussion about tackling corruption in football, and the importance of upholding virtues in sport such as fair play and enjoyment for fans. In February this year, I was very proud to co-host a reception kicking off the 2019 Japan Rugby World Cup with the Japanese Ambassador to the EU. It was a delight to bring rugby fans together to celebrate the game and experience Japanese culture.

In the technology sector, I pioneered a report on Blockchain; ensuring that innovative technology drives innovation and streamlines business costs. Alongside this, I championed creative industries through the Copyright Directive, helping to close the ‘value gap’ and make sure creators, such as songwriters, can be better identified and paid fairly for their work.

Throughout 2018, I have enjoyed spending time in the East Midlands’ six counties; hosting regional conferences, championing local issues, and meeting the local business owners who bring successful enterprise to the region. It has also been a pleasure to welcome visitor groups from the constituency to the Parliament, presenting me with the valuable to discuss the work I do here.

In a tumultuous year in politics, it has been my privilege serve the East Midlands; ensuring the voices of each of my 4.7 million constituents are heard.