

Note of meeting with **Dr Charles Tannock, MEP**, 9 April 2014, European Parliament, Brussels

- Agreed with the principle of subsidiarity: that Europe should allow more done at local, regional and national levels.
- European institutions largely pay lip service to subsidiarity; it is largely overshadowed by the institutions' desire to push harmonisation.
- The yellow/orange card system brought in under the Lisbon Treaty was positive development: it provides a system to protect members states from overzealous institutions, but with the threshold sufficiently high.
- Would welcome a 'red card' system, but again as long as the threshold was sufficiently high.
- No clear evidence that the EU institutions have changed their behaviour because of the threat of yellow/orange cards.
- Would like to see closer coordination between the European Parliament and national parliaments. But recognise the constraints on time and schedules.
- The yellow/orange card system should cover proportionality as well as subsidiarity.