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PRESS RELEASE

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MEP CHICHESTER VISITS BRISTOL PORT COMPANY TO BE BRIEFED ON EXPANSION PLANS

Giles Chichester, Conservative MEP for the South West and Gibraltar, visited the Bristol Port Company which owns the Avonmouth and Royal Portlebury Dock Estate. The MEP met with Chairman Terence Morduant who, together with partner David Ord, purchased a 150 year lease on the Estate in 1991 from Bristol City Council. Since then, tonnage through the Docks has increased from 4 to 75 million and annual revenue now exceeds £75 million.

Chairman Morduant had successfully enlisted the help of Giles Chichester in regards to EU Ports legislation. He said if you are in business and need assistance over problems with EU legislation then only a Conservative MEP will help. MEPs from the other Parties won't listen to your problems.

During a tour of the dock facilities, Chairman Morduant briefed MEP Chichester on the Company's plans to invest £600 million in the development of a new deep sea container terminal with the capacity to serve a future generation of ultra large container vessels. This investment has been made possible because of the excellent rail and motorway links which serve Bristol Port, making it one of the most effective and economical port distribution locations in the Country.

A related issue causing concern was the Government's plans to build the Severn Barrage. MEP Chichester was informed that the building of the Barrage would not only have adverse effects on the Severn environment but would also have a negative impact on the business of the Port because of the need for restrictions on the use of shipping lanes and problems of sediment build up. Chairman Morduant favoured the lagoon option but he thought that tidal power was the most effective and less problematic solution to the challenge of meeting UK climate change policy targets for renewable energy.

ENDS

The attached photo shows MEP Giles Chichester (right) on a tour of Avonmouth Docks with Bristol Port Chairman Terence Morduant (left)

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Conservatives in the European Parliament