

# GILES CHICHESTER MEP

for the South West and Gibraltar

## PRESS LETTER

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### To the Editor, Letters

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Dear Editor

I sometimes doubt the sanity of British Labour MEPs in the European Parliament. Whilst the Government desperately strives to curb the rise in unemployment and closure of businesses, their Labour MEPs have spent their time campaigning to end the UK's opt out of the EU Working Time Directive – a measure which would increase the labour costs of British companies and probably send many of them to the wall and their workers onto the dole.

The EU Working Time Directive, which sought to limit the working week to 48 hours, would have prevented 3 million British employees, who now choose to work overtime, from earning extra money to pay their household bills. That is why Conservatives have led a successful campaign in the Parliament to preserve Britain's opt out from this Directive. The British Government, together with 14 other EU Member Governments, supported our Conservative campaign.

Labour MEPs and their European socialist allies have battled ceaselessly over the years to scrap Britain's opt out from this Working Time Directive. They will definitely not regard this Conservative victory as the end of their campaign. Undoubtedly, after the European Elections in June, those Labour MEPs who manage to get re-elected will try once again to end Britain's opt out. If they are allowed to succeed, the consequences for our struggling economy would be disastrous.



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*Conservatives in the European Parliament*