

GILES CHICHESTER MEP

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PRESS RELEASE

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LABOUR MEPS PUT UK OPT OUT FROM WORKING TIME DIRECTIVE AT RISK

Giles Chichester, the Conservative MEP for the South West and Gibraltar, angrily denounced the actions of British Labour MEPs who successfully campaigned for a majority vote in the European Parliament against the UK opt out from the EU Working Time Directive. He said the vote to scrap the UK opt out meant that British workers would only be permitted to work a maximum of 48 hours per week.

MEP Chichester said

“At a time when the British economy is in recession, the decision of 12 British Labour MEPs, including the South West Labour MEP Glyn Ford, to vote against the UK opt out is beyond belief. Many people work extra hours to make ends meet and are worried about their job security yet Labour MEPs have decided to ignore their needs. They have voted against the rights of people to choose how many hours to work and, in so doing, have also increased the difficulties of the British economy moving out of recession.

In particular, hospital doctors and surgeons have been very concerned about the impact of this proposal on their training and experience levels. So I hope they and their patients will welcome the maintenance of the status quo”.

Britain and 14 other EU Governments have opted out of the 48-hour week maximum stipulation in the Working Time Directive. They are not of a mind to agree with the vote of the European Parliament and, in consequence, the issue has now been settled in a ‘conciliation’ process which brings together representatives of the European Parliament and EU Member Governments. Conservatives will have been pressing the British Government not to give ground to its Labour MEPs but to vote to maintain the opt out.

ENDS

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Conservatives in the European Parliament