

East of England Policy Conference

What Can Europe Do For Small Businesses?

That was the title of the East of England APU's sixth annual policy conference held at Newmarket Racecourse in Suffolk and attended by around 50 FSB activists from around the Region.

The purpose of the event was to enable members to find out more about the EU and to have a chance to quiz sitting Members of the European Parliament and prospective candidates in the run up to the European Elections on June 4th.

To explain more about the opportunities that Europe offers small businesses on terms of trade and possible funding there were three presentations from the Enterprise Europe Network, UK Trade & International and the East of England Brussels Office.

To close the event there was a "European Question Time" with three MEPs – Andrew Duff, Liberal Democrat; Richard Howitt, Labour and Geoffrey Van Orden, Conservative - who were joined by three new candidates – David Campbell Bannerman, UKIP; Andrew Jamieson, Libertas and Rupert Read, Green Party – all of who are the lead candidates for their respective parties.

A lively question and answer session ensued with many questions from FSB members and, as you would expect, a fair amount of disagreement from the candidates over the right answers.

An added bonus was that Anglia Television covered the question time session which was featured on their local news programme and late night political slot.



L – R: Andrew Duff MEP (Liberal Democrat), David Campbell Bannerman (UKIP), Richard Howitt (Labour), Michael Mealing (FSB Area Policy Unit Vice Chairman) Andrew Jamieson (Libertas), Rupert Read (Green Party) and Geoffrey Van Orden (Conservative).