

Power quiz answers

1. MPs cannot help you take action for faulty goods. Very importantly they can obtain answers from Ministers because the latter are compelled to respond to Mps whereas they are not compelled to respond to members of the public
2. An early day motion is a quasi petition device that MPs use to signal their concern in the House of Commons for certain issues to the rest of their colleagues
3. The rate of back bench rebellion by Labour MPs was 20 per cent of the voting divisions. That means on some divisions that there is a one in five chance that they will decide not to vote with the Government. That means there is room for us to influence the course of a vote
4. How many MEP constituencies are there in the UK? There are 12 regions for the European Parliament covering large areas The London region for European Parliament voting is comprised of all the UK Parliamentary constituencies. 785 is the total number of MEPs in the EP from all the countries. This compares to 646 MPs in the UK parliament. Currently there are 78 UK MEPs. After the next European elections there will be 72 as a result of Accession.
5. MEPs do not sit in national delegations in the Parliament, but in multinational political groups. The centre-right European People's Party (EPP) and European Democrats, which includes British Conservatives, is the largest political group. British Labour MEPs belong to the Party of European Socialists, the second biggest group. The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), where the largest national contingent is from the UK, is third biggest, closely followed by the Green / European Free Alliance which has brought together Green MEPs from 13 countries, including Britain's two Green members, and nationalist parties, including Plaid Cymru and SNP members.
6. MEPs can do all of these things
7. Satu Hassi is a Finnish MEP who is vice chair of the Environment Committee in the European Parliament and a rapporteur on climate-related issues. The Hassi report will be voted on by the Environment Committee in October, the plenary will consider it in December. Last year EU leaders agreed to cut CO2 emissions by a fifth by 2020 in a bid to tackle climate change. Ms Hassi believes that the proposals put forward by the Commission are not ambitious enough. Her draft report effectively says that they fall short of what is needed in order to keep global warming below the 2°C limit. Reductions of 30% compared with 1990 level would be in the range given by the UN's climate change panel. But the Commission proposes 30% reduction only as a part of an international agreement, and doing part of this via offsetting. Hassi's report recommends that the starting point for the EU should be 30 per cent target by 2020. She would like industrialised countries to aim for targets of 80% reductions by the middle of the century. Hassi's report shows there is a difference of opinion in the EP and therefore room for us to lobby and influence debate.

