

**Gerard Batten**

Member of the European
Parliament for London

PO Box 51542
London SE1 3XS

Tel: 020 7403 7174/5
email: gerard.batten@btinternet.com

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An open letter to my Assentors, Supporters and all UKIP Members

Dear Friends, Supporters & Fellow Members,

UKIP Leadership Election 2010: Why I am backing Tim Congdon

Some weeks ago I declared my intention to stand in the UKIP Leadership Election. As you will recall, I stood as a candidate in the 2009 Leadership Election and achieved second place taking 26% of the vote. I still believe passionately in the principles and policies that I advocated less than twelve months ago.

After much careful consideration I have decided to stand down in this election and support the candidature of Tim Congdon. We came to the conclusion that we would be more effective and successful working as a team rather than fighting separately.

After talks with Tim, I satisfied myself that we agree on the fundamental principles that should guide UKIP's new Leader. In order to ensure that there is no doubt about what we stand for we jointly signed an Agreement, a copy of which is on the other side of this page and is self-explanatory.

We decided that at this stage of our Party's development it would be better for the new Leader to be based in the UK and not have the distraction of attending the Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg.

On that basis we decided that Tim would run as Leader and if elected he will appoint me Deputy Leader and Head of Policy Development.

I realise that some of you may be disappointed that I am not now standing, but I hope you will understand that I have made this decision because I believe that in the current circumstances it is best for our Party and our cause.

I ask all of you who intended to vote for me to now vote instead for Tim Congdon, and to urge others to do likewise. I can assure you that if Tim is elected we will both do our utmost to promote the cause of British withdrawal from the European Union.

Yours sincerely,

Gerard Batten MEP



Agreement text to fit in here