

"Together to create new growth"
"Social entrepreneurship & social economy: Developing a European ecosystem to unlock social innovation, growth and jobs"
Conference on 18 November 2011 - Brussels

Speaker: Nick HURD



CURRICULUM VITAE

Nick Hurd has been the **Conservative Party Member of Parliament** for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner in Middlesex since 2005 and **Minister for Civil Society** in the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Coalition Government since May 2010. He was previously **Shadow Minister for Charity, Social Enterprise and Volunteering** (October 2008 – May 2010). He also served as an **opposition whip**, was a member of the **shadow teams for Justice, Communities and Local Government** (2007-2008), and served on the **Environment Audit Committee**. He was on the board of the **Conservative Party's Quality of Life Policy Commission**, chairing the Climate Change Group (2005-2007) and served on the joint parliamentary committee that scrutinised the draft **Climate Change Bill**. In 2006, Nick successfully took through Parliament a **Private Members Bill**, the **Sustainable Communities Act**, which was supported by over ninety national organisations. Before his career in politics, Nick spent 18 years in business including five years representing a British bank in Brazil. Nick is the fourth generation in his family to enter the House of Commons.

BUILDING THE BIG SOCIETY

As Minister for Civil Society, Nick Hurd has responsibility for policy on the Big Society, charities, volunteering, and social enterprise.

The Big Society is about helping people to come together to improve their own lives. It's about putting more power in people's hands: a massive transfer of power from the centre to local communities. There are three key parts to the Big Society agenda: community empowerment, opening up public services and social action. Community empowerment is about giving local councils and neighbourhoods more power to take decisions and shape their area. Opening up public services is about reforming public services so that charities, social enterprises, private companies and employee-owned co-operatives can compete to offer people high quality services. Social action is about encouraging and enabling people to play a more active part in society.

The Office for Civil Society, part of the Cabinet Office, works across government departments to translate the Big Society agenda into practical policies, provides support to voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises and is responsible for delivering a number of key Big Society programmes, including the Big Society Bank which will use money from dormant bank accounts for social investment.