

Malcolm Harbour

Malcolm Harbour MEP - Biography

Malcolm Harbour was elected to the European Parliament in June 1999, and re-elected in June 2004. He has been re-adopted as a Candidate for the 2009 Elections. He is one of 3 Conservative members representing the West Midlands Region of the UK. He is a Member of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee, and has served as elected Co-ordinator for the European Centre Right Group (EPP-ED) since 2004. He is also a Member of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee. He is Conservative spokesman on Internal Market issues, and specialist spokesman on IT issues. He is Vice-Chairman of the Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel (STOA) and a Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Delegation to Japan, a country he visits regularly.



Malcolm Harbour takes a special interest in the EU single market, industry, science and technology policy. He is actively engaged in promoting lighter and simpler EU regulations. Internal Market Strategy, Universal Services in Electronic Communications, the reform of the Commission staff regulations and Motor Vehicle Type Approval are among his many reports to Parliament. He was named as a top 50 European of 2006 for his key role in broking agreement on the Services Directive, widely seen as a major advance for opening the single market.

He takes a very active role in policy groups and forums. He is founder Chairman of the European Forum for the Automobile and Society, and jointly leads the European Parliaments Ceramics Industry Forum. He is a Governor of the European Internet Foundation and represented the Parliament at both UN World Summits on the Information Society. He is Chairman of the Conservative Technology Forum and a member of the Science and Innovation Policy Task Force established as part of David Cameron's Conservative Policy Review. In 2008 he was invited to join a joint policy team with CDU and CSU MPs, established by David Cameron and Angela Merkel.

In 2005, he served on the CARS 21 High Level Group, a Europe-wide initiative to boost the automotive industry. In May 2006, he was named the UK's most Small Business Friendly MP by members of the Forum of Private Business. In 2007 he was appointed a Guardian of the Birmingham Assay Office.

Before his election to the Parliament, Malcolm Harbour spent 32 years in the motor industry, as an engineer, a senior commercial executive, a consultant and a researcher. In 1992 became a founder Director of the International Car Distribution Programme and, in 1998, initiated the 3DayCar Programme, studying the reconfiguration of the automotive supply chain. He began his motor industry career in the BMC Longbridge Plant as an Austin Engineering Apprentice in 1967. After working as a design and development engineer, he spent 8 years planning and managing new product programmes in the Rover Triumph Division. In 1980 he became Strategic Planning Director for Austin Rover, in 1982 Marketing Director, in 1984 UK Sales Director and in 1986 Overseas Sales Director. In 1989, he jointly founded the specialist consultants Harbour Wade Brown.

Malcolm Harbour has been an active worker in the Conservative Party since 1972, and was a European Election candidate in the 1989 and 1994 campaigns. He is a former

Chairman of Solihull Constituency, and Member of the West Midlands Area Executive Council.

Malcolm Harbour was born in February 1947. He was educated at Bedford School and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in Engineering, and at the University of Aston where he gained a Diploma in Management Studies. In July 2008 he was awarded an Honorary DSc by Aston University for services to science, technology and the European Union.

He and Penny were married in 1969 and have lived in Solihull since 1972. They have 2 married daughters, Louise and Katy and 2 grandchildren. They are active members of the congregation at Knowle Parish Church. Malcolm is one of the leaders of the European Parliament's Ecumenical Prayer Group, which meets each month in Strasbourg.