



The President

Robert Walter MP



BIOGRAPHY

On 3 December 2008, Robert Walter MP (United Kingdom, Federated Group) was elected President of the European Security and Defence Assembly/Assembly of Western European Union (ESDA/AWEU), established under the modified Brussels Treaty. He was elected to the United Kingdom Parliament in May 1997 as the member for North Dorset in south west England.

Robert was born in 1948 and educated at Warminster School and the University of Aston in Birmingham. Before entering the House of Commons he was an international banker and farmer. He is a former member of the London Stock Exchange and a former director of the New York investment bank, Aubrey G. Lanston & Co. Inc.

Robert has been a member of the European Security and Defence Assembly since 2001. He served as Chairman of the Defence Committee of the Assembly for three years (2006-2008) and at the same time as Chairman of its largest political group, the Federated Group of Christian Democrats and European Democrats. In preparing his most recent report for the Assembly's Political Committee, on terrorist activities on the Turkey/Iraq border, he visited the Kurdistan region of Iraq and Diyarbakir (Turkey). In addition, he has led a number of fact-finding missions to Afghanistan, Chad, the Congo and Georgia, which have been the subject of Assembly reports on operations led by the EU or in which the EU has participated.

Robert is also a member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where he is Vice-Chairman of the Economic Affairs and Development Committee.

Robert served as a member of the House of Commons Select Committee on Health from 1997 to 1999. From 1999 to 2001 he was a Conservative Opposition Spokesman on Constitutional Affairs. He served on the House of Commons International Development Committee from 2001 to 2003 and the Treasury Select Committee from 2003 to 2005.

He has also been a member of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly since 1997 and now serves as Chairman of its European Affairs Committee.