



## The President of the European Parliament

[\[Home\]](#) [\[Site Map\]](#)

» [Latest News](#)

[Press Releases](#)  
[Speeches](#)

» [Multimedia](#)

[Audio - Video](#)  
[Images](#)

» [Information](#)

[Biography](#)  
[Functions](#)  
[Private Office](#)  
[Former E.P. Presidents](#)

» [Other Links](#)

[Conference of Presidents](#)  
[Press Service](#)  
[Europarl](#)

1824 1825 1826 1827 1828 1829 1830 1831 1832 1833 1834 1835 1836 1837 1838 1839 1840 1841 1842 1843 1844 1845 1846 1847 1848 1849 1850 1851 1852 1853 1854 1855 1856 1857 1858 1859 1860 1861 1862 1863 1864 1865 1866 1867 1868 1869 1870 1871 1872 1873 1874 1875 1876 1877 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002



Pat Cox has been a Member of the European Parliament since 1989, representing the constituency of Munster in the Republic of Ireland. Before entering politics he worked both as an economics lecturer and as a journalist and television presenter on Irish television. Both of these careers have been of benefit to him in his political work.

He was first elected President of the European Liberal Democrat Group in 1998 and then was unanimously re-elected as Group President in June 1999 following the elections to the European Parliament. The European Liberal Democrats are the third largest political grouping in the European Parliament and they bring together MEPs from 19 Liberal Democrat parties.

Pat Cox's interest in politics developed during his years as an undergraduate at Trinity College, Dublin, from which he graduated in 1974. He went on to become an economics lecturer at the Institute of Public Administration in Dublin and the University of Limerick (formerly NIHE, Limerick). During this time he developed a strong interest in European affairs and an intellectual curiosity and conviction about the European integration process. He contributed to the development of the first ever under-graduate programme for European studies at an Irish University.

Between 1982 and 1986 Cox worked as a television current affairs reporter, presenter and investigative journalist on the television programme "Today Tonight". He reported on Irish and international political and economic stories including US Presidential elections, United Kingdom and French general elections and, as an economist/broadcaster, contributed to the interpretation of international and Irish economic stories.

Following the formation of the Progressive Democrats, a new Liberal Party, in late 1985 Pat Cox was appointed as their founding General Secretary. This was first his experience of national politics from a party political point of view. Having been elected to the European Parliament as a Progressive Democrat MEP in 1989, he played a key role in negotiating a programme for government which led to that Party's first ever participation in a national coalition government in the summer of 1989. In November 1992 he was elected as a Member of the Irish Parliament (Dail Eireann), for the constituency of Cork South Central and during this time he was the party's Finance spokesperson.

In 1994 he was successfully re-elected to the European Parliament, this time as an Independent Member, and was nominated to be the Deputy Leader of the European Liberal Democrats, a position in which he became a key individual in the development of the Group political strategy and policy, culminating in his nomination to the Programme Committee which drew up the 1999 election manifesto for Liberal Democrats throughout Europe. This programme was subsequently adopted at the European Liberal Democrat Party Congress in April 1999 in Berlin. In 1998 when a vacancy presented for the Presidency of the ELDR Group, he was unanimously elected to that position.

On behalf of the European Liberal Democrats Pat Cox exercised a key role in insisting on executive accountability of the European Commission before the European Parliament. This led in March 1999 to the unprecedented resignation of the European Commission. After the 1999 European Parliamentary elections he was re-elected to the post of President of the ELDR Group. The European Liberal

Democrat Group proposes to nominate Pat Cox as their candidate for the position of President of the European Parliament which will be contested in January 2002. Pat Cox is married with six children and divides his time between family in Cork, his constituency of Munster, Brussels and Strasbourg, the seats of the European Parliament, and the wider European stage.

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