

PRESS RELEASE

The Freedom Association

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www.tfa.net

ROGER HELMER MEP ELECTED **NEW TFA CHAIRMAN**

At a meeting of The Freedom Association (TFA) Council on 23rd April, Roger Helmer, Conservative MEP for the East Midlands, was unanimously elected the new TFA Honorary Chairman.

Roger said, "It is a huge honour to become the Honorary Chairman of an organisation with such campaigning pedigree that stands for Jeffersonian principles, such as individual liberty, personal responsibility, the free market, strong national defence, low taxation and the small state. It was to support precisely these principals that I got involved in politics, and I look forward greatly to working with The Freedom Association to further promote these ideals."

He succeeds Christopher Gill, Maastricht rebel and former MP for Ludlow, who on retiring as Chairman accepted the role of TFA President.

The Freedom Association is Britain's only multi-issue, non-partisan pressure group, and its issues include opposing the EU through the Better Off Out campaign, opposing ID cards and defending free speech against political correctness.

Biography : Born in 1944, Roger Helmer attended King Edward VI Grammar School in Southampton and then won a State Scholarship to Churchill College, Cambridge, where he read mathematics, graduating in 1965 with a B.A. and subsequently an M.A.

His business career has included working for Procter and Gamble and senior marketing and general management appointments in a range of companies, including well-known multi-nationals like Readers' Digest, National Semiconductor, Coats Viyella and the

whisky firm United Distillers, now part of the drinks conglomerate Diageo. During the course of his business career he lived and worked in Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Korea, and ran businesses in the Philippines, Vietnam, Guam and Saipan.

He has served as a Conservative MEP for the East Midlands since 1999. With like minded colleagues, Roger has developed close relationships with conservative political groups in the USA, and has been a regular speaker at American conferences. He was recently appointed "Adam Smith Scholar" by ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Roger has earned a reputation - and even the grudging respect of political opponents - for his clear, consistent and forthright approach to the question of Britain's relationship with the EU. He believes that most of his constituents would be happy with the sort of relationship the British people thought they had voted for in the 1975 referendum - a relationship based on free trade and voluntary cooperation. Since 2006 he has been a leading supporter of The Freedom Association's Better Off Out campaign against British membership of the EU.

Notes to Editors

1) The Freedom Association, founded 1975, is a multi-issue, non-partisan pressure group committed to the defence of personal and political liberty.

2) Roger Helmer's web site can be found here: <http://www.rogerhelmer.com/>

3) A photograph of Roger Helmer is attached.

For further interviews or comments please contact Mark Wallace, Freedom Association Campaign Manager, on 07736009548.

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