

Robert Walter MP

Robert Walter MP was born in 1948 and educated at the Warminster School and University of Aston in Birmingham (BSc 1971). He was married for 25 years until the death of his wife, Sally in 1995. He has three children: Elizabeth, Charles, and Alexander.

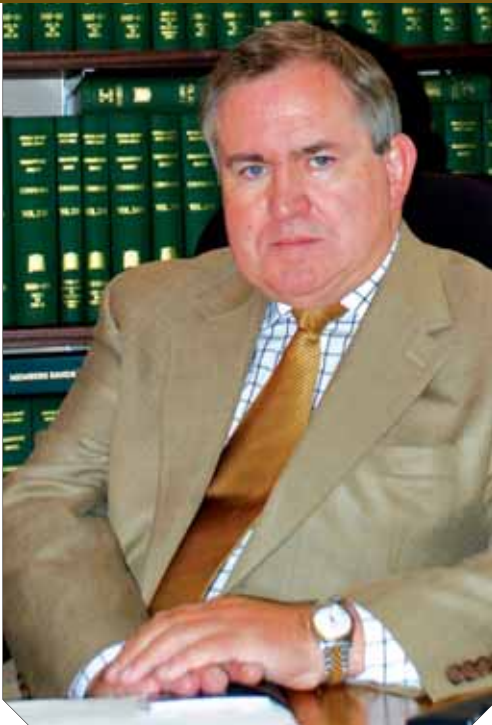
Before entering Parliament in 1997 He was an international banker and farmer. He is a former member of the London Stock Exchange and was a Director of Aubrey G Lanston & Co Inc.

Robert Walter MP, presently serves as Chairman of the Defence Committee of the European Security and Defence Assembly, established under the Treaty of the Western European Union. He has been a member of the Assembly since 2001 and is also President of the largest political group, the Federated Group of Christian Democrats and European Democrats. He also serves as one of the UK members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where he is Vice-Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee.

Since 1997 he has been a member of the British Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body, and now serves as chairman of its European Affairs Committee.



“London Turkish people have become very much part of the Bz community“

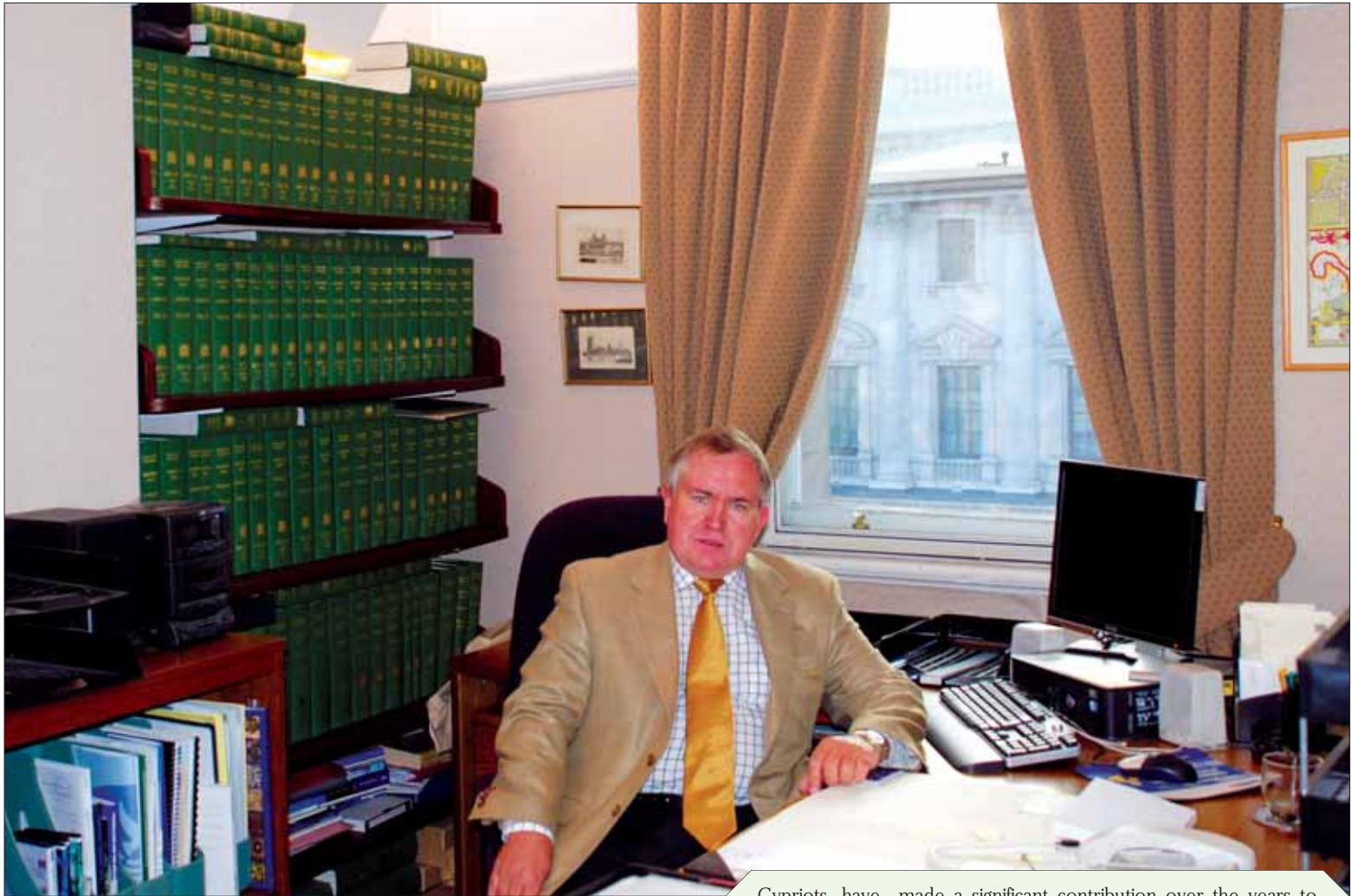


At Westminster he has served as a member of the Health Select Committee (1997 to 1999), International Development Committee (2001-2003) and the Treasury Committee (2003-2005). He was a member of the Conservative 1922 Committee from 2002 to 2005, and had previously served as Vice Chairman of the Backbench Agriculture Committee (1997-1999) and Secretary of the European Affairs Committee (1997-2001). From June 1999 to September 2001, he was Conservative Frontbench Spokesman for Constitutional Affairs and for Wales.

He is a leading member of several all party Parliamentary groups including Vice

Chairman of the Human Rights Group and the Prison Health Group. He is Treasurer of the British Japan, British Caribbean and the Parliamentary Rugby Union groups. He is also Vice Commodore of the House of Commons Yacht Club.

In February 2000, he introduced the Sex Discrimination (Amendment) Bill, which failed to make progress. In 2004 he introduced the Restricted Byways Bill, the provisions of which have now been adopted by the Government. His latest Bill introduced in 2006, the House of Commons (Participation) Bill proposes to limit the consideration of English business in the House to English MPs.



Robert Walter MP, stated about the reasons are for Turkey to join the European Union: "Modern Turkey clearly sees itself as a European nation. From the dramatic reforms of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk which started in the 1920s through to Turkey's membership of NATO and its applications to join the European Union, Turkey has shown its aspiration to the economic and social values of the new Europe."

"The economic growth and reform agenda of recent years has clearly set Turkey on the path to eventual membership. Through its membership of NATO the nation has shown its clear commitment to the Euro Atlantic community which is complemented by membership of the European Union."

Mr. Walter also added: "I support that path, but recognise that much needs to done to make it a reality. There is still significant regional disparity in economic prosperity, as well as educational attainment. The recent decision by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to focus on Turkish economic development shows a clear commitment by the rest of Europe to accelerate Turkey's economic reforms."

"If Turkey can replicate its recent economic growth in educational and social development in its poorest regions I am confident it can meet the membership criteria within the foreseeable future. I am very conscious of Turkey's role in EU activities in the security and defence field. This, along with its closer economic ties will send a signal to all of Europe that Turkey is ready for the challenge of EU membership."

Robert Walter MP also said the following about the Turkish businesses in the UK. "It is impossible to ignore the valuable contribution made to British business and to British society in general by the expatriate Turkish community. Turks, as well as Turkish

Cypriots, have made a significant contribution over the years to British society."

"In the cosmopolitan atmosphere of London Turkish people have become very much part of the community in business, culture and the wider life of the city. Even the Mayor, Boris Johnson, can claim Turkish ancestry. But the real contribution is in business. Beyond London, Turkish owned and run businesses have had a significant impact."

"There is now considerable scope as the economic barriers come down between Turkey and the EU for us all to build on these firm foundations. I am committed to making a reality of the European dimension of the Turkish business community."

"With more and more British businesses establishing in Turkey and British people investing in and settling in Turkey this provides a real opportunity for economic growth in both countries. I am confident we can all build on these links for the benefit of both our peoples." he said.

