

Arlene McCarthy MEP

Arlene McCarthy MEP, born 1960, MEP since 1994, Labour's Number 1 candidate in the North West Region.

She was elected to the European Parliament in 1994 and has been Labour MEP for the North West region since 1999. In the new European Parliament (2009) she was elected Vice Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee where she is working on new laws to regulate the banking industry. She is also an active member of the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Delegation.

In 2005 Arlene was elected as a Fellow of the Industry and Parliament Trust (IPT) following a 21 day educational exchange with Bloomberg. Arlene also took part in the Police Parliamentary Scheme, from which she graduated in 2007. Arlene's involvement in the Police Service Parliamentary Scheme, through which she shadowed Greater Manchester Police, resulted in a major change to European legislation on gun control which was passed by the European Parliament in November 2007.

"Turkish business people play an important role in our economy"

She was the first Labour woman MEP to Chair the European Parliament's powerful Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (2007 to 2009).

Arlene McCarthy MEP has a background in Local Government and Lectured in European Politics at the Free University of Berlin and the University of Manchester. She speaks fluent German and French.



As Chair she delivered several important new EU laws to end rip-off mobile phone charges; protect vulnerable consumers and the elderly from rogue traders and scams; secured a new EU law to ban toxic toy imports; secured an EU wide ban on the cruel trade in cat and dog fur in the EU.

Through her role on these committees she has developed an active interest in, amongst many other policy areas, consumer policy and protection issues, the creative and media

industry and better regulation. She is also a children's rights campaigner leading on campaigns to combat internet child abuse and to introduce an EU-wide missing children hotline.

A graduate of the Police Parliamentary Scheme, She worked with Greater Manchester Police's Armed Crime Unit to introduce a major reform to EU law on gun control to tackle the illegal supply of convertible weapons to the UK.

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Regarding to joining of Turkey to the European Union, Arlene McCarthy MEP said: "Turkey's application to join the EU is a symbol of Europe looking outwards. Turkey would be a bridge between East and West, demonstrating that being European is about values not race or religion. As a strong ally in NATO and a member of the Council of Europe membership of the EU is the natural next step for Turkey."

She also stated that: "A successful secular Muslim democracy, securing Turkey's prosperity and democracy is an important example to countries in the Middle East and the EU should be working with Turkey to help achieve that."

"Turkey is also an important trading partner going back over 1000 years to the days of the silk road, with potential for growth, in less than 10 years trade between the old and new member states of the current EU grew almost threefold. With a young population and growing economy Turkey can play an important part in the European economy of the future."

Arlene McCarthy MEP, summarised shortly regarding her future plan supporting the Turkish Businesses which is more than 50,000 businesses is running in the UK: "Turkish and Turkish Cypriot business people play an important role in our economy. In these times of economic hardship we need to ensure we are supporting SMEs that are generating growth, jobs and prosperity at a local level."

She also added: "I want to ensure that the Turkish business community

continues to have a voice, so that we can work together to remove barriers and continue to grow our economy."

Her message to Turkish Community and Turkish born British Citizens in the UK is: "I very much value the contribution of the Turkish community in the UK, in business and in the local community. You are an important link between Turkey, the UK and the EU and vital ambassadors for Turkey's case to join the EU."

"My role as a Euro MP is to represent you at a European level and reflect the positive and dynamic role you play in the UK. I look forward to developing my links within the Turkish community and working with you."

