

Baroness Sarah LUDFORD MEP

A life peer in the House of Lords since 1997, She was elected to the European Parliament in 1999 as Liberal Democrat MEP for London and re-elected in 2004. She is European justice spokeswoman for the Liberal Democrats as a member of the European Parliament's civil liberties, justice and home affairs committee. She is also a member of the economic and monetary affairs committee. She was vice-chair of the European Parliament's temporary committee (2006-7) on CIA extraordinary rendition activities in Europe.

She works on a range of issues concerning EU cross-border crime, anti-terrorism and border policies. She is active in the promotion of fundamental and civil rights, including racial and religious equality, fair immigration and asylum laws, data protection and upholding human rights in counter-terrorism. She is also active in the Parliament's 'intergroups' on anti-racism and diversity (vice-President) and gay and lesbian rights. She is on the council of Liberty and a patron of Fair Trials Abroad, two British NGOs.

Sarah Ludford is vice-chair of the European Parliament's human rights sub-committee, concerned with the EU role in furthering human rights in the world. She is a member of the European Parliament delegation for relations with the United States and take a



“Thanks to the Turkish Business Directory!”

strong interest in Turkey, including the Kurdish people, Cyprus and the Balkans. Her career started in the UK civil service and included 7 years working for the European Commission as a European consultant.

Sarah Ludford was an Islington councillor for 8 years from 1991-1999. An LSE graduate in international history, she also has a master's degree in European studies and is qualified as a barrister. Her career, which started in Whitehall, included 7 years in Brussels working for the European Commission, 5 years in the City (European adviser at Lloyd's of London and vice-president, Corporate External Affairs at American Express Europe) and 7 years as a European consultant before appointment to the House of Lords in 1997 and election to the European Parliament in 1999.

London's Liberal Democrat MEP Baroness Sarah Ludford has, while welcoming the EU's much-delayed decision on financial aid for economic development in north Cyprus, deplored the loss of half the originally promised amount as well as the continuing failure to agree a second measure on opening up direct trade with the EU.

Regarding to financial aid by the European Commission, Sarah Ludford said:

"Of course the EU aid is welcome on a 'better late than never' basis. The investment is vital to help Turkish Cypriots catch up economically through more jobs and income. But it is disgraceful that they have been denied nearly half the planned amount."

"I cannot agree with Austrian Foreign

Minister Ursula Plassnik (EU Presidency) that 'we have thereby honoured our commitment as EU to the Turkish Cypriot community'. The promise in 2004, after the positive vote on the Annan plan in the north, was to end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, not just to make it more bearable."

"Undertakings must be honoured if the EU is to be credible, and the belief in a political settlement among Turkish Cypriots is to be sustained."

"I acknowledge that the British government supported the full EU package. But the refusal to clarify whether it is legal obstacle or only political hesitation which impedes UK licensing of direct flights to Ercan airport looks weak and indecisive."



Regarding to joining of Turkey to the European Union, she stated: "I am a committed and vocal supporter of Turkey's accession to the European Union. EU member states and citizens alike have much to gain from Turkey's membership. For example, Turkey's young and dynamic population will boost the European economy, its strategic position will reinforce the EU's international position, and the richness of Turkish culture and history is an asset to Europe. Turkish accession will also help integrate Muslims in Europe by showing that Europe is not a 'Christian club'".

"I believe that the prospect of Turkish EU membership has helped ensure the implementation of necessary democratic and human rights reforms. Turkey still has some way to go before it meets EU criteria in areas like freedom of expression, minority rights and women's rights, but the situation is improving and I am optimistic that it will continue to do so. The EU must play a stronger role in supporting Turkey in this process."

About the Turkish business directory and the Turkish speaking people in the UK, she said:

"Having been a firm supporter of the Turkish and Northern Cypriot community throughout my political career, I believe I do have a good appreciation of their impressive contribution to the economy in London and indeed across Europe. Having said that, it is extremely interesting and valuable to see all this written down in one place thanks to the Turkish Business Directory!"

Baroness Sarah Ludford sent the following message to Turkish Community and Turkish born British Citizens:

"Londoners, myself included, pride themselves on living in a cosmopolitan city with a distinct and distinguished multicultural identity. I would like to send my best wishes to London's Turkish, Kurdish and

Turkish Cypriot community which has played such an important role in contributing to this wonderful richness and diversity. I also think that they can play a very helpful role in 'bridging' between their home countries, the UK and the rest of the EU and thus promoting understanding."

She also added: "I will continue to represent the interests of Turkish businesses in my London constituency in the European Parliament, which like other London businesses is for clear and not over-burdensome regulation, free market opportunities and strict enforcement of competition laws. I will also advocate strongly in Brussels for a clear perspective for Turkish membership of the European Union and will also continue my vigorous campaigning for the EU to honour its commitments by integrating North Cyprus fully into the EU with financial support, open trade and free movement. I have pushed for Turkish already to be an official EU language (as it should have become on the accession of Cyprus) and will continue to raise that issue."

