

Strasbourg, 15 January 2002

Pat COX elected President

Speaking in Strasbourg following his election as President of the European Parliament, Pat Cox said:

"I am delighted and honoured to have been elected President of the European Parliament. It is a very great privilege and I look forward to the many challenges ahead."

"I greatly welcome the fact that this election was strongly contested. It has allowed us to breathe new life and vigour into our institution. The contest reveals that we have arrived at a moment of mature self-awareness. This must mark a passage to an era of transformation for the European Parliament, its politics and our connection with citizens."

"This is an exciting and challenging time for European politics. At the beginning of this year we have seen the successful transformation over to the Euro. By the end of this year we will face the historic challenge of turning the continental scale enlargement of the European Union into a political reality."

"We need to reconnect our citizens to the European project through ensuring that our institutions operate with greater transparency, efficiency and accountability. We need a thorough reform of our working methods in the European Parliament to re-invigorate our plenary debates and to allow for real political dialogue and facilitate media coverage and public interest."

"These challenges demand both a clear vision and an ambitious agenda. As President of the European Parliament I am committed to providing my undivided focus and energy to the good of our institution and its public purpose, which is to serve the citizens of Europe."

The Results

Pat Cox MEP was elected on the 3rd ballot. 298 MEPs voted in favour.