



Robert Walter

Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, President European Security and Defence Association (ESDA)

High-Level Military Forum

European Defence – common ambitions and national realities

Wednesday, 30th November 2016, 15:30 – 16:45 h

Robert Walter joined the European Security and Defence Assembly/Assembly of WEU in 2001. He chaired its Defence Committee for three years (2006-2008) and at the same time was Chairman of its largest political group, the Federated Group of Christian Democrats and European Democrats. He was President of the Assembly from December 2003 until June 2011. He led numerous fact-finding missions (to Afghanistan, Chad, the Congo, Georgia, Turkey and the Western Balkans) for the purpose of preparing Assembly reports, with a particular focus on operations led by or involving the EU.

As a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe he chaired the European Democrat Group (now European Conservatives) from 2010 to 2014 and was leader of the United Kingdom Delegation, 2010-2015.

In 2011 Robert Walter was elected President of the European Security and Defence Association, which brings together national parliamentarians and MEPs with a particular interest in European security and defence-related issues, including European and transatlantic armaments cooperation.

He was also a member of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly from 1997 served as Chairman of its European Affairs Committee since 2005, and was a vice chairman of the Assembly from 2010 to 2015. From 2010 to 2013 he chaired the British group of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU). In 2014 he was elected a Vice President of the IPU in Geneva.

Robert Walter served in the United Kingdom Parliament from 1997 to 2015 (Member for North Dorset in the south-west of England). He was born in 1948 and educated at Warminster School and the University of Aston in Birmingham. He graduated (B.Sc.) in 1971, and was awarded an honorary doctorate (D.Litt) in 2011. Before entering the House of Commons he was an international banker and farmer. He is a former member of the London Stock Exchange and a former director of the New York investment bank, Aubrey G. Lanston & Co. Inc.