

Press Release

Release: Immediate

Date:

Issued by: Malcolm Harbour MEP

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West Midlands MEP welcomes new EU plans to complete the Single Market

West Midlands' MEP, Malcolm Harbour, has been setting out his vision for Europe's role in the road to recovery, following the publication of the European Commission's "EU 2020" strategy for the future competitiveness of Europe. Speaking on Wednesday he said that, "This time the Commission has got the message. In order to play a constructive part in economic recovery we must set clear priorities and focus on achieving them. Our priorities are: Completing the single market so that we maximise efficiency and opportunities, using research money better so that we convert the money we spend on research into commercial opportunities and jobs, and upskilling the workforce so that they are well placed to find work in the new areas that advancing technology creates."

Malcolm went on to say, "It is vitally important that we remain committed to keeping borders open, creating opportunities for trade and jobs. We must resist the temptation to move towards protectionism; history has taught us that protectionism makes recessions worse and exacerbates unemployment. Europe must be competitive and it must be about exploiting new technological opportunities. Every week I speak to businesses who hope to become more successful by trading with other European countries and I am determined to help them achieve that success."

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Editor's note:

- Malcolm Harbour is the chairman of the influential Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee of the European parliament and is an advisor to the Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.
- EU2020 is the name of the EU's 10 year economic strategy