



Conservatives in the European Parliament

Press Release

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Parliament Deal will Help the Green Agenda AND Safeguard West Midlands' Jobs says Conservative MEP, Malcolm Harbour.

Mr Harbour, a West Midlands' MEP with a strong track record of supporting manufacturing jobs, technological innovation and energy efficiency, has endorsed a deal by the European Parliament's Environment Committee, and defeated measures which could have pushed British jobs out of the EU. Vital local employment sectors -such as tyre making, car component manufacturing, ceramics and pharmaceuticals - could otherwise relocate outside Europe as a result of excessive costs imposed by Emissions Trading.

Fortunately the motion was defeated by 39 to 19 votes.

The European Commission had presented a document listing 8 pages of key industries which are deemed to be exposed to a significant risk of carbon leakage. 'Carbon leakage' is Euro-jargon for manufacturing jobs being priced out of the European Union, and frequently means that they go to countries with lax environmental rules, thus defeating the object of the legislation.

Malcolm Harbour said,

"I am committed to tackling the challenges of climate change but I and my Conservative colleagues will do so in a pragmatic way that doesn't unnecessarily jeopardise local jobs in key sectors. I know that many local firms are trying hard to clean up and become more environmentally friendly. We are supporting them.

"In voting against this Commission proposal to penalise industries that need to use a lot of energy we are preserving local jobs in key manufacturing sectors from metal working and tile making to textile processing and tyre manufacturing.

"This motion would have done absolutely nothing for the environment or climate but would have simply moved the problem



on elsewhere. We could have ended up with the absurd and damaging situation where West Midlands' manufacturing jobs could have been driven out of the EU and into parts of the world without our environmental standards. The real cost could have been a more polluted world, fewer jobs for local people and serious disadvantage to local businesses. We must have the interests of the British economy and jobs at heart as well as the environment."

Ends

