

Statement on National Election Procedure for Sitting MEPs

I have have been asked what happens to my MEP role if I am elected to Westminster this June.

In 2002 a decision was taken by the national governments of the EU countries that said being an MEP and a member of a national parliament is incompatible. Therefore one person cannot hold both the position of MEP and MP at the same time.

Therefore if I am elected as MP, I will automatically cease to be an MEP. There will not be a by-election for the MEP role as, due to the proportional representation electoral process, it will pass on to one of my East of England Conservative colleagues from the last European elections.

We are about to commence complex negotiations with the EU on our exit. Having represented the East of England for the past eight years I can see how important the outcome of these negotiations will be for the jobs and security of local people.

It is important to have people with frontline experience of European negotiations in the Westminster Parliament. If elected I will bring unique, current and experience of European negotiations back to Westminster in order to support Theresa May and the strong and stable team she leads.