



Geoffrey Van Orden MBE MEP

Geoffrey Van Orden has been Conservative MEP for the East of England since 1999.

He previously had a wide-ranging career as a British Army officer on operational duties in many parts of the world – his last appointment, as a Brigadier-General, was at NATO HQ in Brussels from 1991 to 1994.

He spent many years in Germany, including five in Berlin where, in 1989, he was Chief of Staff and Chief G2 of the British Sector.

He attended the Indian Defence Services Staff College and was a member of the Directing Staff at the German General Staff College (Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr) from 1985-88.

Geoffrey is Conservative Spokesman on Defence and Security Policy and a member (and former Vice Chairman member) of the Foreign Affairs committee of the European Parliament and of its Defence and Security sub-committee.

He is also a Member of the Parliament's Delegation to India, to Turkey and to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He chairs the Parliament's Friends of Sri Lanka and is a Founder Member of Friends of India and Friends of Turkey.

He has led opposition in the European Parliament to EU defence policy, which he believes detrimental to NATO, and has spearheaded the Parliament's action against the Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe. He was the Parliament's rapporteur for Bulgaria until its EU accession in 2007.

As part of his defence and security brief, he takes a close interest in defence and security industries and issues of energy security.

Geoffrey was instrumental in the creation of the European Conservatives and Reformists, the new political group in the European Parliament. He is its Vice Chairman.

He is also Founding President of its new think-tank, *New Direction, the Foundation for European Reform*.