

Limerick Leader

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Delight as Pat Cox is voted into top EU job

By MARTIN BYRNES

MAYOR Dick Sadlier last evening warmly welcomed the election of Pat Cox as the first ever Irish president of the European Parliament.

Mr Cox was elected yesterday as a result of a pact with the Conservative grouping which saw the existing president, Nicole Fontaine of France, resign in mid-term. Mr Cox's Liberals had the support of the Conservatives yesterday and defeated the Socialist candidate, Scotland's David Martin by 61 votes. Mr Cox will now see out the remaining 30 months of the present parliament.

"This is of far, far greater importance that we would seem to realise. He is now right up there with world leaders," said the Mayor.

Ballybricken councillor, Bridget Teefey, one of three PDs on the County Council, travelled to Strasbourg to lend support to Mr Cox on vote day.

"I'm absolutely delighted. I have been a friend of Pat's for a long time, and I couldn't be happier for him."

Pat Cox grew up in Limerick and was educated at St Munchin's CBS and at Ard Scoil Ris. After Trinity he lectured in economics at UL before joining RTE as a current affairs presenter, and later became the first General Secretary of the PDs. He headed the poll in his first European Election, and later also won a Dail seat in Cork South Central. He made a bid to lead the PDs when Des O'Malley decided to stand down as leader in 1993.

Re-elected to Europe as an Independent, he was chosen to lead the Liberal and



Pat Cox

Reform group, the third largest group in the House, and it was from that position that his bid for the presidency was launched.

Mr Cox had the support of the other three Munster MEPs and most of the rest of the Irish, north and south.



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