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## Former EU Parliament Member to Visit Illinois Wesleyan

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## **Former EU Parliament Member to Visit Illinois Wesleyan**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Bryan Cassidy, a member of the European Parliament from 1984 to 1999, will visit Illinois Wesleyan University the week of March 19.

During the week, Cassidy will meet with IWU classes to discuss such varied topics as the development of the European Union and trade with the United States, E-commerce in the EU, and changes in European telecommunications markets.

A panel discussion on "Trade Disputes and the Economic and Political Relationship between the EU and the U.S." will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, in room 102 of the Center for Natural Science on campus. With Cassidy on the panel will be IWU professors Carolyn Stumph, economics; Gerald Olson, accounting and business administration; and Frank Boyd, political science.

Cassidy's appearance is made possible by The German Marshall Fund of the United States and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, as part of a major effort to increase understanding between prominent Europeans and young Americans.

### **Bryan Cassidy**

In the European Parliament, Cassidy was a Conservative spokesman on the Legal Affairs Committee and a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy and of the Monetary Sub-committee. He was also vice-president of the delegation with the United States Congress.

After a successful career in international business, Cassidy was first elected as a member of the European Parliament for Dorset East and Hampshire West in June 1984 and was re-elected in June 1989. In June 1994, he was returned again, this time for Dorset and East Devon following constituency reorganization.

British journalists Christopher Booker and Richard North wrote that Cassidy turned the war against "red tape lunacy" into a personal crusade. "Unlike most politicians," they wrote, "Cassidy is not content to be brushed off with some letter of condescending gobbledegook signed by a Minister. He is ready to get stuck into the detail which is so often the key to getting some bureaucratic insanity sorted out."

Cassidy was the European Parliament adviser to the Royal British Legion and to the Council of the Game Conservancy Trust.

Formerly the director general of a trade association and a member of the Council of the Confederation of British Industry, Cassidy's career prior to being elected to Parliament included

positions with the Beecham Group (now SmithKline Beecham), Ever Ready, and the International Publishing Corporation, for whom he was the European Director of IPC Business Press.

He served on the Greater London Council for nine years and first came to public prominence as the leader of the GLC's "clean up Soho" campaign in 1978, which has remained brilliantly successful.

Cassidy's publications include "Red Tape - Scourge of the Nineties" (1994), "The Stifling of Enterprise -The Red Tape Obsession" (1997), "Councils in Business", "Workers on the Board", and "EURIM Guide to Decision Making in the European Union."

Cassidy was educated at Ratcliffe College and at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge, where he studied law. Cassidy, who is married with two daughters and one son, speaks French and Spanish fluently and has a working knowledge of German, Italian and Portuguese.

### **European Parliament**

The European Parliament is one of the principal institutions of the European Union (EU) and the sole body directly elected by the citizens of its member states. Plenary sessions of the Parliament are normally held in Strasbourg, France, while most committees meet in Brussels, Belgium. The bulk of the administrative staff is based in Luxembourg.

Members, elected every five years, number more than 500 and seats are distributed among the EU member states based on their respective populations. Members do not sit in national blocs, but in cross-national political groups.

The European Parliament has limited powers. Its theoretical power to dismiss the EU's Commission (executive branch) has never been used and its legislative powers were wholly advisory until the Single European Act and the 1992 Maastricht Treaty.

The former gave the Parliament the right to a second reading of legislation and joint decision-making on some treaties and agreements. The latter increased joint decision-making and created a parliamentary veto on some internal matters, enabled Parliament to request the commission to submit legislative proposals, and allowed Parliament investigations into the maladministration of European Union law.

### **German Marshall Campus Fellows**

The German Marshall Fund Campus Fellows are successful people from business, journalism, public service and other professions who are placed on the campuses of small liberal arts colleges for a week of intensive dialogue with students and faculty.

The German Marshall Fund was established in 1972 by a gift from the Federal Republic of Germany to commemorate American postwar assistance under the Marshall Plan.

For two decades, the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows program has brought closer relations between the academic and non-academic worlds, between campus and community, between academic theory and practical reality. Since 1973, over 200 colleges have participated in the program.

### **About Illinois Wesleyan University**

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. A \$23 million library and a \$6 million student center are under construction.

*Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a high-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton University and Dartmouth College.