

Britain turns its European policy on its head

The UK Government has evidently decided that if it can't defeat the Franco-German axis it will join it!

If Germany or France were to change their European policy it would cause headline news. But Britain has recently turned its European policy on its head - and for the worse - and there has been scarcely a ripple of controversy.

Less than a year ago Tony Blair told political correspondents that the Franco-German engine of European integration created 40 years ago was now clapped out. It was soon to be replaced by an Anglo-Italian-Spanish axis supported by the Accession States. In a Europe of 25 the Franco-German model just couldn't motor. The new European model would be brand spanking new and would display none of the anti-Americanism, dirigisme, or anti-democratic tendencies of the old, being custom-built to meet current political realities. And Britain would be in the driving seat.

But the Government has already acknowledged the failure of its EU policy by dispatching the new model to the breaker's yard. In five days time, on February 18th, the political leaders of France, Britain and Germany will meet as part of a new European "Directorate" to discuss Europe's future. There have been cries of anguish from Britain's new best friends - Italy and Spain - but these have been ignored. Echoing Spanish anxieties the Italian foreign minister Franco Frattini said: "*The idea of a directorate worries us. It worries us because we think that Europe should be a mechanism in which power is shared rather than concentrated*".

The emergence of the Franco-German-British triumvirate has

recently been heralded in speeches and comments by the British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. Mr Straw used to say that EU enlargement meant that the Franco-German alliance could no longer determine the EU agenda. He now says that it is "*logical to couple Britain with the Franco-German engine since Europe is going to expand from 15-25 members*" (*Economist*, 31st January).

No Evidence

As part of a charm offensive to win British public support for this new arrangement, the German foreign minister Joschka Fischer assured the *Daily Telegraph* that the EU had abandoned all Federalist ambitions out of deference to Britain's unique political sensibilities. Meanwhile, German diplomats have been telling their British counterparts that the Iraq war made them appreciate the importance of the US-British relationship and that they wish themselves to repair relations with Washington while seeking to loosen somewhat their ties with Paris.

"*Germany edges closer to Britain's side*," declared a misleading headline in the *Daily Telegraph* of 3rd February. Except in rhetorical terms, there is no evidence of a shift in German foreign policy, or a diminution of its integrationist zeal. During the same week that Fischer was charming British journalists he made it clear to the Irish EU presidency that he wants urgent progress on the Constitution with few departures from the Giscard draft. And his message was reinforced

by the French foreign minister Dominique de Villepin. Nor is there any concrete sign that Germany is willing to accept US leadership in dealing with common foreign concerns. Like France, it has recently refused to follow the American line on the arms embargo to China and affirmed its support for "the one China policy".

After the failure to get agreement on a constitutional draft by the December 2003 deadline and the yawning differences over policy on Iraq, it is easy to see why France and Germany should be interested in finding out whether Britain can be flattered into buttressing a relationship that has set the agenda since the inception of the European project. It is less easy to grasp why Britain should wish to join a "directorate" (a very un-British word for a very un-British concept) in which, given its interest, it is likely to be in a permanent minority.

A spokesman for the FO, which likes to believe that ambivalence is the hallmark of a sophisticated foreign policy - but which is the most pro-EU department of state - has been quoted as saying: "*It's not that we're trying to switch horses. We are trying to ride several horses at once*". It is not necessary to know much about equestrian matters to conclude that a rider who has difficulty in staying on a single mount stands no chance of staying upright on two.

How MEPs receive fabulous expenses - without even cheating

Germany has blocked a deal which would have prevented MEPs ripping off the taxpayer

Germany, supported by France, Sweden and Austria, has torpedoed a deal which would have equalised the pay of MEPs and brought to an end an astonishing array of lavish perks. Under new proposals all MEPs would have received just over 100,000 (£72,000) a year - representing half the salary of a European Court Judge. This would have meant a 30 per cent increase for British MEPs - which may help explain the enthusiasm of some for an "honest deal".

At present Members of the European Parliament earn the same as members of their national parliaments (£56,000 in the case of British MPs). This means that there are huge disparities in pay, with Italian MEPs earning four times

as much as Spanish MEPs, and more than 30 times what a Lithuanian MEP will earn once the Accession states join the EU on 1st May 2004.

In response to a request from a reader the present pay rates are set out in the table above.

Although Germany has justified its opposition to reform on grounds of cost it is not clear, however, how much extra money would be required to fund the new pay and perks deal, bearing in mind the savings that would be achieved as the result of ending the present arrangements for expenses.

These are of quite fabulous proportions. Those who accuse MEPs of fraud, however, miss the point. There is no need for Members of the European Parliament to commit fraud: the system ensures a constant flow of

tax-free income from four separate sources without the exercise of ingenuity or effort of any kind, criminal or otherwise. These are:

The travel allowance: payments are based on kilometerage with the rate set sufficiently high for payments to exceed the cost of first class air fares in most instances. No receipt is required; all the MEP must do to claim payment

meals but most MEPs own flats in Brussels, many of which are sub-let to research assistants. There is no need to pay for lunch or dinner; one of the many thousands of Brussels lobbyists will oblige. The allowance is available five days a week, 46 weeks of the year

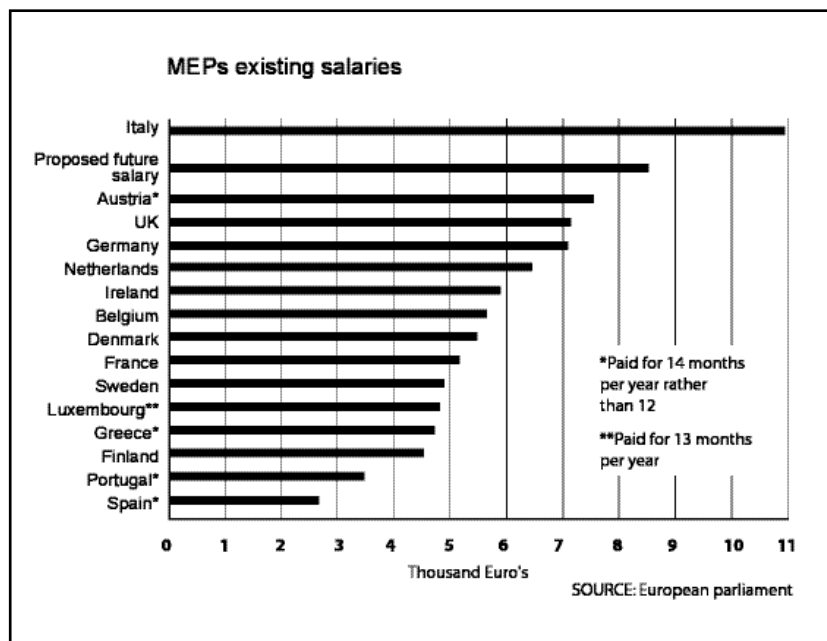
The staff allowance: This amounts to around £8,500 a month - enough to employ a secretary, a research assistant

plus a wife or mistress. The practice of employing a wife or a member of the family was described by one MEP to whom *eurofacts* talked "as almost universal". No receipts are necessary and the system is not subject to an audit.

The general expenses allowance: This amounts to £2,540 a month and may be paid directly into a member's bank account, thereby saving him the trouble of walking to the bank; no receipts are necessary.

In addition, Members of the European Parliament from Spain, Greece, Austria and Portugal share a unique privilege with MPs from their national legislatures - that of being paid for 13 months a year rather than 12, while those from Luxembourg are paid for 14 months a year.

The German foreign minister Joschka Fischer has explained his government's opposition to reform on the grounds that it would have been difficult to defend increases in the pay of MEPs at a time of economic austerity in Germany. But as a result of his government's opposition to change the European taxpayer will go on being ripped off, and Members of the European Parliament can look forward to continuing a way life to which they have become all too accustomed.



is to present his boarding pass. Given the wide availability of cheap fares this is a huge earner worth around at least £600 a week on average and considerably more for those living far from Brussels. No machinery exists to reimburse the sums actually spent.

The attendance allowance: widely known as "the sign-on and sod-off fee". This amounts to around £180 a day. In order to claim, an MEP must merely sign in before 10 am; there is no requirement for him or her to attend or speak in a subsequent debate or committee meeting, and while the abuse is not believed to be widespread there is nothing to prevent an MEP asking his research assistant from signing in on his or her behalf; no one checks up. In theory this allowance is meant to pay for accommodation and

The EU admits: we will never catch up with the US

An unusually candid report from the Commission acknowledges that the Lisbon goals remain an impossible dream

It's official: for the first time, the EU has conceded that it cannot compete with the US in economic terms and that its aim of becoming "the most competitive, knowledge-based economy in the world" by 2010 remains an impossible dream.

In a gloomy assessment on progress achieved since the Lisbon summit of 2000 a report from the Commission accepts that: "...the Union cannot catch up on the United States as our per capita GDP is 72 per cent of our American partner's".

It continues: "After four years of the Lisbon strategy, the Union's progress is still insufficient to achieve the objectives it has set itself. Although progress has been made in a number of key fields, the implementation of the reforms by member states does not measure up to the task. A number of sectors are even encountering significant difficulties...Europe deserves better".

Low productivity, sluggish investment, low spending on R&D, the slow pace of reform and the poor state of public finances are given as the main reason for the continuing gap with the US.

Typically, Romano Prodi has placed the blame on national governments while taking credit for "progress" achieved "at the European level". In an introduction to the report, he declares: "Member states do not seem to realise that 2010 is around the corner. Four years after Lisbon its clear we are going to miss our mid-term targets. This should be a wake-up call to governments. At the European level we have advanced steadily setting the right priorities..."

Blaming national governments makes good political sense: it deflects criticism from the Commission and appears to strengthen the case for accelerating the process of European integration. But there are obvious reasons to suppose that even if national governments are more vigorous in

applying the Lisbon agenda the supposed benefits will not materialise and the gap between the US and the EU will yawn still wider. These are:

■ The Lisbon strategy places great emphasis on high spending on Research and Development. But while it is true that rich countries spend a higher proportion of GDP on R&D than poor ones, there is no direct correlation between R&D spending and economic growth. Growth is boosted if the money is spent well, the research is of high quality and its commercial application is successful. Experience suggests that the private sector is much better at directing R&D spending than government which doesn't have the right skills for the task and may be influenced by political rather than economic criteria. Significantly, a higher proportion of US spending on R&D is undertaken by the private sector than in Europe.

■ The Lisbon strategy appears to labour under the illusion that jobs are created by government. It says that the EU has "created" six million of them. How clever of Signor Prodi! In the real world jobs are created as the result of transactions between buyers and sellers in the labour market. Far from being a net job creator, the EU has been a job-killer on a massive scale by impeding this process through the imposition of a never-ending flow of regulation.

■ According to the Commission, however, the functioning of the internal market is "hampered by the absence of proper regulation". The task of government is to provide a sympathetic framework of institutions in which individuals and businesses can pursue their own interests in the common good; regulation should only be imposed where self-regulation has been shown not to work. It is not

necessary to recite the interminable list of absurd, counter-productive and quite obviously unnecessary regulations to show that the Brussels machine is in overdrive in pursuit of objectives which have nothing to do with economic well-being and much to do with the goal of centralising power and the interests of the Brussels salariat.

■ The philosophy of Lisbon is the philosophy of harmonisation which runs counter to the aim of greater competitiveness. While paying lip service to the need for greater competition the EU proceeds in the opposite direction. As *eurofacts* went to press the Commission was preparing yet more proposals for tax harmonisation - essentially a measure which prevents competition between governments. The tax reductions of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan were widely copied - not because governments wanted to cut taxes, but because the stimulation of competition obliged them to follow suit. Tax harmonisation is bad, competition good.

Nevertheless, the Commission's report raises interesting questions, especially for those whose europhile zeal springs primarily from a deep anti-Americanism. If the EU cannot compete with the US in terms of growth, productivity, living standards, and consequently cannot compete either in terms of political and military power, what on earth is the point of it? Is it really worth surrendering national sovereignties and self-government while depressing living standards merely to annoy the world's greatest power?

Huge shifts in global power predicted

In 2050 the Indian economy alone will be more than twice as big as the combined economies of the UK, Germany, France and Italy

That Europeans tend to be Eurocentric is understandable. They're fairly well-off and fairly contented, and only a hundred years ago, before the First World War, Europe could justifiably be regarded as the centre of the world - culturally, militarily, economically, scientifically, politically. The collective memory lingers on. The rise to power of the United States had long been predicted, but it took two world wars to confirm American pre-eminence. Post-1945, the recoveries of the defeated Axis powers, Japan and Germany, set in train by the Americans (with a little help from the British) were startling, though both appeared to have run out of steam by the 1990s.

The next fifty years should put paid to any residual eurocentricism. While Japan continues to struggle, two new Asian superpowers are taking shape: China and India. By 2050, according to projections by Goldman Sachs¹, China will be the biggest economy in the world, having overtaken the UK in 2005, Germany in 2007, Japan in 2016 and the USA in 2041. America, in 2050, will be the second biggest and India the third biggest economy in the world.

Europe, like Japan, will continue to fade, growing slowly in real terms - just - but steadily sliding down the ranking of significant economic powers. In 2050, for example, the Indian economy alone will be more than twice as big as the combined economies of the four biggest

European economies, the UK, Germany, France and Italy. The even bigger Chinese economy will be getting on for four times as big as those of the UK, Germany, France and Italy combined.

Whilst British growth in real GDP is predicted to be at best modest over the next 44 years, it will be stronger than those of the big Continental countries (and of Japan). The British economy will overtake Germany's in 2036 and stretch its lead over those of France and Italy. Italy's real GDP, presently about three-quarters of the UK's, will be just above half by 2050.

Real GDPs Indexed on UK = 100

	2003		2050
USA	695	China	1180
Japan	279	USA	930
Germany	121	India	735
UK	100	Japan	176
France	89	Brazil	161
China	86	Russia	155
Italy	74	UK	100
India	33	Germany	95
Brazil	29	France	83
Russia	27	Italy	54

Across the Atlantic, the USA is predicted to stretch its lead over the best-performing European economy, Britain's. Today, the US economy is almost seven times bigger than the UK's; in 2050 it will over nine times as big.

The table shows real GDPs in 2003 and 2050, indexed in each of those

years on the UK's. In future, other things being equal, individual European nations are going to be doing far greater proportions of their overall trade outside Europe, and far smaller proportions with other European nations (indeed, this phenomenon is already under way²). The clout of the EU in bodies like the World Trade Organisation will diminish. Compared with the renminbi, dollar and rupee, the euro (if it lasts that long) will be a marginal currency.

A plausible scenario for 2050 is that the EU will then account for less than ten per cent of world trade³ and less than ten per cent of world GDP. Whatever economic rationale the EU may once have had will have long since disappeared. Why it should be in British interests to "integrate", as the euphemism goes, into such a declining bloc, becomes ever more inexplicable.

¹ *Dreaming with BRICs: the path to 2050*; Global Economics Paper No 99, 1st October 2003, Goldman Sachs, <http://www.gs.com>

² Global Britain Briefing Notes No 28: German Exports After the Euro, and No 29, French Exports After the Euro, www.globalbritain.org; see also *Germany's competitive position and foreign trade within the euro area*, October 2003 Monthly Report, Deutsche Bundesbank, www.bundesbank.de

³ The EU Economy: 2002 Review: EC/FIN/475/02-EN: 11th Dec 2002: European Commission; <http://europa.eu.int>

France still committed to Giscard draft

The following is an extract from an interview given by the French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin, to the French daily newspaper *Sud Ouest* on 15th January:

Question: *As regards Europe, since the failure of the Brussels summit to agree on the draft Constitution, France has been calling for its rapid*

finalisation. What's your deadline?

De Villepin: *We must grasp the nettle, while being aware that we have got to get it right. Europe needs an ambitious Constitution. And we want to give ourselves a demanding common rule if we want to measure up to the challenges. So the problem isn't to do with calculations or hidden agendas...or seeing what we can gain in return [for any concession we might*

agree to], but deciding how Europe can act i.e. take in due time the decisions necessary for its development. We'd like to see all these problems resolved in the course of 2004. We absolutely have to succeed.

Question: *For France, the Giscard draft doesn't require much alteration?*

De Villepin: *This draft is indeed an ambitious text, clearly setting the basis of what the text has to be.*

Taxpayer to fund EU university places

A major influx of students from the EU threatens to consume as much as a third of the additional £1 billion made available to universities as a result of the government's top-up fees package, according to Tony Halpin, Education Editor of *The Times* (*The Times*, 29th January)

Students from other EU countries, including those to be admitted on 1st May, will benefit from the same remission of fees as British students. This means that they will be expected to repay tuition fees of up to £3000 a year once they have graduated. But students from Eastern and Central Europe and the Baltic are unlikely to reach salary levels at which they are required to start repaying the cost of

their educations for many years and so will pay nothing.

In any event, the Student Loans Company has no right to deduct payments from the salaries of any foreign students including those from elsewhere in the EU and will have to employ debt agencies to pursue those who fail to pay or gave false addresses.

While the British taxpayer will end up with a huge bill for EU students it is clear that universities will have an incentive to recruit from the new EU states because they would get the £3000 tuition free from the government immediately. As citizens of the EU these students would face no visa problems and would also be

eligible to work in the UK.

Luton University has apparently declared that it has become "the university of choice" for students from Estonia. It plans promotions this spring in Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Cyprus and Latvia.

What this suggest is that Britain is about to become the "country of choice" for students from throughout Eastern and Central Europe who will receive a free university education at the very moment British students are required to pay more. Not to mention the opportunity to compete with British students for evening and vacation work in order to pay for their beer money.

Tory MEP leads fight against servile parties

Daniel Hannan, the Conservative MEP and journalist has gone to court to challenge the creation of state-funded trans-national political parties.

Together with 24 other MEPs, including just one other British MEP, Roger Helmer, Hannan has filed a suit with the EU Court of Justice seeking to block the use of taxpayers' money for this purpose.

As *eurofacts* pointed out in its last issue (30th January) the creation of publicly funded pan-European parties discriminates against eurosceptic parties which define their role in largely national terms. There is also a more overt discrimination in that in

order to meet the necessary criteria parties will need to accept "the fundamental values of Europe" as set out in the EU Charter of Human Rights. This would effectively disqualify parties who oppose the Charter on the grounds that the human rights issue should be decided through national courts and parliaments.

Although it does not yet have a name, an amalgamation of eight socialist and communist parties was formed last month. The creation of another comprising 31 Green parties is expected to be announced on 22nd February. In order to qualify for state funding, parties will need to poll just

three per cent of the vote in a quarter of states.

The cost of the legal challenge is being met by Hannan himself; others chipping in include MEPs from France, Scandinavia and some from applicant states.

Mr Hannan said last week: "*It is outrageous to disqualify parties on the basis of what they believe. This is how the communists maintained themselves in Eastern Europe. They didn't ban elections: they were voting all the time. They didn't even ban opposition parties. All they did was to prevent the opposition parties from contesting elections*".

Only one in five will vote in June elections

Only 18 per cent of UK voters are certain that they will take part in June's elections to the EU Parliament, according to a Mori poll (*The Independent*, 2nd February). This is

even lower than in 1999 which was a record low. According to *The Independent*, Mori uncovered evidence of "apathy, ignorance and hostility" to the EU. Just nine per cent thought it was the most important issue facing

the country and the survey also revealed a list of issues - such as the environment, animal rights and workplace conditions - on which people did not realise that Brussels had a major influence.

The EU must tax or die - Giscard

The question of how the Union is funded is of supreme political importance, particularly for those who are seeking to build a new, more cohesive political settlement in

Europe. As Valéry Giscard d'Estaing said to me at a very frosty meeting on the subject, pointing his finger at me when he said it: "Madame Stuart, people like you and the British will

have to realise that the Union cannot survive without an independent stream of income", Gisela Stuart, The Making of Europe's Constitution, Fabian Society, 2004.

LETTERS

Tel: 01548 821402 Fax: 01548 821574 email: eurofacts@junepress.com

Irish Change of Heart

Dear Sir,

Is the optimism of your front page editorial justified? Mr Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, may originally have said that there would be no attempt to get agreement on a constitutional draft this year. But under pressure from other EU states his government has quickly changed its tune. According to Dick Roche, Ireland's Minister for Europe: "*Some thought we would be inactive. Time is of the essence...Ireland is in one-to-one private meetings trying to revive the Constitution based on the original draft...The process is well under way*" (World at One 9th January).

We should not be surprised by this. Deceit is endemic in the EU.

FRANCIS WARREN
Lancaster

Dangerous Fallacy

Dear Sir,

It is a fallacy that the new member states will help the UK to change the European Union, as Russell Lewis suggests (*eurofacts* 16th January).

The people of the ex-communist countries may wish to live in democracies, free of outside interference, but their political elites will quickly realise how much more comfortable their own lives are in an authoritarian regime where they can ignore their electorates. The winners of that battle will be the elites as in all the other countries of the EU.

We must save ourselves by leaving the EU while we still can and not weakly hope that someone else can change things for the better.

Mrs P. R. STANCEY
Rutland

Dear Sir,

Two things in regard to Russell Lewis's review of "The Great Deception", which must be challenged.

He states, "*As for the 'ever closer union' declaration in the Rome Treaty preamble, that could be plausibly dismissed as a visionary hope*". Alas,

that was what Mrs Thatcher was told about the clause in the SEA about monetary union. Visionary hopes have a regular habit of appearing as real nightmares in subsequent Directives or Constitutions!

Secondly he thinks we have allies in Eastern European countries. We thought that thirty years ago with Sweden and Denmark (also Norway, but she had the excellent sense not to join), but worse, Mr Lewis does not allow for the strange desire of these countries to join the EU at all. These countries' governments are a bit like long term prisoners who, on release, fear they cannot live independently and so re-offend in order to return to the controlled environment of prison life.

Revd. PHILIP FOSTER
Cambridge

Time for a Rallying Cry

Dear Sir,

I do not understand why any British Prime Minister confronted with a proposed 'European Constitution', the provisions of which, should they be adopted, can only spell the end of our existence as an independent nation, should choose to presume he has a mandate to enter into negotiations about it. Nor do I understand why he does not issue a rallying cry to the British people to resist any such proposals to the utmost of their moral and material resources, as Churchill did in 1940, in full confidence of the overwhelming supportive response he would receive.

Revd. JOHN PAPWORTH
Wiltshire

Blackmail over the Euro

Dear Sir,

I see that there has been yet another tiresome effort by the President and Chief Executive of Nissan, Carlos Ghosn, to involve himself in British politics. He is attempting to blackmail us into joining the euro, under threat of not building the latest model at the

company's Sunderland plant.

In the first instance, British policy on EMU has to be decided on what is best for the whole country and not just for the benefit of Japanese car manufacturers. In the second place, the idea that Nissan would derive any benefit from Britain being part of EMU is frankly absurd, looking at recent evidence of the economic situation in euroland, which continues to hover on the brink of recession.

The Bundesbank's October 2003 report on "*Germany's competitive position and foreign trade within the eurozone*" shows that there has been a marked increase in German foreign trade during the past four and a half years but that monetary union has played 'no more than a minor role in this'.

Moreover, the report states that "*German foreign trade with non-euro-area countries has increased more sharply than intra-trade with the euro-area partner countries*", the clear inference being that Germany has benefitted little from EMU membership and that it has done far better in trade outside of the EU. There is no reason to suppose that Britain's position and that of Nissan would have been any different if we were in the eurozone now. In fact, Britain's economic performance outside of the eurozone has been better than all of the other EU member states.

With car purchases at record levels in Britain, 2.6 million last year, but in decline across Europe, who does Mr Ghosn think he is kidding? Motor-car manufacturers should stay out of politics and would do well to remember the lessons of Britain's last experiment with European currency co-ordination - our disastrous membership of the ERM in the early 1990s. Interest rates soared to 15 per cent, thousands lost their homes and unemployment rose by 72 per cent in one year.

When people are out of work and can't afford their mortgages, the last thing they will be doing is buying cars!
STODDART OF SWINDON
House of Lords

MEETINGS

The Bruges Group
020-7287 4414

Wednesday **17th March 2004**, 7.00 pm

“The Malcontente Cordiale: 100 Years of Anglo-French ‘Alliance’”

Andrew Roberts, *Historian and broadcaster*

15th ANNIVERSARY MEETING
The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1

Admission £10 on the door - or in advance (Refreshments included)

Cross-Party Organizations
01628-666456

Saturday **24th April 2004**

March & Rally calling for a **National Referendum** on the **European Constitution**

10.30 am, Victoria Embankment

12.00 am, March
(Presentation of petition at No 10 Downing Street)

3.00 pm, Rally, Hyde Park

Speakers to be announced

MARCH & RALLY
London
All Welcome

Campaign for an Independent Britain
020-8340 0314

Saturday **17th April 2004**, 2.30 pm

“European Union - the great deception”

Christopher Booker, *Author and journalist*

Neil Herron, *Campaign Director Referendum 04 and Metric Martyr Defence Fund*

Chairman, **The Lord Stoddart of Swindon**

PUBLIC MEETING
Upper Hall, The Emmanuel Centre,
9-23 Marsham Street, London SW1
Admission Free

UK Independence Party
Chichester Branch
01243-532509

Tuesday **4th May 2004**, 7.30 pm

“Who Governs Britain”

Philip Benwell, *National Chairman of the Australian Monarchy League*

Petrina Holdsworth, *Barrister*
Ashley Mote, *Author of Vigilance and Overcrowded Britain*

PUBLIC MEETING
Schola Grammaticus Hall, Midhurst,
West Sussex
(opposite the North Street car park)
Admission Free

The Bruges Group
020-7287 4414

Wednesday **5th May 2004**, 7.00 pm

Carl Mortishead, *Journalist with The Times*

PUBLIC MEETING
The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1
Admission £10 on the door - or in advance (Refreshments included)

Gresham College
020-7831 0575

Thursday **6th May 2004**, 6.00 pm

“Dollarisation and Gresham’s Law: Will there in the future be just one or two currencies?”

Professor Avinash Persaud, *Mercers’ School Memorial Professor of Commerce at Gresham College*

PUBLIC MEETING
Barnard’s Inn Hall, Holburn, London
Admission Free

DIARY OF EVENTS

2004	
Accession of ten new Member States	1st May
European MEP Elections	June
Netherlands takes over EU presidency	1st July

UK Independence Party
Winchester Branch
01962-711112

Monday **24th May 2004**, 7.30 pm

“European Union - the great deception”

Christopher Booker, *Author and journalist*
Nigel Farage MEP

PUBLIC MEETING
The Guildhall, Winchester, Hampshire
Admission Free ”

SELECT COMMITTEES

House of Lords
020-7219 3000

Thursday **24th Feb. 2004**, 4.15 pm
Evidence will be heard on *The State of the Economy and Economic Policy, Long Term and Short Term* from Patrick Minford, Cardiff University and IEA Shadow Monetary Policy Committee.

Wednesday **25th Feb. 2004**, 11.00 am
Evidence may be heard on *EU Policy on Climate Change*.

Wednesday **25th Feb. 2004**, 4.15 pm
Evidence may be heard on *The Proposed Regulation on the Law applicable to non-contractual obligations (“Rome” II)*.

Thursday **26th Feb. 2004**, 10.45 am
Evidence will be heard on *EU International Development Assistance*.

Tuesday **2nd March 2004**, 4.15 pm
Evidence will be heard on *The State of the Economy and Economic Policy, Long Term and Short Term* from Jean-Philippe Cotis, Chief Economist, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Wednesday **3rd March 2004**, 11.00 am
Evidence may be heard on *EU Policy on Climate Change*.

Thursday **4th March 2004**, 10.45 am
Evidence will be heard on *EU International Development Assistance* from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and the Ministry of Defence.

Note: Committee Meetings can change from Public to Private without warning

Subsidiarity and the Illusion of Democratic Control

by *John Bercow MP. £2.00*

A critical examination of the concept of subsidiarity as employed in the draft EU Constitution.

The Great Deception: The Secret History of the European Union

by *Christopher Booker & Richard North. £20.00*

A comprehensive history of the European Union project.

An Analysis of the Draft Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe

by *Anthony & Andrew Cowgill. £15.00*

The definitive guide to the draft of the proposed EU Constitutional Treaty.

Whip's Nightmare

Diary of a Maastricht Rebel
by *Christopher Gill. £17.50*

Former rebel MP gives an insight into the way politics works and why Britain's freedom is being surrendered.

The Trojan Hearse

by *J. Brian Heywood. £9.99*

This book although a work of fiction - or is it? raises a multitude of awkward questions and provides some uncomfortably plausible answers.

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A clear and easy to understand assessment of the EU Draft Treaty by a Constitutional Lawyer.

A Constitution to Destroy Europe

by *Bill Jamieson. £2.00*

A financial expert examines the proposed EU Constitution.

Criminal Justice and the draft Constitution

by *The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP. £2.00*

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by *John Mills. £19.99*

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OverCrowded Britain

by *Ashley Mote. £8.95*

This book looks at the facts and consequences of large-scale immigration.

The Making of Europe's Constitution

by *Gisela Stuart MP. £6.95*

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