

## Blair's budget deal to cost even more than the critics allege

*UK Net Contribution to more than double as a result of the Blair rebate giveaway*

At the time of writing (early January 2006), the British government does not appear to have disclosed the estimated total cost (resulting from the 17th December partial surrender of the UK rebate) of the British **net** contribution to Brussels during the seven-year period 2007-2013. However, based on information buried away in the Chancellor's December 2005 Pre-Budget Report and in his Written Answer of 20th December 2005, *Global Britain* has pieced together such an estimate. This suggests that the total cost to the British taxpayer will be significantly higher than even the fiercest critics of the Blair deal have suggested.

### Staggering Amount

If *Global Britain's* figures are right, averaged over the seven-year period of the next "EU Financial Perspective" from 2007 to 2013 inclusive, the amount of the UK net contribution to "EU Institutions" will be £10.6 bn per year. This is well over double (2.3 times to be exact) the UK average net contribution to "EU Institutions" over the five years 2000 to 2004 inclusive, during which, according to the ONS, it has been £4.6 billion per year. **Altogether, over the whole seven-year period 2007 to 2013, the cumulated amount of the net contribution will be a staggering £74.4 billion.** (To put that figure in context, VAT will raise £74 billion in the current financial year alone, while government spending on health will be

£90 billion.)

In the final year, 2013, of the seven-year period, the UK net contribution to EU Institutions is estimated to be closer to £12 billion than to the £10.6 billion average for the period.

The background to the *Global Britain* estimate is as follows. Various "official" estimates of the UK net contribution are published by the Treasury and the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The Treasury estimates are much lower than those of the ONS. The ONS takes account of all transactions with "EU Institutions", while the Treasury takes account only of the Treasury's payments to and receipts from the "EU Budget" itself, the one managed - if that's the word - by the Commission. Recently, for the first time, in *United Kingdom Balance of Payments: The Pink Book 2005*, the ONS published a table (Table 9.9: "UK Official transactions with institutions of the EU") showing, for the calendar years 1994-2004, "The UK net contribution to the EU", using - apparently - the Treasury definition of that statistic (in other words the lower figure). The "UK net contribution" so displayed can be contrasted directly with the higher total figure for all transactions - "official" and otherwise - between the UK and "EU Institutions". Over the 5-year period 2000 - 2004 inclusive the ONS figure has been on average 1.657 times higher than the Treasury figure.

*Global Britain's* starting point is the Treasury's own projected figure (in the December 2005 Pre-Budget Report)

for the "UK Net Contribution to the EU Budget" of £5.2 billion for the financial year 2007-2008. This figure was struck before the closing summit of the UK Presidency at which, on 17th December, a deal was agreed on the "EU Financial Perspective 2007-2013". In a Written Answer to a presumably planted question (see overleaf), the Chancellor gave estimates for the "extra" costs to the UK resulting from the Blair deal. In 2007-2008 he states that the extra cost is £0.5 billion. *Global Britain* (in the absence of any government explanation) assumes that "extra costs" are the same as "extra net contribution" and adds this "extra" to the £5.2 billion to get £5.7 billion as the total "UK Net Contribution to the EU Budget" for 2007-2008.

### Many Assumptions

In subsequent years, *Global Britain* assumes - conservatively - that the ongoing post-2008 "base" level of the "Net Contribution to the EU Budget" is the same - £5.2 billion - as in 2007-2008. The "extra" amounts disclosed in the Chancellor's Written Answer (Appendix B below) are added to the £5.2 billion to give the total figure up to 2013. These figures are then multiplied by 1.657 to give the figures for the estimated "Net Contribution to EU Institutions" which sum up to £74.4 billion over the period 2007-2013. It is emphasised that the "correct" figure could well be even

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# New pressure for European Tax

New pressure is building up behind the drive to introduce a European tax. As one might expect this originates from the Commission which is deeply unhappy that the budget deal created by Tony Blair in December does not give it as much money or as much freedom to spend as it would like.

Spear-heading the campaign is Joaquin Almunia, the EU Finance Commissioner who has been talking about his plans to the Spanish media (there is almost no eurosceptic movement in Spain so ministers and EU officials can talk without inhibition about further steps towards European political integration without fearing a public backlash).

According to Mr Almunia the purpose of the EU tax - which he would prefer to call "a community resource" would be to give EU institutions "more autonomy and

flexibility".

But while Mr Almunia spoke openly about his plans he believes that EU citizens should not be allowed to know where the money comes from. Concealment about the origin of the money collected from individual states was necessary to avoid 'constant fighting over net and gross payments', he explained.

The move to create an EU-specific tax was launched by the Commission President Jose Barroso following the December summit when he declared: "...I am increasingly convinced that we cannot go on like this. We need a systematic revision of the budget, looking at it without restrictions or taboos".

Barroso's aim is to break the link between the EU budget and national budgets in order to reduce the pressures on national leaders to keep a

grip on contributions to the EU.

Currently 73 per cent of the EU budget comes from member states, with the remainder coming mainly from customs duties and agricultural levies.

Britain is formally opposed to an EU tax and if the pressures to introduce one came merely from the Commission - whose own interest in boosting its income and power is obvious - there might be no reason for concern. But the plan has increasing support in a number of EU countries. Among individual political leaders backing the tax are the new German Chancellor Angela Merkel, leader of the French UMP Nicholas Sarkozy, Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schussel and Bavarian prime minister Edmund Stoiber.

## Productivity floundering in EU '15'

Figures for 2005 produced by the Conference Board, the global business organisation, report productivity growth in the 15 old members of the European Union of only 0.5 per cent, compared with 1.8 per cent in the US and 1.9 per cent in Japan. In contrast, productivity in the

10 new members, mostly in eastern Europe, grew rapidly in 2005, rising by 6.2 per cent as they took advantage of EU membership to increase both the hours worked in their economies and the value of the output of every worker.

Annual growth in national output for every hour worked in the EU 15 averaged 1.4 per cent between 1995

and 2005, compared with 2.4 per cent in the US.

The results give another indication of how the world's economic centre of gravity has been gradually moving from countries bordering the Atlantic to those around the Pacific. Source: *Financial Times*, 18th January 2006.

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## Budget deal: worse for Britain than first thought

higher.

The *Global Britain* estimate, in the absence of full disclosure by the Government of its own estimates, is a "rough and ready" figure, based on many assumptions, explicit and implicit. Nevertheless, it seems plausible.

There is another aspect to all of this which has gone unnoticed. On the Monday (19th December 2005) following the Blair rebate humiliation in Brussels, a Labour/Co-op MP for West Dunbartonshire, John McFall, was prompted to put down a Written Question for the Chancellor (the Labour MP for another Scottish constituency, Kirkcaldy) on the EU

Budget for the seven-year period 2007-2013 inclusive. On 20th December a Written Answer responded to Mr McFall's question.

**Mr McFall:** *to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the UK's contribution to the EU Budget will be in each year from 2007 to 2013 under the recently agreed [in Brussels] budget.*

**Mr Gordon Brown:** *The estimated extra costs will be £500 million (0.09 per cent of public spending) in 2007-08, zero in 2008-09, £1.0 billion (0.16 per cent) in 2009-10, and between £1.6 billion and 1.9 billion (0.23 per cent and 0.26 per cent) each year between*

*2010 and 2012-13.*

*The fiscal forecast will be updated as usual at the Budget.*

Sharp-eyed readers will have spotted that, first of all, Mr Brown ignored the actual question asked, which was: "What will the UK's contribution be?" Instead, Mr Brown chose to quote the "extra costs" - a quite different kettle of fish.

Second, even more curiously, Mr Brown only gave figures for six financial years, not for the seven years 2007-2013. A genuine mistake no doubt - after all, what's a couple of billion pounds of UK taxpayers' money between friends?

# EU creates own para-military force 'to keep public order'

*Increasingly, measures to create a common European defence are being used to rescue the European project*

**A**nother step in the creation of a common European defence - or what the French call *Defence Europe* - was taken on Thursday 19th January when the EU Gendarmerie Force (EGF) was launched in Vicenza. Why Vicenza? Possibly because the city is home to Camp Ederle, one of the biggest remaining US bases in Italy, and its selection as the HQ for the new para-military force is intended as a symbol of Europe's growing military ambitions.

The EGF, which includes para-military forces from Italy, Spain, France, Holland and Portugal and whose task includes 'the restoration of public order' - adds to the list of EU bodies and institutions over which there is little or no accountability, or scrutiny.

The origin of the new force lies in a decision taken at the EU Council at Santa Maria de Feira in June 2000 when EU states agreed to cooperate "to provide up to 5,000 police officers for international missions across the range of conflict prevention and crisis management operations". On that occasion member states undertook to identify and deploy up to 1,000 police officers within 30 days.

Since then it has become clear that only five states have been willing to make specific commitments. The EGF, which is intended to operate both

inside and outside EU borders will consequently involve the French Gendarmerie, the Italian Carabinieri, the Portuguese Guardia Nacional Republicana, the Dutch Royal Marechaussee and the Spanish Guardia Civil.

More recently, the development of the EGF as an essential component of *Defence Europe* has been vigorously promoted by the French defence minister Mme Michele Alliot-Marie - not, it transpires, because she has identified a particular security problem to which the EGF would provide an answer but because she believes that progress in this area is the best means of breathing new life into the European project.

## Battle Groups

In an article in the European edition of *The Financial Times* on 5th December she was candid on this point: "Security could be Europe's rallying point...I believe a combined initiative in the defence and security could help revive both confidence and action in Europe".

Pointing to the establishment of an EU military planning centre, the decision to create battle groups of 1,500 troops, the progress in plans for the EGF, and the launch of the European Defence Agency she added:

*"These achievements prove that European Defence is on the move. It has become a main pillar of our common policy and will no doubt play a key role in the relaunch of the European project, which is already under way"*.

According to Mme Alliot-Marie the next step in the process will be a study to assess the feasibility of setting up a naval officer training programme on a 'European' ship.

Meanwhile, the EGF is now up and running. Its HQ in Vicenza will have a staff of 30 and around 800 para-military personnel available within 30 days. Its roles include public surveillance, border control, general intelligence and the "maintenance of public order in the event of disturbances".

The record of multi-national forces in terms of cohesion and combat readiness is not good - the standards set tends to be that of the least proficient national unit - while the inclusion in the force of the Italian Carabinieri and Spain's Guardia Civil is not calculated to exactly inspire confidence among libertarians. The EGF's creation may or may not inhibit or worry terrorists or international master criminals unduly, but the rest of us have ample reason to be anxious about the absence of mechanisms of accountability and scrutiny.

## The folly of suppressing nations

*A sound and stable international order can be founded upon respect for nations and nation states. Whatever the flaws of particular nationalisms, national pride and national institutions*

*constitute the best grounding for a functioning democracy. Attempts to suppress national differences or to amalgamate different nations with distinct traditions into artificial states*

*are very likely to fail, perhaps bloodily. The wise statesman will celebrate nationhood - and use it.*

Margaret Thatcher, Introduction to *Statecraft*, Harper Collins, 2002.

## The first European federalist?

*We must have a European legal system, a European appeal court, a common currency, the same weights and measures, the same laws...I must make*

*of all the peoples of Europe one people, and of Paris the capital of the world.* Napoleon, in conversation with Joseph Fouché, around 1805 (quoted in

Chapter 1, *Caesar*, of "1812", by Adam Zamoyski, who gives two sources: Herold, 245, 243, and Fouché, II/114).

# Educating schools about the EU

*John Butters describes Civitas' programme to bring enlightenment about EU affairs to the classroom*

As readers of *eurofacts* will know, the main problem that Euro-sceptics face is that people do not know very much about the European Union. If they understood its endless regulations, daft agricultural policy, self-serving trade practices and unceasing will to acquire power, they would be even more Euro-sceptical than they are already. In the debate about Britain's future in Europe, we have the stronger case. The trick is to get that case heard.

That is the thought behind Civitas' programme of talks for schools. Over the past year, we have found 130 people around the country to give sceptical talks about the EU to sixth-formers, and arranged almost 120 talks. Our approach has been to work in partnership with committed teachers who are determined that their students should think things through for themselves. Sometimes we arrange speakers for extra-curricular "enrichment sessions" or politics classes, confident that good teachers will challenge their students to think critically about what they hear; and sometimes we set up debates, with speakers from the European Movement - because if you have a better

argument, there is nothing to fear from proper debate.

It is in that spirit that we have decided to make information about the European Union available in other ways. We are organising a sixth-form conference in March 2006, with speakers from across the spectrum of opinion, who will speak on subjects that are directly relevant to the syllabi for economics and for government and politics. As well as improving students' knowledge of the Union, this fits well with Civitas' main aim: to improve public understanding of the legal, institutional and moral framework that makes for a free and democratic society.

## Appalling Comics

We are also producing unbiased fact sheets about the European Union. For students who, in their earlier careers, may have encountered the Commission's appalling comic books (on the environment: '*Yes, solidarity is the only answer*'), or even [www.captaineuro.com](http://www.captaineuro.com), in which our hero battles swarthy international investor Dr. D. Vider, balanced information about how the EU actually

works, from a non-partisan think-tank, is probably long overdue. The fact sheets must be, first and foremost, a resource for the committed teachers who get in touch with us, so their format has been designed by an experienced teacher to be easy to use and photocopy. We plan to have a pilot version ready, on the internet and on CD, in the New Year.

There is a lot more to do. Our fact sheets need to be revised and edited until they are as good as they can be, and for that we will be asking teachers with whom we have worked before for some help. And, of course, we have reached only a minority of students, and only the ones doing their A-level exams this year. To really improve public understanding of why we have a free and democratic society, and why it is being eroded by the EU, we will have to work at this for many years to come.

*If you would like to arrange a talk, please contact Wayne Ives on [wayne.ives@civitas.org.uk](mailto:wayne.ives@civitas.org.uk), or 020 7799 6677.*

## UKIP to challenge social democratic consensus

UKIP is to lay out a domestic agenda aimed at wooing Conservatives dismayed with the leadership of David Cameron, according to a report in *The Business* (14th January).

The party has appointed David Campbell-Bannerman, great nephew of the former Liberal Prime Minister Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, as its new chairman with a remit of

conducting a radical libertarian policy review.

It aims to recast itself as a party campaigning for independence from government "whether in Brussels or in Westminster" and believes it can win funding from disgruntled Conservative donors.

UKIP - which finished third in the 2004 European Parliament elections - has apparently decided to pitch itself as

the only alternative to what it will call the "social democratic consensus" in Westminster.

Its policy review is likely to result in calls for a flat tax in Britain, and full liberalisation of the state health and education apparatus using a voucher system. This will in effect position it as a protest party for libertarian Conservatives.

## Putting nation states in their place

*"No one should underestimate the [EU] parliament. We will teach them [member states] respect."* Reimer Boge, the German conservative MEP declaring his opposition to the EU budget deal on the 12th January 2006.

# Time to emerge from the eurosceptic closet!

*Too many eurosceptics acknowledge the case against British membership of the EU - but refuse to advocate withdrawal*

**E**urofacts, which has never made any bones about its long standing conviction that Britain would be far better off out of the EU, welcomes to the ranks of the “outers” Ruth Lea, the present director of the Centre for Policy Studies and *Daily Telegraph* columnist.

Ruth, who enjoys a reputation as a robust and clear-headed critic of the EU’s economic policies, argued the case for “disengagement” from the European Union in the BBC Radio 4 programme *Any Questions* on the 6th January.

Her candour serves as a reminder that there are a large number of prominent public figures who recognise the strength of the case for withdrawal from the EU but remain unwilling to say this publicly. Presumably, possible reasons include the likely impact on career or reputation, tactical considerations or even a fear that they may be excluded from polite society, although this risk has surely been diminished by the French and Dutch rejection of the Constitution.

At least 20 names of prominent public figures who we know to favour

withdrawal but who are unwilling to say so publicly come quickly to mind, and there are certainly many others.

Perhaps the time for courage and public candour has arrived. If a succession of those members of the Great and the Good were to emerge from the eurosceptic closet to announce their support for withdrawal (at a pinch ‘disengagement’ or some other euphemism will do) this would have a cumulative impact on the British debate and the way in which that debate is reported.

## Weak and Feeble

Those who hesitant about ‘coming out’ might do well to reflect that in a few years time those who presently acknowledge that Britain is badly served by its membership but argue against pulling out will look very weak and feeble indeed.

However, for those public figures unwilling to make this leap in one go we suggest that it is possible to tread the path to political virtue in four easy stages by expressing progressively bolder positions which might take the

following form:

- I used to believe that the EU could be reformed in order to make it more democratic and to protect British interests, but the evidence now strongly suggests otherwise.
- The evidence that Britain’s economic and political interests are being damaged by EU membership is now overwhelming and can no longer be ignored.
- There is a powerful case for the immediate renegotiation of Britain’s terms of membership and for facing up to the consequences if we do not succeed in this objective as a matter of urgency.
- We’re British. Get us out of here! (or words to that effect).

Those, like Ruth, who have actually displayed the courage of their intellectual convictions by joining the ranks of the ‘outers’ report that the process of coming out gives them an immediate moral and spiritual uplift while medical opinion confirms that the prolonged repression of deep personal convictions and feelings can do permanent damage to one’s psychological well-being.

## UK still Eurozone’s biggest customer

**Eurozone Trade: 12 Months to 30th June 2005: bn**

	<i>UK</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>World</i>
Eurozone Exports*	375	322	1889
Eurozone Imports*	295	281	1872
Eurozone Surplus	80	41	17

\* Goods, Services, Income, Transfers

Source: ECB Monthly Bulletin: Table 7.3.1, Nov 2005

**T**he table above shows that in the twelve months to end-June 2005 the UK continued to be the Eurozone’s single biggest market, accounting for 20 per cent of Eurozone exports worldwide. And that the Eurozone’s

massive surplus on its trade with the UK was its single biggest surplus anywhere in the world.

The Eurozone’s second biggest market was the USA, which accounted for 17 per cent of Eurozone exports

worldwide. The Eurozone’s surplus on its trade with the UK was double that of its surplus with the USA.

All of which confirms that in any “renegotiation” with the EU the UK would hold the whip-hand.

# LETTERS

Tel: 08456 12 12 65 Fax: 08456 12 12 75 email: [eurofacts@junepress.com](mailto:eurofacts@junepress.com)

## Lower the "Flag"

Dear Sir,

Your support for the legalisation of the European emblem, which you call "flag", is misguided. At present the emblem (a badge of servitude to Brussels?) is regarded in law as an advertisement and may be flown only with planning permission from the relevant local authority. Thus, when I drew attention to the lawless flying of the emblem from the flagpole of the Lib-Dem controlled Islington Town Hall it had to be hauled down by the Eurofanatic councillors until they had gone through the appropriate procedures to give themselves planning permission to proclaim from the rooftop their support for that institution, which is neither liberal nor democratic.

The fact that planning permission is required for this advertisement is a valuable reminder of the political and financial cost of EU membership under present arrangements.

The emblem was born in 1985 as a means of enhancing the EU's profile, when its circle of 12 stars on an azure background was officially described in this way:

*Twelve is a symbol of perfection and plenitude, associated equally with the apostles, the sons of Jacob, the tables of the Roman legislator, the labours of Hercules, the hours of the day, the months of the year, and the signs of the Zodiac. And the circular layout denotes union.*

Those of us who went to Sunday school also know that the circle of gold stars is a Christian symbol representing the Virgin Mary (Revelations 12:1).

The Commission declared that the emblem was "the symbol *par excellence* of European identity and

European unification".

Does John Prescott, who has decided to give the emblem the same status as the Union flag, know all that? And how is this all explained to the non-Christian nations eager to join?

ROY ROEBUCK

London

## A Day for Britain?

Dear Sir,

If we are to have a "British Day", as Gordon Brown proposes, then I suggest May 9th. It has been officially designated as "Europe Day" for some years now without attracting the slightest popular interest or support, so why not use it for a better purpose?

Dr D R COOPER

Berkshire

## Demographic Realities

Dear Sir,

An article in *eurofacts* dated October 21st 2005, gave the following birth rates in France: European women 1.6, Sub-Saharan African women 4.0, Turkish women 3.7, North African women 3.2.

The replacement birth-rate [that is, the birth rate needed to maintain a stable population] is 2.1 in developed countries - 1.6 is 76 per cent of the replacement rate. Therefore a birth-rate of 1.6 will lead to a reduction in population by this percentage in the next generation. The present European population of France is about 55 million. If a birth-rate of 1.6 is maintained for three generations [roughly until the end of the 21st century], the European population will fall to about 24 million.

The mathematical average of the birth rates for non-Europeans in France is 3.6, which is 171 per cent of the replacement rate. A birth-rate of 3.6

will lead to an increase by this percentage in the next generation. The present non-European population in France is about 5 million. If a birth-rate of 3.6 is maintained for three generations, the non-European population will rise to about 25 million.

The current European and non-European populations are much the same in Britain as in France. If the birth-rates are also much the same, the European population of Britain may fall and the non-European population may rise to the levels calculated for France by the end of the 21st century.

RICHARD CLEMENTS

Essex

## Britain's message to the Pope

Dear Sir,

Before seeking Pope Benedict XVI's support for EU expansion, would it not be more appropriate for Francis Campbell, our new British Ambassador to the Holy See, to insist that our government bring about reform of the European Union and in the unlikely event of achieving this, to quit the EU altogether?

His inference that expanding EU frontiers will bring democracy to other states is both disingenuous and false. EU governance is not democratic; those in power impose legislation upon member states without debate within or approval of the national governments that are accountable to their electorates; those in power enjoy very substantial incomes and privileges and have no will to reform the endemic corruption that prevails and provides these privileges.

R.S.GALLIANO

Buckinghamshire

## A scandalous failure of leadership?

*Not for the first time, the British political establishment is proving scandalously incapable of responding to the most important challenges of the era.*

Leader column, *The Business*, 15/16th January 2005.

# MEETINGS

## The Northern Ireland Springbok Club

Saturday **28th January 2006**, 11.30 am

“The EU Conspiracy, the Gunpowder Plot, Napoleon and Hitler”

**Pastor Nigel Owens B.Th.,B.A. (Hons)**

### PUBLIC MEETING

Chairman's house in Finvoy, Ballymoney

**Admission £5 - Members Free (Tickets from N.I. Club, PO Box 35, Ballymoney, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT53 7YE)**

### Freedom Association 07979-695611

Tuesday **7th February 2006**, 12.30 pm  
**Philip Davies MP**, *Conservative Member for Shipley*

Tuesday **21st March 2006**, 12.30 pm  
**Howard Flight**, *former Conservative MP*

### PUBLIC MEETING

The Function Suite of the The Counting House Pub, 50 Cornhill, near Bank, London EX3V 3PD

**Admission Free**

### Bonar Law Club 07984-610696

Thursday **9th February 2006**, 7.00 pm

**The Rt Hon. the Lord Tebbit of Chingford**

### PUBLIC MEETING

The Two Chairmen, 39 Dartmouth Street, Westminster, London SW1

**Admission £2**

### Public Meeting 01672 515275

Sunday **12th Feb. 2006**, 2.00 pm

**Lindsay Jenkins**, *author of Disappearing Britain*

### PUBLIC MEETING

The Bear, High Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire

**Admission Free**

## Gresham College 020 7831 0575

Tuesday **21st February 2006**, 6.00 pm

“Leadership and change: Prime Ministers in the post-war world - Wilson”

**Professor Peter Hennessy  
Philip Ziegler**  
**Vernon Bogdanor CBE  
FBA**, *Gresham Professor of Law*

### PUBLIC MEETING

Staple Inn Hall, Holburn, London  
**Admission Free**

### European Institute and London School of Economics events@lse.ac.uk

Tuesday **28th Feb. 2006**, 6.30 pm

**Valery Giscard d'Estaing**  
Chairman: **Howard Davies**

### PUBLIC MEETING

Old Building, London School of Economics, London

**Admission by Free Ticket**

(Tickets available from E-mail event@lse.ac.uk)

### The Anti-Common Market League 01787 376374

Monday **6th March 2006**, 7.00 pm

“The Case for EFTA”

**Daniel Hannan MEP**, *Conservative*

### PUBLIC MEETING

The Clarence (upstairs), 53 Whitehall, London SW1

**Admission Free**

### UK Independence Party 01722 744814

### ALL DAY CONFERENCE

Saturday **25th March 2006**,  
Commencing 11.00 am

**Speakers to be announced**

### PUBLIC MEETING

Great Hall, Exeter University, Devon  
**Admission Free**

## SELECT COMMITTEES

### House of Lords 020-7219 3000

Tuesday **31st January 2006**, 3.40 pm  
Evidence will be heard on *Government Policy on the Management of Risk* from the Rail Safety Standards Board

Tuesday **31st January 2006**, 4.00 pm  
Evidence will be heard on *Statutory Instruments* from;

(a) Mr Rick Haythornthwaite, Chairman, Better Regulations Commission; and

(b) Minister for the Cabinet Office, to be confirmed.

Wednesday **1st February 2006**, 4.00 pm  
Evidence will be heard on *Counter-Terrorism Policy and Human Rights* from Mr David Hanson MP, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office.

Wednesday **1st February 2006**, 4.15 pm  
Evidence will be heard on *A European Fundamental Rights Agency* from Mr Alvaro Gil-Robles, Human Rights Commissioner at the Council of Europe.

Thursday **2nd February 2006**, 10.00 am  
Evidence will be heard by the Social Policy and Consumer Affairs Sub-Committee *G* from witnesses to be confirmed.

Tuesday **7th February 2006**, 10.35 am  
Evidence will be heard on *A European Strategy for Jobs and Growth - The Lisbon Agenda* from John Healey MP, Financial Secretary to HM Treasury.

Thursday **9th February 2006**, 10.00 am  
Evidence will be heard by the Social Policy and Consumer Affairs Sub-Committee *G* from witnesses to be confirmed.

Monday **13th February 2006**, 4.15 pm  
Evidence will be heard on *Commission's Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (2007-2013)* from Lord Sainsbury of Turville, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science and Innovation.

*Note:*

*Committee Meetings can change from Public to Private without warning*

**The Great Deception:  
Can the European Union survive**  
*by Christopher Booker. £9.99*

This is the latest version (November 2005) of this comprehensive history of the European Union.

**The Syndicate**

*by Nicholas Hagger. £11.99*

Why a European state is unworkable and how in the end it will destroy parliamentary democracy.

**The Case for EFTA**

*by Daniel Hannan MEP. £3.00*  
Alternatives to the EU.

**Britain and the EU:**

**Time to Move On**

*by Christopher Hoskin. £3.95*  
The EU malaise and the cure.

**The Future is a Foreign Country**

*by Matthew Illsley. £10.00*

Full of useful detail and quotes on how and why we got into the EU mess. It leads to the conclusion that withdrawal from the EU is the only way forward.

**Disappearing Britain**

The EU and the death of  
Local Government

*by Lindsay Jenkins. £14.99*

The detailed Brussels agenda for the break-up of the United Kingdom.

**Resolving the European Crisis**

Perspectives on the future of  
the European Union

*Edited by Paul Jervis. £9.99*

Opinion formers include; Daniel Hannan MEP, Ruth Lea, Lord Pearson, John Redwood MP and Gisela Stuart MP.

**The Missing Heart of Europe**

Does Britain hold the key to  
the future of the Continent?

*by Thomas Kremer. £11.99*

Can nation states flourish? A European businessman's view of the impact of divergent national cultures.

**The 2006 Essential Guide to the EU**

*by Ruth Lea. £15.00*

A detailed yet accessible analysis of how the EU works now and in the future.

**Who's Afraid of a**

**European Constitution?**

*by Neil MacCormick. £8.95*

A member of the European Convention on the Future of Europe and former MEP describes its nature and purpose.

**Alarming Drum**

**Britain's European Dilemma**

*by Peter Morgan. Hdbk £19.95*

An analysis of Britain's relationship with the EU, Director-General of the IoD (1989-1994) proposes alternatives to current failing EU.

**The Wrong Side of the Hill**

The Secret Realignment of UK  
Defence Policy with the EU

*by Richard North. £10.00*

The author argues that Britain has embarked on a course that will divide it from its traditional American ally.

**The Benefits of Tax Competition**

*by Richard Teather £12.50*

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