

Why we might not have seen the end of the Lisbon story

If the German Chancellor insists on renegotiation of the treaty as a result of the financial crisis, it will offer an opportunity to Eurosceptics and the Tories, whether they win or not

They told us that the Treaty of Lisbon was the treaty to end all EU treaties. Well, they told us a lot of things that have turned out not to be entirely trustworthy – that Lisbon would make the EU more efficient and effective; that the Union would be able to speak to the rest of the world with a single voice; that citizens would be given more direct democratic rights. The veracity of those statements may be judged on the basis of articles elsewhere in this edition of *eurofacts*. Now it seems that the central tenet, that no further treaties would be necessary, may be in doubt. Stand by for the show “Lisbon – the Sequel”.

It was German Chancellor Angela Merkel, inheritor of Margaret Thatcher’s title of “The Iron Lady”, who raised the possibility of renegotiation of Lisbon at last month’s EU summit. Having forced her colleagues to accept a vague fudge that passed as a financial rescue plan for Greece, Mrs Merkel noted that if economic stability was to be achieved across the EU, “we won’t be able to avoid treaty change.”

Like her electorate, Mrs Merkel is angry at the failure of Brussels to enforce the much-vaunted stability pact, designed to keep member states’ economies within limits, and the apparent assumption by the Eurocracy that Germany would cough up to bail out its more feckless partners.

The Chancellor wants much tougher fiscal and monetary rules to prevent excess and any repeat of the current

crisis upsetting the euro zone. Her survival might depend on it: Germans were extremely reluctant to give up their mark in favour of the euro, and many see the present economic mess as the realisation of their worst fears.

“There have to be some systematic changes, we can’t just pretend this is just a one-off,” Mrs Merkel said. “I haven’t been elected so that in ten years’ time we’re here again, saying we didn’t think this would happen. That’s why we need to stop and think about what should be the consequences of this.” The EU should not “put up with something that’s not good enough instead of doing something about it.”

Germany is the prime mover of the proposal to create a European Monetary Fund to ensure economic probity and, if necessary, to provide financial help to member states buffeted by some turn in the economic cycle. Any such plan would require renegotiation of existing treaties.

“The EU must stay dynamic enough, so that when it’s necessary and clear that the existing treaties are no longer enough, we don’t say we didn’t want to change anything,” declared Mrs Merkel. She told the Bundestag: “I will stand up for necessary treaty alterations so that we can fight against undesirable developments better.”

She has been strongly supported by the influential newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, which commented: “The biggest member state, which has for so long silently been the guarantee of the EU, has now openly expressed that it is

no longer prepared to pay any price for European unification. The present euro crisis is more than a monetary matter. It changes the political rules of the game in Europe.”

There is little doubt that the game would be thrown wide open by any attempt at renegotiation, which is why both Gordon Brown and Commission President Barroso have both jumped in to assert that no treaty changes will be necessary. From their point of view, new negotiations would certainly not be desirable. As Mrs Merkel admitted, “I know how exhausting the Lisbon Treaty was to negotiate.”

That, however, is not about to stop her: “I do grant you that ratification in 27 member states is not an easy matter, but Europe should not lean back and be complacent.”

If Mrs Merkel gets her way, it will provide a wonderful opportunity for David Cameron should the Tories win the forthcoming general election. He and William Hague have both promised to open negotiations on aspects of the existing treaty. How much stronger their hands would be if everyone were renegotiating.

And even if, seemingly against the odds, Gordon Brown managed to return to Downing Street, he would be unlikely to get away with renegotiating the treaty he ratified without the referendum Labour had promised. It would be a godsend for Eurosceptics and a Tory Opposition alike.

Don’t give up on the prospect of that promised referendum quite yet.

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Democracy? Not as we know it

One of the supposed benefits of the Treaty of Lisbon was the much-vaunted European Citizens' Initiative, which was seized upon by supporters of the treaty as a significant advance in the democratising of the EU. For the first time, citizens and non-governmental organisations in member states would be able to participate directly in creating the political agenda for Europe.

The treaty asserted that "not less than one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of member states may take the initiative of inviting the Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the treaties". The Commission would be obliged "to give serious consideration to the requests made by citizens".

With the treaty safely signed and in force, however, it is beginning to look as if the Citizens' Initiative is rather less of an exercise in direct democracy than was billed. Concerned that the loose drafting that is a feature of EU treaties and directives might have created a monster that could not be controlled, the Commission last month issued a draft

regulation designed to reign in the Citizens' Initiative.

The plan is to impose a number of detailed conditions on the initiative that will make it virtually unusable. According to the Commission's proposed regulation:

The required million signatories for any public petition to the Commission must come from at least a third of EU nations with a minimum number of signatories for each participating country. That number must be "degressively proportional to the size of each member state," meaning that the smaller the state the greater the proportion of signatories that will be needed to make the initiative work.

Any proposed Citizens' Initiative must be registered with the Commission, which will then carry out an admissibility check when the organisers have collected at least 300,000 statements of support. In order to be considered admissible, the petition has to cover "a matter where a legal act of the Union can be adopted for the purpose of implementing the Treaties" and must fall "within the framework of the powers of the Commission to make a proposal".

Signatures for a petition must be collected within 12 months, "in paper

form or electronically," and each signatory must provide not only a name but also street address, email address, date and place of birth, nationality and personal identification numbers – supposedly to prevent fraud.

It all "seems to be a way for the Commission to make sure that is more difficult to reach one million of signatures and also another evidence of how old-fashioned they are," according to Anders Ekberg, a leader of the Oneseat Campaign, which has already collected more than a million signatures for a petition requesting that the European Parliament should sit only in Brussels, instead of commuting to its second seat in Strasbourg at a cost of some €200 million a year.

"We do not plan to use the new instrument," the campaign says, dismissing the process as too complicated.

In any case, citizens and organisations that do manage to fight their way through the obstacles of the rules are likely to find nothing but disappointment when the end of the initiative process is eventually reached. The Commission has no legal obligation to take any action based on the requests of its citizens.

Speaking for Europe – in triplicate

So the Lisbon Treaty has finally resolved the question of who actually speaks for Europe in the councils of the world? Well, that is not exactly the case, it seems.

As we have already seen, what has actually been created by Lisbon is a system of three European presidents: Mr Barroso for the Commission, Mr Van Rompuy for the Council and whoever is the head of state of the country that is taking its turn at the rotating presidency of the EU. Who are you going to call? But that is only the

first step in the creation of the new clarity that is intended to make the EU more effective

It now emerges that all the members of this triumvirate are likely in future to turn up at world summits and other important conferences. Mr Barroso has persuaded the Commission and governments that he has special expertise that requires his presence alongside Mr Van Rompuy when he gets together with other world leaders. This means that at events such as G20 meetings, both of them will be

speaking for Europe, while at some gatherings the rotating president will also be present.

A spokesperson for the Commission, Pia Ahrenkilde-Hansen, said: "These practical arrangements will ensure full coherence, complementarity and clarity in the way we approach international gatherings, in reaching our objective that the EU should speak with one voice."

She did not explain who would be the ventriloquist and who would be the dummies.

Refuelling the European gravy train

"The European institutions are preaching economy to finance vanity projects, private cars and more for all except themselves. In difficult financial times, junkets. How much more gravy does Europe want on European taxpayers are expected to dig even deeper the gravy train?" - Marta Andreasen MEP (UKIP)

Euro zone: worst may be yet to come

While the Greek public debt crisis remains uppermost in the minds of the Eurocracy, there are increasing signs that the real economic problems in the euro zone – perhaps in the EU as a whole – lie at a rather deeper level and that their full effects are still to be felt.

In fact, the vague, German-inspired EU “rescue plan” for the Greek economy has placed the country in a more difficult position than it was before, according to its finance minister. Far from reassuring bond markets for the long term, the plan has forced up Greek bond yields. Interest at some 6.5 per cent makes it more expensive for the government to acquire the roll-over borrowing it needs and puts back the day when the government begins to pay down its debts.

“Had there not been any talk of the IMF and support packages we would have been left alone in peace and been able to issue bonds and have a proper and well functioning market,” the government’s debt agency chairman, Petros Christodoulou, was quoted as saying.

Public debt, however, is by no means the main element of the economic crisis threatening the euro zone. As single-currency sceptics pointed out before the euro was introduced, monetary union means that countries in difficulty are unable to pursue the individual monetary and fiscal policies that would help them.

In the case of the UK, for example, sterling has been devalued by a quarter since 2007. The euro, meanwhile, has recently fallen 4 per cent yet remains

5 per cent higher than it was in 2007. The lack of access to economic levers in monetary union contributes to the lack of competitiveness that many analysts see as the underlying weakness of the euro zone.

“Although everyone is focusing on raising taxes and cutting spending, to stop the haemorrhaging of public finances, what really matters is competitiveness. After all, if you lose that – say because your productivity falls or your wages rise – you will diminish your source of foreign revenues,” said one bank economist.

On this measure, Greece is in a somewhat better position than some other euro zone partners. Although its relative unit labour costs (RULC) are 17 per cent higher than those of top exporter Germany, the same figure for Italy and Spain is 30 per cent.

This discrepancy has a dramatic effect on exports and therefore on the revenues available for paying off debt. Italy has a debt-to-income ratio of four, which economists have identified as the point at which an economy tips into crisis.

“A resolution to the immediate problems of Greece and other peripheral euro zone members will not solve Europe’s sovereign debt problems,” France’s Hudson, global thematic strategist at Standard Life Investments, wrote last month in *Investment Adviser*.

“There are some deeper concerns about debt levels and competitiveness in Europe and a number of G20 economies, which will have market implications for years to come.

“The scale of fiscal adjustment being

asked for is huge, on any historical basis, the intractability of the problems from a domestic perspective in some countries, the size of the funding problems facing euro zone banks and how all this interacts with the ECB’s withdrawal of liquidity programmes.

“Politicians may find that the most dangerous times are not in 2010, when fiscal austerity programmes are announced, but in three to five years when reform fatigue sets in and electorates become disillusioned with a slow-growth, high-unemployment world.”

The latest unemployment statistics for the euro zone are not encouraging. In February the zone’s unemployment rate reached 10 per cent, the highest figure since August 1998. Spain had one of the worst totals, at 19 per cent. Ireland registered 13.2 per cent, the same as in January but 3 per cent higher than in February 2009.

In the EU as a whole, unemployment rose by a similar amount, though at 9.6 per cent it remains lower than in the euro zone.

Figures for the same month showed a degree of stabilisation at 9.7 per cent in the US, where more jobs were created than had been expected. “We have turned the corner,” officials said. In the UK, unemployment actually fell in February, down 0.1 per cent to 7.8 per cent.

Uncertainty over the stability of the euro zone has caused Brussels to delay further the planned expansion of the single currency by allowing Bulgaria to join the second stage of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism, originally scheduled for 2009.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates (%)

	Feb 2009	Aug 2009	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010
Euro 16	8.8	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	10.0
EU 27	8.3	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6

Seasonally adjusted number of unemployed (in millions)

	Feb 2009	Aug 2009	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010
Euro 16	13.905	15.225	15.424	15.519	15.536	15.583	15.688	15.749
EU 27	19.880	22.062	22.344	22.508	22.572	22.683	22.888	23.019

Source: Eurostat

Warning on ‘Europeanisation’ of our laws

Extracts from the Judicial Studies Board Lecture 2010, delivered by the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Judge, at the Inner Temple on 17th March 2010

I’m not going to comment on the different views expressed by our political parties on the issues of Europe, and the Strasbourg court, and I am avoiding any inappropriate discussion of the topic, because such political debate is not for a holder of judicial office. But I can discuss some non political matters and perhaps I should begin with the European Court of Justice.

You all know that the decisions of that court bind our domestic courts. That is a consequence of our domestic legislation. As a matter of statute the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg do not bind our courts. The statutory obligation on our courts is to take account of the decisions of the court in Strasbourg. I have no problem with this... But...the European Court of Justice is beginning to acquire jurisdiction over matters that would normally be regarded as matters not for Luxembourg but for Strasbourg.

Very often, too often, we are asked to consider decisions from Strasbourg which have already been considered or must have been considered in the House of Lords or the Supreme Court. That is the decision which binds us. After all, once the Supreme Court has considered decisions of our Court of Appeal, the authority of those decisions evaporates. Who quotes a decision of a Court of Appeal once the Supreme Court has considered the case? No one. Surely we should apply the same rigour to decisions from Europe.

In other words, once the Supreme Court has considered the relevant decisions from Strasbourg, we need to employ a powerful self-denying ordinance against allowing further citation of decisions on the point which provide no more than an illustration of a principle which has been encapsulated in the decisions of the Supreme Court. Am I alone in thinking that we are being presented with far too

many so-called authorities, both our own and from Europe, which do not bind us at all domestically?

We are, I believe, tending to forget that the point that matters in any authority that is cited to us is to discover, using the Latin, the *ratio decidendi*. If we cannot discern the ratio, the decision is not authority for anything save for getting a few helpful quotes which advocates should be able to put into a few words of their own anyway. So I’m hoping the JSB will start teaching our judges to refuse to allow counsel to cite what are often no more than unreported decisions, which do not help to identify the principle, but merely illustrate its application.

The primary responsibility for saving the common law system of proceeding by precedent is primarily a matter for us as judges... Are we becoming so focused on Strasbourg and the Convention that instead of incorporating Convention principles within and developing the common law accordingly as a single coherent unit, we are allowing the Convention to assume an unspoken priority over the common law?... We must beware. It would be a sad day if the home of the common law lost its standing as a common law authority...

The European Union is about to expand not simply its influence but its jurisdiction over criminal matters. The European Arrest Warrant was the first major instrument of community law in the area of criminal law. The impact of the European Union on criminal law is now increasing.

The first significant change which will affect most criminal courts is the implementation of the framework decision on criminal convictions, which will take place on 15th August 2010. It will require domestic courts to take account of previous convictions wherever returned in the Community... A certificate of conviction is sufficient for this purpose... the change, although not shattering in itself, provides a foretaste of things to come.

The EU has recently signed up to what is called a “roadmap” of five areas of criminal procedure which must be addressed within the next five years to protect and guarantee the rights of EU citizens...

The Treaty of Lisbon has brought criminal justice matters to the core of the EU and with it the jurisdiction of the Luxembourg court. Now the UK has a difficult decision to make... The principle of qualified majority voting has been extended to measures relating to judicial co-operation in criminal matters, and so if the United Kingdom opts out it could find itself outside the majority and therefore unable to influence the development of EU criminal justice policy.

Under the Lisbon Treaty the United Kingdom will have to decide whether to opt into new criminal justice instruments and whether to participate in the existing body of EU criminal justice and with it the jurisdiction of the Luxembourg court...

If we opt in, decisions of the Luxembourg court on issues arising out of the Treaty of Lisbon, even to the extent that they involve criminal matters, would become binding on us all. And we may have the spectacle of the Strasbourg court ruling on problems arising out of the consequences of our enforcing binding decisions of the Luxembourg court about which the litigants will have to complain to the Strasbourg court, though distressingly they would not be able to complain in our own courts.

I shall not enter further into turbulent political waters. It is, however safe to anticipate that unless there are some dramatic changes, new and additional training requirements will be required before too long, and that the development of the European Union, and the extended jurisdiction of the European court in criminal matters, will have a significant impact domestically. Twenty years down the line, where will we be?

Americans given a Euro vision of fun

The EU's publicity drive in America gets into full swing next month with Europe Week, beginning with "a day of family fun, food and culture" at European embassies in Washington. The theme is Green Europe: Good for the Economy and the Environment, but here's a taste of what taxpayers' money is being spent on, from the official brochure:

Austria: Exquisite Austrian wines and live performance of traditional Austrian folk music. An Austrian pastry chef will showcase his skills by preparing the traditional Apple Strudel.

Belgium: Sample Belgian beer and food specialties, learn how to make lace and view a film on the Belgian research station in Antarctica where scientists are gaining understanding of the earth's climate system.

Bulgaria: Samples of Bulgarian red wine and food; brochures, leaflets, on Bulgaria; photo exhibition "The Return of Bulgaria to Europe".

Cyprus: Leaflets on Cyprus's history, culture, tourism and cuisine. Short documentaries on its history and culture. Tasting of Cypriot halloumi cheese and soudjouko made of grape juice and almonds.

Czech Republic: A unique program featuring a medieval music band from Prague, a design exhibition created by students of Tomas Bata University in Zlin, tasting of world-famous Czech beer, and much more.

Denmark: Tour the first modern and carbon neutral embassy residence in Washington DC and learn about our architecture and design heritage. Discover why Denmark is so successful in living green, test your bicycle skills on our obstacle course and play with Lego.

Estonia: Discover beautiful Estonian nature and see the collection of handmade eco-friendly clothes.

Finland: First certified green embassy building in the United States, an exhibition on mythology, Finnish delicacies, Moomin animation films and children's corner.

France: Enjoy the day with our famous, historical figures. Relax on

our café terrace with Rochambeau, sip coffee with Lafayette and indulge in decadent pastries with Napoleon! Tantalise your taste buds with our three-course lunch prix-fixe menus!

Germany: Explore the Embassy while your children win prizes in a soccer kick or have their faces painted. Get in the mood for bratwurst, beer and more with German music.

Greece: Experience Greece, the cultural crossroads of three continents, from antiquity to present-day. Taste delicious products from the healthy Cretan and Mediterranean diets.

Hungary: Come and taste real Hungarian Goulash and wine at the Embassy Terrace. Learn to sing and dance to true Hungarian folk music with live assistance. Children's corner, great short films, win Rubik's cubes, and plan your visit to Budapest.

Ireland: Come and visit the Embassy of Ireland and taste some Irish refreshments. The Culkin School of Irish Dance and a harpist will provide entertainment.

Italy: Enjoy a tasting of Italian food, at visiting the formal rooms of the Embassy, view the documentary Visions of Italy and the exhibit on "Ecofriendly buildings in Italy".

Latvia: Enjoy Latvian folk dances and folk songs performed by Latvian groups from the Washington, DC area.

Lithuania: Come to the geographical centre of Europe and pose for a picture, where laser-sharp technology meets a 1,000-year-old heritage. Take a bird's-eye view of Lithuania; savour traditional Lithuanian food.

Luxembourg: Come visit the Embassy of Luxembourg for the day!

Malta: Learn how this small nation instigated the UN General Assembly's Declaration in 1988 that Climate Change is the Common Concern of Mankind leading in 1994 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Netherlands: View paintings by 16th and 17th Century Dutch Masters on display at the Residence.

Poland: Discover the landscapes of Poland, enjoy Polish classical music,

engage in drawing "Solidarity" logo and taste the traditional Polish cuisine.

Portugal: Savour "pastéis de bacalhau", "pastéis de nata" and "massa sovada", with a tasting of Port wine; view an exhibition of contemporary video-art and the presentation of the short documentary *Renewable Energy in Portugal*.

Romania: See Romania's beauty and feel its atmosphere through video presentations. Learn to say "Hi" in Romanian.

Slovakia: Savour the cuisine, wine, culture, and sites of a naturally green Slovakia; and enjoy folk costumes, performances of traditional folk music, and contemporary graphics and sculptures.

Slovenia: Discover ECO-SLOVENIA. Learn about Carniola bee and try its honey products. Fall in love with Slovenia's natural parks, ecological farms, geothermal spas. Bring your kids and celebrate Slovenia's qualification in soccer & basketball World Cups 2010.

Spain: Enjoy a tasting of Spanish tapas and wines and discover how hi-tech windmills are back in style in the land of Don Quixote.

Sweden: The visitors will be greeted by live Swedish music, healthy treats for everyone, movies for children, and cool facts about Sweden. Three exhibits on the intersection of health and care for a healthy lifestyle. Rooftop lounge.

United Kingdom: Britain on Your Doorstep: Showcasing the Best of Britain. The Embassy will showcase the Ambassador's Gardens and a Bazaar highlighting the armed forces, arts, whisky, eco-friendly displays and family activities.

EU Delegation: Be among the first to visit the EU's new US headquarters, which is on target to achieve Gold status for its environmentally sustainable design, construction, and operation. Learn about EU leadership in the fight against global warming; meet representatives of the new European Parliament office in the US; win prizes by taking an EU quiz.

LETTERS

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Battle of Britain

Dear Sir,

At various meetings recently, some Eurosceptics have made comments claiming that the forecasts made in J. Brian Heywood's novel *The Trojan Hearse* are coming true. Often these comments are made by recent converts to Euroscepticism and refer to statements in the novel such as the one dealing with the government's bringing in immigrants to increase its share of the vote.

But this so called, "truth dressed up as fiction" novel deals with events that took place up to ten years ago – it was not a forecast. Nevertheless, this raises an important question and an obvious answer. If a novel can be influential in converting people to Euroscepticism, what effect will current irrefutable facts have if they are presented when the normally closed mind is likely to be open for a while – such as during the pre-election period?

So think about it: if you are a Eurosceptic and you want to be able to convince your children that you "did your bit" in one of the most important periods in our country's history, then volunteer for leafleting with your local Eurosceptic organisation. Become one of the new "few" and play your part in the new Battle of Britain.

RON BEATON

Kent

[*The Trojan Hearse* by J. Brian Heywood is available from the June Press, £9.99 plus 10% P&P. Also available for £9.99 is *A Life of Mayhem, Money and Unintentional Treason* by the same author – Ed.]

Breaking the mould

Dear Sir,

Peter Howell (*eurofacts*, March) does not appreciate that a government can do what it likes. The fact that for a long time the UK government has chosen to bow to the diktats of Brussels does not mean that a successor UK government has to continue this policy.

No UK Government can bind its

successor, treaties can be broken. All that is needed is for us to elect a UK government that has the will to take us out of the EU.

We should not forget that in June 1940 General de Gaulle said: "The defeated are those who accept defeat".

GERALD STANCEY

Leicestershire

Time for a showdown

Dear Sir,

As Mr Cameron is not promising to do a "Thatcher" on our gross EU contributions, he must be ring-fencing our gross and rising EU contributions. Of course, the Conservative Party has essentially been an EU "doormat" since 1972, "fines to Brussels and all".

This is hardly, therefore, a reason to vote Conservative, indeed a reason against and one should not be blackmailed to doing so just because the "apparition" of Brown is dangled before us by the Conservative Party.

The matter of the EU is the most important for British independence of all the matters before the electorate. Their bluff should be called, to teach them a lesson about blackmailing for the next General Election, a reward for being a party political triplet.

Time for a showdown. Nothing, after all, EU or otherwise, is irretrievable in a further Parliament.

L.G. HOLT

Kent

Patronising the people

Dear Sir,

After the referendum debacle, the British are growing ever more aware of the irrelevance of their role in politics. Yet as we approach the General Election, the politicians chorus the need for voting to be increased. This is merely a ploy to get a spurious statistic to give the impression we are still a democracy. That status was, of course, destroyed on our real Black Wednesday, 5th March 2008, when, with the endorsement of the Lisbon/Constitutional Treaty, "Parliament connived in its own

immolation", as you cogently expressed the treason (*eurofacts*, March 2008).

The main parties and the media never mention the reality that Britain now is merely a region within a region, embedded in an EU empire – as Barroso himself termed it. (*Sunday Telegraph*, 11th July 2007). This deception was epitomised in a *You and Yours* programme devoted to "Why Fewer People Vote", which did not mention the EU context. (Radio 4, 8th March 2010). Similarly, during a history of political comment, the only reference to the EU by the *Newsnight* presenter Jeremy Paxman, was: "There has been all this bumbling on about the EU." (BBC2, 23rd January 2010).

This contempt for the truth implies massive condescension towards the people. Of course, it is the undemocratic EU which can effortlessly patronise. Barroso, dismissed the British populace in his: "The people who matter in Britain are reconsidering the euro" (Radio 4 *Today*, 1st December 2008). And now Jerzy Buzek, the new president of the EU Parliament, when asked about the effect on the people of the quadruple of EU presidents replied "Such information is not interesting for our [*sic*] citizens. We must decide about that." (BBC2 *The Daily Politics*, 13th January 2010).

Thus we have the final infantilisation of politics whereby the ruling "experts" alone are significant and the people are required, simply for form's sake, to tick the appropriate box in an election which is now for little more than a regional council.

C. FRANCIS WARREN

Lancashire

How to save money

Dear Sir,

The EU says: "Britain should take further measures to cut the deficit!" How about exit the EU and save our £40 million per day payments?

EDWIN BATEMAN

Cumbria

MEETINGS

Campaign for an Independent Britain 07092 857684

Saturday **17th April**, 2.30 pm
"Time for Truth - Who Speaks for the People of Britain?"

Dr Sean Gabb, *Director of Libertarian Alliance*

Fiona McEvoy, *Taxpayers Alliance*

Stuart Notholt, *Vice-Chairman of the Campaign for an Independent Britain*
Chairman - **George West**, *Chairman of the CIB*

PUBLIC MEETING

Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX

Admission Free

(10 mins walk from New Street Station)

Social Democrats

0121 7474 546

Sunday **16th May**, 10.30 am

Christopher Cook, *Ex UKIP Regional Organiser*

Mike Pilling, *Save Local Hospitals Campaign*

SPRING CONFERENCE

Bridlington, Yorkshire

Admission Free

(Further details to be announced)

Gresham College

020 7831 0575

Monday **24th May**, 2.00 pm

"The Future of London Government"

Professor Vernon Bogdanor CBE. FBA, *Emeritus Gresham Professor of Law*

Stuart Fraser, *Chairman of the City of London Policy and Resources Committee*

Professor Tony Travers and Professor George Jones, *The London School of Economics and Political Science*

Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL, *Emeritus Gresham Professor of Law*

SYMPOSIUM

(Reservations Required)

Guildhall, Gresham Street, London EC2

Admission Free

(Ends 6.00 pm followed by reception)

British Weights and Measures Association 020 8144 1064

Saturday **29th May** 2.00 pm

Speakers include;

Fiona McEvoy, *Taxpayers' Alliance*

Michael Shrimpton, *Constitutional Lawyer*

(Morning session AGM)

PUBLIC MEETING

Victory Services Club, 63 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF

Admission

(Further details to be announced)

FREE

Advertising Space

Should you be planning a meeting and/or conference dealing with the subject of UK-EU relations we may be able to advertise the event without charge.

Contact Details

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DIARY OF EVENTS

2010

UK General Election **8th May**

UK Parliament Returns **18th May**

Belgium takes over EU Council Presidency **1st July**

2011

Hungary takes over EU Council Presidency **1st January**

Poland takes over EU Council Presidency **1st July**

2012

Denmark takes over EU Council Presidency **1st January**

USEFUL WEB SITES

British Declaration of Independence

www.bdicampaign.org

British Weights & Measures Assoc.

www.bwmaOnline.com

Bruges Group

www.brugesgroup.com

Campaign Against Euro-Federalism

www.caef.org.uk

Campaign for an Independent Britain

www.eurosceptic.org.uk

Democracy Movement

www.democracymovement.org.uk

EU Observer

www.euobserver.com

EU Truth

www.eutruth.org.uk

European Commission (London)

www.ccc.org.uk

European Foundation

www.europeanfoundation.org

European No Campaign

www.europeannocampaign.com

Foreign Affairs

www.foreignaffairs.org

Freedom Association

www.tfa.net

Global Britain

www.globalbritain.org

Global Vision

www.global-vision.net

I Want a Referendum

www.iwantareferendum.com

June Press (Publications)

www.junepress.com

Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign

www.lesc.org.uk

New Alliance

www.newalliance.org.uk

Open Europe

www.openeurope.org.uk

Regional Assemblies

www.regionalassemblies.co.uk

Speak Out Campaign

www.speakout.co.uk

Sovereignty

www.sovereignty.org.uk

Statewatch

www.statewatch.org

Team

www.teameurope.info

The Taxpayers' Alliance

www.taxpayersalliance.com

United Kingdom Independence Party

www.ukip.org

Brussels Laid Bare

by *Marta Andreasen*. **£10.00**

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