

Time for a new look at the Commonwealth

As Britain's relationship with the EU changes irrevocably, it is time for a new look at the Commonwealth

Dr Ruth Lea

As I write there is a curious lull in the Eurozone crisis. Comments by ECB President Draghi in September that the ECB would do “whatever it takes” to save the Eurozone, given that politicians play their part, seemed to soothe the inflamed sensitivities of the markets. But the notion that there has been any underlying easing of the Eurozone crisis is fanciful in the extreme. The vulnerable economies of this beleaguered currency union are deteriorating with each economic statistic.

The IMF's last set of forecasts, in which they downgraded the Eurozone's growth prospects (and incidentally Britain's as well), were a case in point.¹ There was a modest worsening of the expected fall in GDP for 2012 to 0.4% and a significant drop in the projected growth for 2013 to 0.2%. But Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece are all now expected to remain in recession throughout the forecast period. The employment situation in Spain and Greece is now truly dire with total unemployment rates of over 25% and youth unemployment rates of over 50% in both countries. These economies are not functioning as modern economies should function, providing prosperity and employment opportunities for their citizens. The

IMF commented that the Eurozone remained the “epicentre” of the global economic crisis - so much for the lull in the Eurozone crisis.

Meanwhile with each summit, there is evidence that Eurozone unification, so necessary to hold the currency union together, may be making some progress – albeit stuttering and undemocratic. The European Stability Mechanism (ESM) was established in September 2012, and will function as a permanent firewall for the Eurozone with a maximum lending capacity of €500bn. The EU leaders have also agreed to set up a single Eurozone banking supervisor (the ECB), a major step towards a banking union, at the October summit. For Britain and the other “outs” the implications are clear. Our influence in the EU27, already feeble, will decline precipitously as the Eurozone's leaders (principally Germany) struggle with their existential battle to save the currency.

For Britain's relationship with the EU, this could not be more significant. The current “status quo”, as a grumbling EU27 member but nevertheless around the top table for some decision-making, will fade into history as Eurozone unification proceeds. The “status quo” will simply cease to be. Under these circumstances Britain has three basic choices for the

future. Firstly, we can stay in the EU27 with diminishing influence though still subject to the associated net costs, secondly we can join the euro and the “top table” pressing for Europe's political integration, or thirdly we can leave and negotiate a new relationship. I dismiss the oft-promoted fourth option that we can stay in the EU27 with a new-style, tailor-made membership as politically implausible. There is simply no evidence from our EU partners that this is on the cards. Suffice to say I favour leaving and forging a new relationship.²

For those of us who would be optimistic about the future of Britain if it were freed from the EU's shackles, there will be many naysayers. Already there are commentators who mischievously (or possibly out of plain ignorance, who knows?) assert we have “no vision” for what we would “put in the place” of EU membership. We all know these assertions are nonsense. We know perfectly well what we want in its place – a friendly trading partnership with Europe and closer ties with the rest of the world, including Commonwealth countries. We must be ready with our message.

Specifically many Commonwealth countries have rich potential, not as a relic of Empire, but as large and

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A new look at the Commonwealth

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growing contributors to the world economy.³ I'm delighted to see others are also promoting this view.⁴ Of course Commonwealth countries should not be seen as alternatives to trading with the EU countries (German car exporters would baulk at that one), but they should be seen as part of the necessary realignment of Britain's exporting focus from Europe to more dynamic global destinations as the 21st century proceeds.

The Commonwealth nations, taken together, are an economic colossus comprising some 15% of world GDP, 54 member states and two billion citizens. They will inevitably become more powerful. The Commonwealth spans five continents and contains developed, emerging and developing economies. The Commonwealth in its richness and diversity mirrors today's global economy in a way that the EU

simply cannot start to aspire to.

Moreover, the latest IMF forecasts show that the major Commonwealth countries have healthy growth prospects in the medium-term, significantly better than for major EU economies. Looking further out, they are blessed with favourable demographics. The UN's projections show that their working populations will increase well into the middle of the century and, insofar as economic growth is correlated with growth in the working population, they will represent some of the most important growth markets in the longer-term. Significantly, the Commonwealth's demographics compare very favourably with some major European countries including Germany and Italy, where working populations will age and shrink.

The world is changing irrevocably. It is mistaken and old-fashioned to

regard the Commonwealth as the "past" and the EU as the "future". In truth, it is the other way round.

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Dr Ruth Lea, Economic Adviser, Arbuthnot Banking Group

pan-European political parties

MEP demands to know "where is the mandate for pan-European political parties?"

Speaking out during a meeting of the European Parliament's Constitutional Affairs Committee (26th November), the UKIP MEP Stuart Agnew has demanded to know where the mandate is for the creation of publicly funded pan-European political parties, representing voters in all 27 member states.

Mr Agnew said that the electorate in the United Kingdom is not very impressed by the EU. "They are turning out in smaller and smaller numbers to vote for members of this European Parliament. In my country,

not only has there been a decline in turnout but of those who do turn out, more and more of them vote for the UK Independence Party, who don't want anything to do with this place, anyway.

"So, you are left with a pretty small rump of support. I feel, in view of all that, there is no mandate for pan-European political parties. Where is the mandate? We've never had a referendum on this issue."

Mr Agnew went on to attack public funding of pan-European political parties which he described as being an "alien idea" to UK voters, where there

is no direct public funding of political parties. He also criticised the power these organisations would have to interfere in referendums in the UK and described proposals for gender balancing as "an insult to the electorate". He strongly exhorted the EU to not "even start to go down this slippery slope and respect the verdict of the voters."

The full speech can be viewed at: http://www.ukipmeps.org/articles_510_No-mandate-for-taxpayer-funded-pan-European-Parties---Stuart-Agnew.html

Greece 'most corrupt' EU country

According to the Transparency International 2012 Corruption Perceptions Index, Greece is perceived to have the most corrupt public sector in the 27 members of the

European Union.

The Index gathered views from 176 countries worldwide. Two-thirds scored below 50, with zero highly corrupt and 100 very clean.

Worldwide, Denmark, Finland and Sweden were seen as the least corrupt nations while Afganistan, North Korea and Somalia were perceived to be the most corrupt.

Is the UK rebate safe?

During a debate in the House of Lords on the Government's post European Council statement (26th November), the independent Labour Peer, Lord Stoddart of Swindon has secured a commitment from the Government that the UK rebate is safe.

In his remarks Lord Stoddart said: "I raise two points. The first concerns the position of the European Parliament, which seems to have a lot to say about expenditure but of course has no power to raise the money. I believe that the Prime Minister should be pointing out that those who raise the money-in other

words, the nation states-should have the most say. My other point concerns the rebate and the report that sets out very clearly what a reduction in the rebate would mean for British taxpayers. I hope that the Leader of the House can promise that the Prime Minister will not do what his predecessor did and give away some £1 billion of our rebate for nothing tangible in return."

Responding for the Government, Lord Strathclyde said: "The Prime Minister has made it absolutely plain - here is a red-line issue-that he will not surrender any part of the rebate. The

rebate is absolutely crucial. There is a good reason for doing so: the last time a proportion of the rebate was surrendered by Mr Blair, he got absolutely nothing in return."

Lord Strathclyde also agreed with Lord Stoddart's view that the nation states should be consulted about the EU budget: "I also agree with what the noble Lord said about the nation states. There is increasingly a division between the net contributors and the net benefactors within the EU, and it must be right that those who pay the most are listened to very carefully during these negotiations."

EU extends Greek budget deadline

Eurozone ministers have agreed to give Greece two more years, until 2016, to meet its deficit-reduction targets. However, differences also emerged among Greece's lenders

on how to make its debt sustainable into the next decade.

Greece's Prime Minister, Antonio Samaras has already got through the Greek parliament a budget for 2013

that involves 9.4 billion euros (£7.5 bn) of cuts in spending.

This budget has also predicted that the economy would shrink by 6.5% this year and 4.5% in 2013.

Cut in aid for India

The UK's International Development Secretary, Justine Greening has said support for India's aid budget will be phased out between now and 2015, saving about £200 million and UK's focus will then

shift to offering technical assistance.

Ms Greening said the move which will be popular with Tory MPs, reflected India's economic progress and status.

Giving his reaction, India's Foreign

Minister, Salman Khurshid said "Aid is the past and trade is the future".

Unfortunately, it appears that the money saved will remain in the aid budget and be sent to other so-called deserving nations.

Change in balance of power

A "dramatic shift" in the balance of economic power over the next 50 years has been predicted by The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD).

It also thinks that the emerging economies will account for an ever increasing share of output.

In a recent report, it says China will

overtake the United States as early as 2016.

The OECD expects the current trends of faster growth in emerging economies to continue.

What is a central bank?

Why have the eurozone members kept their own central banks, when the job of those central banks has been given over to the European Central Bank (ECB)?

The ECB is the core of the eurozone system. Its governing council comprises the 17 national central bank governors, plus 6 ECB members,

whose main task is to keep inflation under a rate of 2% and therefore keep prices under control. It also tries to support the growth of the EU economies in the process.

The national banks of the eurozone area have no reason to remain in existence, except that, by remaining they give the citizens of those countries the illusion that their country is in

some way still in control of its own financial future. Furthermore, they give the impression that a eurozone member is still an independent country governing itself, whereas in fact they have surrendered their economy and by extension control of the future direction of their country to the undemocratic rulers of the European Union.

Human Rights

The European Commission is in the process of conducting another consultation, the emphasis is being put on Freedom of movement. Yet the Commission does not seem interested in what really hinders people from accessing freedom of movement. The Commission intends to remain within the concept of EU citizenship as outlined in 1992, ignoring the fact that the Lisbon Treaty, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights have since come into force - Maybe they no something we don't.

The Commission repeatedly tells EU citizens that it is committed to defending the universal and indivisible nature of human rights. Yet it shrinks from the challenge of defining what still remains to be done to make this a reality. The notion that the sole obstacles facing European citizens crossing borders relate to opening bank accounts and buying property (according to the Commission's questionnaire) is a fallacy. The

Commission has clearly not taken into account the wider challenges and obstacles facing millions of people. You cannot claim to be adopting a rights based approach if you only pose questions relevant to the economic elite. Freedom from violence and discrimination is also essential to the enjoyment of citizens' rights.

Let's consider the nearly 12 million Roma people within the EU who face structural discrimination that often results directly in hindering freedom of movement and forms of social exclusion that are nothing short of serious human rights violations (forced evictions, segregation in education, no access to water or electricity, access to healthcare to name but a few). Discrimination against any group of people no matter why and who, including disabled people inhibits them from accessing rights such as freedom of movement. Violence against women remains disturbingly pervasive across the EU, leaving

millions of women unable to realise their opportunities for fear of or living with - or because of - the consequences of violence against them.

Clearly, much needs to be done to get to the issues at the heart of these violations, something that will require the Commission to become more consistent and comprehensive in its approach to human rights. Though the EU can boast of numerous legal frameworks professing to uphold the (human) rights of those within its borders, it lacks the necessary political will to implement existing instruments to the full. With increasing populist and extremist rhetoric across Europe, this approach to human rights is as dangerous as it is misguided. In the lead up to the year of the citizen (whatever that means), one can only hope that the Commission steps up to the task of ensuring that everyone within the EU is able to benefit from the same human rights which it so often claims to advance.

Doing business rankings 2012

In the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings, which judges countries on ten criteria: *Starting a Business, Protecting Investors and Trading Across Borders*, we find that seven Commonwealth nations are in the top 25 and one Commonwealth nation, Singapore, tops this table. New Zealand is third, the UK 7th, Canada 13th, Australia 15th, Malaysia 18th and Mauritius 23rd.

However, digging beneath the headlines is important. How did major European nations fare and what of other African Commonwealth states? Germany is 19th, while France is a poor 29th The Netherlands is 31st, with Spain 44th

Commonwealth nation	Doing Business Ranking	EU nation	Doing Business Ranking
Singapore	1	Denmark	5
New Zealand	3	Ireland	10
UK	7	Finland	11
Canada	13	Sweden	14
Australia	15	Germany	19
Malaysia	18	Latvia	21
Mauritius	23	Estonia	24
South Africa	35	Lithuania	27
Cyprus	40	Belgium	28
Rwanda	45	France	29

and Italy 87th. From this we may say that it is better to do business in Vanuatu, Fiji and Namibia than in Italy.

Rwanda is an African success story: As the newest member of the Commonwealth, Rwanda ranks as one

of the *most business friendly* countries in Africa. It comes 45th, one behind Spain and is the highest ranked African nation after the near-developed South Africa 35th. Rwanda in fact comes in at a staggering 8th when Starting a Business, while the UK can only manage 19th and Germany is a worrying 98th. Furthermore, in this same category the Commonwealth is very dominant. New Zealand is 1st, Australia 2nd, Canada 3rd and Singapore 4th.

Source: *Common Trade-Wealth-Growth* book by Tim Hewish and James Styles, see rear page

The inevitability of continuing Free Trade with the EU following UK withdrawal

Ian Milne

The Single Market: What are the alternatives? And how do we get out? A lot of work is now being done on the *details* of getting out, building on the broad-brush work done in previous years. Ruth Lea's and Brian Binley's book is one excellent example. Tim Congdon's Cost-Benefit Analysis for UKIP, building on Gerard Batten's work in earlier years, is, as you'd expect, first-class, full of original insights. UKIP's leader Nigel Farage has just published a short pamphlet with the best description I've read of the Single Market's pernicious effects. My own book, *Time to Say No*, came out a year ago, and set out both the "Why" of withdrawal, and the "How".

In the last year, the economics of withdrawal have moved decisively in our direction. It's likely that the economics will continue to point to exit for years, even decades, to come.

I'm convinced that, on withdrawal, arrangements for free trade between the departing UK and the remaining EU are inevitable. The Lisbon Treaty has at least 3 articles obliging the EU to negotiate free trade with a departing member-state; and of course the EU's a positive junkie when it comes to negotiating and signing FTAs all over the world. Is the EU really going to refuse free trade with its biggest single customer worldwide? Of course not. Especially as the UK is the country with which the EU, and its dominant member Germany, have their biggest trade surpluses anywhere in the world. Naked commercial self-interest will ensure that, tradewise, the EU countries won't mess around with us once we leave.

In the working group I'm involved in at Civitas, we've been looking at the car industry to see whether, at the industry level, on UK withdrawal, the EU would impede UK-EU trade. We worked through a what-if exercise to predict what would happen to the car industry if the UK left the EU without

arrangements for free trade in place. We asked ourselves:

What if, despite everything, the EU declined to enter into an FTA with the UK post-withdrawal? What would be the consequences for cars?

Such a decision on the part of the EU – Council, Commission, Parliament, European Court of Justice, umpteen advisory committees – could not, would not be taken without the wholehearted support of its most powerful member state, Germany.

Germany's flourishing car industry is perhaps *the* emblematic symbol of German post-war recovery. Any decision by a German government to seriously damage its own car industry is practically unthinkable, but, however improbable, let us assume, for the sake of this "What if?" exercise, that that is what the Chancellery, the Bundestag, the Bundesrat, the regional Länder, perhaps the German Constitutional Court as well, would all decide to do.

Let us imagine the 'phone call from the German Chancellor to Martin Winterkorn, CEO of the Volkswagen Group in Wolfsburg, Europe's biggest car maker, announcing the EU decision:-

Chancellor: "Good morning Herr Doktor Winterkorn. I have some bad news for you, and for your employees. Now that the UK is outside the EU, and there's no UK-EU FTA in place, despite the British offer to scrap duties altogether, the EU and therefore Germany will charge ten per cent customs duty on car imports from the UK, and the UK will charge ten per cent customs duty on UK car imports from the EU and therefore from Germany. So, from tomorrow, all of your exports to the UK (374,000 in 2011, including lots of high-end high-margin Audis) will henceforth be ten per cent more expensive. What's more, the UK being outside the EU has abolished its duties on car imports from China, Japan, Korea and from all

other non-EU countries. It's a pity you've spent 60 years making VW market leader with a 19% share of the highly-profitable UK market, but that's life. Sorry about all this but that's EU politics for you.....Tschüss!"

Herr Doktor Winterkorn: "Donner und Blitzen!"

Next, the Chancellor puts in a call to Norbert Reithofer, CEO of BMW in Munich.

Chancellor: "Good morning Herr Doktor Reithofer. I have some bad news for you, and for your employees. Now that the UK is outside the EU, and there's no UK-EU FTA in place, despite the British offer to scrap duties altogether, the EU and therefore Germany will charge ten per cent customs duty on car imports from the UK, and the UK will charge ten per cent customs duty on UK car imports from the EU and therefore from Germany. So, from tomorrow, all of your exports from Bavaria to the UK (130,000 high-end BMWs in 2011) will be ten per cent more expensive, no doubt giving Jaguar cars produced in England quite a lift. Oh, and just to make your day, all those high-margin Minis you produce in Oxford for export to the EU (156,00 in 2011) will also have to bear the ten per cent EU duty, making them significantly less competitive in Germany, France and elsewhere in the EU.

As for your Rolls Royce's, even wealthy EU buyers might jib at paying the upwards of £10,000 extra that the ten per cent duty will cause. Sorry about the triple whammy, but that's EU politics for you.....Tschüss!"

Herr Doktor Reithofer: [unprintable]

That short imaginary dialogue between a German Chancellor and the heads of VW & BMW (though the figures are real, not imaginary) shows how unthinkable it is that Germany, and therefore the rest of the EU as well, would damage UK-EU trade on UK withdrawal.

The EU uncovered

Derek Stirling

This book is designed for all those who want to look inside the EU and understand how it works.

It is written in simple plain language and full of useful information about the various statistics and organisations within the EU. The cost incurred by MEPs, regulations, contributions and the many hidden charges are also covered. To add further interest numerous quotes and objectives of the unelected bureaucrats are included.

The ten guiding principles of the European project are explained, these help to throw light on the push for ever closer integration.

Another fascinating section shows how much can be saved in wages

The EU In A Nutshell

Everything you wanted to know about the EU but didn't know who to ask
by Lee Rotherham

Harriman House, Hdbk 488pp 2012

Available from

The June Press

Price £12.99 + p&p

(see back cover)

ISBN 978-0-85719-231-8

shows how historical values and financial incentives have affected this process.

The conclusion to be drawn from this book is that the UK will never be in a position to get public support for EU membership. As more information about the EU's aims, objectives and working practices are exposed the rise in euroscepticism throughout the UK and many other member states is inevitable. Add to this the obvious lack of democratic principles as shown by the way the results of referenda are treated and the future looks bleak.

This book will make you laugh and cry and keep you enthralled for many hours, its well laid out format makes it easy to read especially in short bursts.

should the staff of the EU go on strike.

An in depth analysis of the reasons and background to why the individual 27 member countries joined the EU

War on terror

James Sale

A fascinating book which is historical but also very political; no surprise there, I guess, as its author is Robert Oulds, the director of the Bruges Group. Two thirds of the book gives a pretty gripping account of how Montgomery tackled terrorism in Ireland and in Palestine pre-World War Two. This contains some revealing information both about the tactics he used and the effect they had. It came as a surprise to me, for example, to learn that the IRA had not defeated the British Army (my lazy assumption!) and that Montgomery's pro-active approach really made a difference. This last point is really part of a deep understanding of human nature, which Monty had: namely, people are quite happy to inflict pain, misery and death on others, but they are less keen when it relentlessly comes back to them. Montgomery decisively took the fight to the enemy, and they didn't 'bloody' like it.

In his magisterial book, *On the Psychology of Military Incompetence*,

Montgomery

and the First War On Terror
by Robert Oulds

Bretwalda Books, Pbk 287pp 2012

Available from

The June Press

Price £8.99 + p&p

(see back cover)

ISBN 978-1-907791-73-4

Norman Dixon shows that the great military leaders all cared for their men. Weak and ineffective leaders – the Haigs of this world – blithely consign troops to their death and don't lose any sleep about it. One great theme, which Oulds illustrates well, is just how caring Montgomery was for those under his command; this is piquantly contrasted especially with the attitudes of politicians and bureaucrats in the UK.

The final part deals with how we - the British - might use his hard-won

knowledge and experience. Perhaps the most disturbing thing in the whole book is the forensic analysis of just how incompetent the current MOD is, and how many young lives have been lost needlessly. But I found myself in a quandary reading the book. On the one hand I am a Quaker, so am opposed to war and violence; on the other, Robert Oulds presents compelling evidence that if you want to deal with insurrection then you 'deal' with it and don't pussyfoot around with countless other 'social worker' type objectives (hearts and minds stuff), which only serves to jeopardise and lose British lives needlessly.

This is strong stuff and a challenging book - I think Robert has done a great service in writing it even if I don't fully agree with his conclusions.

James Sale, FRSA, is an author with over 20 books to his credit; he is also the creator of Motivational Maps, and Europe's leading authority on motivation and performance.

Italian protests against Germany

Rodney Atkinson

Continuing anti German protests in Italy have led German policy experts to comment that there is in Italy a “failure to accept the positive role which a united Germany could play in Europe” (To most Europeans outside Germany such a comment would be extremely amusing) and that “old slogans aimed at Germany’s presumed hegemony have been dragged out of the attic”.

Mass demonstrations in Rome against the German imposed austerity (mirrored of course in Spain, France, Greece and Portugal) are just the latest example of long held Italian objections to German dominance in the EU. While many Italian financial concerns have been very helpful in helping Germany to a strong position in Italian industry that has of course caused popular resentment. This analysis comes from The German Institute for Foreign Policy (DGAP) which published a paper by Frederico Niglia of St John’s University in Rome, *Past and prejudice in the Italian image of Germany*.

The financial tensions caused by the Euro and the removal by the EU of democratic processes in Italy have led to the revival of old sores like the massacres of Italians by German Nazis during the war - made worse as Germany has fended off legal actions (Like the murder of 100 civilians in Sant’ Anna die Stazzema on 8th August 1944.)

Post war economic cooperation between Italy and Germany was soon eclipsed by the fear that Germany was

just too big to play a modest role in Europe and the fear of German hegemony was common not just among the populace but among the political and economic Italian elites. And from the early 1990s (Maastricht!) Germany was “free of its constraints” and a corporatist clique in Italy cooperated with Germany to push through EU treaties which compromised Italian democracy and promoted German power. This is of course exactly what happened in Britain and elsewhere.

Maastricht’s European Economic and Monetary Union was seen by Italians as a “typical German product”, writes Niglia, which promoted German power without any consideration of other countries. This had turned especially left wing movements against the people and imposed massive costs on industry and workers and Italian economic influence had been replaced by German interests in for instance the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

This abandonment by the pseudo intellectual left of the working class all over the European Union led of course to the rise of the BNP in Britain and its equivalents in other EU countries. The Conservative Right in Britain also lost its traditional patriotic working class support, especially under the eurofanatic Edward Heath, a policy continued by the Eton educated appeaser of EU power, David Cameron. The right moved left and the left moved right and destroyed the entire election process since there was no democratic choice possible between

genuine alternatives.

This growing economic weakness of Italy, writes Niglia, led also to political sidelining as when Italy was excluded from the 2006 group of countries negotiating with Iran despite Italy being Tehran’s biggest trading partner. More recently the EU appointed the unelected Mario Monti who is seen as a German placement, overriding Italian democracy. Germany is seen by most Italians as the cause of the economic woes and political failure and as dictating economic austerity to prop up their own currency - the “German Euro”.

From 1998 to 2009 (roughly in the ten years after the launch of the Euro) the German export surplus with Italy rose by 543 per cent. While 30 per cent of Italian inward investment came from Germany for which Germany earned 14 billion Euros in 2010 and 2011.

A similar process has crippled many other EU countries and now threatens even Germany itself since, having exported so much to countries now bankrupted by the Euro, it cannot rely on being paid and German banks and businesses are exposed to billions of Euros in liabilities. Italy is just one of many victims of the economic and financial chaos caused by the Euro and the political and social disaster caused by the European Union.

Adapted by Rodney Atkinson from German Foreign Policy 2nd November 2011.

Job vacancy

The head of Eurogroup, Jean-Claude Juncker has announced that he is stepping down at the end of December, he had in July stated his intention to leave before the end of the year.

The Luxembourg prime minister has held the post of the head of Eurogroup

since 2005, and his resignation was widely expected.

Eurogroup is made up of finance ministers from nations in the single European currency the euro.

The identity of the person who will succeed him has not yet been announced but the French finance

minister Moscovici has been seen as a possible candidate, it is quite clear that any candidate will have to be acceptable to the euro’s main controllers, France and Germany.

As the EU’s is pushing to get more women in high level positions, maybe a women may yet be considered.

Are UK politics about to change?

Will the next general election result in a destruction of the Conservative vote because they will not advocate withdrawal from the EU?

Professor Tim Congdon CBE

Once again we must congratulate the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) candidates in the three recent by-elections. With UKIP achieving over 20% in Rotherham, coming second in both Rotherham and Middlesbrough, and polling more heavily than the LibDems in Croydon North, its rise in the share of the votes is changing the face of British politics.

Many people in Britain have only slowly become aware that the so-called 'governing class'/'political establishment' has in the last 40 years handed over control of our country to an unaccountable bureaucracy in a foreign capital. But that awareness is growing, not least as countless examples of arrogant misgovernment from Brussels affect more people. An increasing number of voters are also coming to understand that all three of the so-called 'main parties' have been complicit in the betrayal of their country. With an unpopular and unimpressive Coalition government in power, UKIP is the obvious party to pick up 'protest votes'.

But UKIP is not just a protest party, it also has a strong fundamental message ('we want our country back') which resonates powerfully with many people. I have little respect for the politically correct 'governing class'/'political establishment' types, such as David Cameron and Nicholas Clegg, who have done so much damage to our country. (Nigel Farage has a nice phrase for them, 'the rich kid political elite', as quoted in *The Sun*.) But – if the 'rich kids' want the UK to stay in the EU – I would give them some words of advice. Hold an In/Out referendum on EU membership as soon as possible and – somehow – win it, despite the opinion polls showing that you will lose. The longer the referendum is postponed, the more likely that the vote will be for

withdrawal. Indeed, the longer that the three 'main parties' ignore the popular resentment of their country's betrayal, the more likely that UKIP will over time become the UK's largest single party and will form a government in its own name.

And the 'governing class'/'political establishment' – so wedded to the EU – wouldn't like that one little bit.

On current polling trends: the Conservatives will lose the next general election, perhaps with another Labour landslide, unless they decide to advocate withdrawal from the EU.

The obliteration of the Conservative and LibDems in the by-elections on the 29th November, and the slide in its vote share in Corby, has an obvious message. At the next general election Labour will keep its strongholds and rebound in the rest of the country, as left-wing LibDem voters return to it. The LibDems – who depended on their protest vote status for much of their support – will be massacred. My guess is that the middle-class anti-Labour vote will go largely to the Conservatives, whose vote share will be surprisingly resilient. UKIP will take votes from all three of the other parties and could poll 10%, perhaps more. In the 2010 general election the Conservatives took 36.1% of the vote, Labour 29.0%, Liberal Democrats 23.0%, UKIP 3.1% and the rest 8.8%. The rest included meaningful vote shares for the BNP (1.9%) and the Scottish National Party (1.7%), and the SNP in fact took six seats because of the concentration of its vote. Who knows what will happen in 2015? But I don't think I am claiming great powers of foresight in suggesting that Labour will take virtually all of the seats now held by the LibDems, except in the South-West. In the South-West the LibDem seats will either revert to the

Conservatives or possibly give UKIP its first parliamentary representation. If the Labour vote share were 40%, the Conservatives 34%, UKIP 11%, the LibDems 8% and the rest 7%, Labour would have a large majority, perhaps even a landslide.

It seems to me that – unless the Conservatives adopt withdrawal from the EU as a central plank in their electoral platform – they are heading for a big defeat in 2015. (And, after that big defeat, the party would almost certainly split between the Eurosceptics and Europhiles, in a wider realignment of British politics. The Conservative Party as such might cease to exist. Let us remember what has happened. Almost incredibly, the Conservative Party – the party of Winston Churchill etc. – has handed over the government of Britain to foreigners. No wonder the Conservative Party is losing members, while those that remain are increasingly angry and fed-up.)

Will Cameron decide that the Conservatives must go for EU withdrawal, in order to save his own and his party's skin? Or will Cameron be replaced in the next few months, as the parliamentary party realise they are heading for a disaster in 2015?

First, we see that Boris Johnson has returned to being an establishment figure on the EU, rejecting the idea of an In/Out referendum. As with so much of Boris, his signature on the People's Pledge was evidently meant in jest.

Secondly, my understanding is that, in their recent voting for the chairmanships of parliamentary committees and such like, the Conservative parliamentary party has opted for the Cameroons. The EU rebels have been cut out.

No wonder that some of the rebels are considering moving over to UKIP.

Britain's contribution is the real issue

During a debate on the Prime Minister's statement in regard to the European Council the following statement was made by Lord Stoddart of Swindon.

"Britain is not a member of the eurozone. We have decided to keep our own currency. There is no prospect of our joining the eurozone. So why on earth does our Prime Minister keep lecturing the eurozone as to how it should carry on, including whether it should have a banking union? Since we

are not part of it, it is nothing to do with us, and we should keep out of it.

The second point I want to raise, ...is the position in relation to Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, who seems to be throwing her weight about increasingly these days. The Prime Minister does not have to satisfy Angela Merkel; he has to satisfy the people of this country, and the people of this country, we understand, will suffer austerity for the next 10 years, which means that they cannot afford to

pay any more than the £10.3 billion that we already pay into EU coffers. I hope that the Prime Minister realises that he is not answerable to the EU for taxation and our contributions. He is responsible to the British people, who show increasingly that they are not very happy about remaining in the European Union, and who will be even unhappier if they are asked to pay even more towards it."

Hansard, House of Lords 22nd October 2012.

Scotland in or out of the EU?

Alex Salmon, the Scottish First Minister has continued to insist that Scotland would remain a member of the EU should a 'yes' to Independence vote be obtained in the 2014 referendum, others appear to think not.

A suggestion has come from the European Commission that appears to differ from that of Alex Salmon's, in

that it believes that Scotland would if acquiring independence from the United Kingdom have to submit itself to the full process of applying for EU membership.

Scotland could then find itself being forced to adopt the euro as a condition of membership and who knows maybe its oil reserves in the North Sea would be classified as a common resource,

just like the UK fishing areas went when the UK joined the EU.

However, all is not lost for Scotland, they may find their application blocked by the UK or other EU members.

The UK may decide that a change of name to reflect its new identity (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) should also require it to decide again if it wishes to remain locked in the EU.

Daftland

Bob Lomas

We live in a country called
Daftland
The England we knew is no
more
Where sensible people do
ludicrous things
Or risk breaking some
Daftland law.

In Daftland we've police dogs
with muzzles
Less the villain has cause to
complain
And to steal from a shop and
say 'sorry'
Means you're free with no
stain to your name.

You had better leave lights on
in buildings
When you lock up and go
home at night
'cause the burglars might hurt

themselves entering
And there's no way you'll be
in the right.

When speaking be wary in
Daftland
As some terms that you've
used all your life
Now have connotations
unintended
And you'll end up in all sorts
of strife.

We elect politicians in
Daftland
To give us the laws of the land
Yet eight laws in ten now come
from abroad
The whole thing has got out of
hand.

The borders are open in
Daftland

And of migrants there's no
keeping track
Just a few of the thousands
illegally here
Will ever be caught and sent
back.

The exception to this is the
hero
Who fought for this land in the
war
He's old and he's sick, he
might cost us a bit
So he's not welcome here any
more.

When the history is written of
Daftland
Historians may just recall
That the craziest people in
Daftland
Were the public who put up
with it all.

LETTERS

Tel: 08456 120 175 email: eurofacts@junepress.com

Can UKIP re-invent itself?

Dear Sir,

To achieve its objective UKIP must become a big player at Westminster but it is unlikely to happen under the UK political status quo.

UKIP is hugely concentrated in a eurosceptic England for neither Scotland, Wales nor Northern Ireland have a great urge to leave the EU for they are gross recipients of so-called EU Objective One funding i.e. England's taxpayers money recycled.

UKIP is also reputed to be full of disenchanting Conservatives who seem to be abandoning the UK Tory party in droves.

England, as concluded by think tank Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR), is entrapped in the "iron grip of UK party self-interest" i.e. political parties who are neither pro-England nor have any primary allegiance to England nor its inhabitants.

By contrast post devolution Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland now have self governance and self determination being blessed with their own devolved governments and national political party regimes who champion the national interests of their own country both in Westminster and in devolved governments.

England (the mother of parliament), regrettably, has no such political champions and is the only democracy on earth devoid of national political representation.

So perhaps the time is ripe for UKIP, a well established political party, to re-invent itself as the new "England Conservative party" which could be the catalyst for a full English political regime of national pro-England parties since English Democrats already exist and an English Labour party would quickly

come.

The main UK political parties are effectively obsolete having most of their political presence only in England but they are not fit for this country's purpose.

Since 1999 Devolution the now neutered so-called UK Westminster government has been in charge of only:-

(A) UK Non-devolved matters mainly defence, taxation, foreign affairs, EU, debt, etc its all that's left of a common purpose UK.

(B) England Only matters - virtually all other functions which were devolved to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in 1999.

A pro-England political regime would champion England's inhabitants in all matters (B) - the main UK political parties are not fit for such purpose.

What do UKIP members think?

R.A. HOPKINS
Gloucestershire

Fishing and Democracy

Dear Sir,

I am fed up with David Cameron. I have read today that he is now saying, we must be at the heart of Europe otherwise it will be disastrous for the UK. What a downright lie. He should take a look at the British white fish fleet. No aspect of the United Kingdom's suicidal involvement with the European Union is more flagrant than the downright treachery, and lies which has brought about the deliberate destruction of our white fish fleet.

What about democracy? Democracy means the people are free, and the free people choose their rulers, and the rulers rule according to the wishes of the people - that is true democracy. Yet the notion exists that democracy means

putting your cross down on a piece of paper, after which those elected, become the dictators of those who elected them.

This it appears is the view taken by David Cameron, since the last thing he wants to know is the will of the British people. Of course it was his Party which took us into this mess in the first place. In 1972 the Conservative Administration took us into what we were deceived into believing was just a "common market", and agreed in the European Communities Act 1972, to allow EC law now (EU law) to take precedence over British law. Surely that must have been very close to, if not altogether an Act of Treason against the state, since the constraints of the British Constitution doesn't permit any transfer of sovereignty to a foreign power for five minutes, far less for 40 years. Furthermore this treacherous action has resulted in the British people being made subordinate political serfs to an alien foreign power, and perpetuates this by insisting that we remain in political servitude to it.

The public trust in our politicians and civil servants does not permit them to undermine with utter contempt the constraints of the British Constitution by which they are legally bound. By doing so however, they are making an absolute mockery of all the human sacrifice that went into creating, and defending it in the first place.

The British people demand that their voice must be heard, and every vestige of sovereignty which has been deceitfully surrendered to Brussels, returned to the British Parliament as speedily as possible.

We have had enough of it David Cameron's way!

THOMAS HAY
Aberdeen

eurofacts wishes its readers the compliments of the season.

Our next issue will be published on 15th February 2013.

MEETINGS

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Thursday **10th January 2013**,
Starts at 2.00 pm

“What the Dickens? The City’s great financial scandals past and future”

The litany of great financial scandals is long, and sadly unending. Dickens himself covers scandals we would recognise today in *Little Dorrit* and *Nicholas Nickleby*...

This symposium seeks, through the ghosts of scandals past, present and future, to see what lessons we can learn and to assess which is rosier, the future of finance or of financial scandals.

Professor David Kynaston
Professor Michael Mainelli
Professor Tim Connell
with a Panel of Experts

PUBLIC MEETING
Barnard’s Inn Hall, Holborn, London EC1N 2HH
Admission Free
(Reservations required)

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Tuesday **15th January**, 6.00 pm

“Roy Jenkins, Europe and the civilised society”

Vernon Bogdanor CBE FBA,
Emeritus Gresham Professor of Law

PUBLIC MEETING
Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2
Admission Free

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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.

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Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Thursday **17th January**, 1.00 pm

“The governance and voting system of the City of London”

Professor Tony Travers, *Director, Greater London Group, The London School of Economics and Political Science*

PUBLIC MEETING
Barnard’s Inn Hall, Holborn, London EC1N 2HH
Admission Free

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Thursday **24th January**, 6.00 pm

“How to make Western communities more competitive”

Douglas McWilliams, *Mercers’ School Memorial Professor of Commerce at Gresham College*

PUBLIC MEETING
Barnard’s Inn Hall, Holborn, London EC1N 2HH
Admission Free

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2012

UK Parliament **20th December**
Recess Begins

2013

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

UK Parliament **7th January**
Recess Ends

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

2014

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

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

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www.bdicampaign.org

British Gazette

www.britishgazette.co.uk

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.freebritain.org

Democracy Movement

www.democracymovement.org.uk

EU Observer

www.euobserver.com

EU Truth

www.eutruth.org.uk

European Commission (London)

www.cec.org.uk

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www.europeanfoundation.org

European No Campaign

www.europeannocampaign.com

EU Referendum Campaign

www.eureferendumcampaign.com

Freedom Association

www.tfa.net

Global Britain

www.globalbritain.org

Global Vision

www.global-vision.net

June Press (Publications)

www.junepress.com

Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign

www.lesc.org.uk

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www.newalliance.org.uk

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www.openeurope.org.uk

Regional Assemblies

www.regionalassemblies.co.uk

Sovereignty

www.sovereignty.org.uk

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www.statewatch.org

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www.teameurope.info

The EU Referendum Pledge

www.eupledge.com

The People’s Pledge

www.peoplespledge.org

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www.taxpayersalliance.com

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www.ukip.org

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