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Who should we trust with our personal information?

The internet giant Google released a transparency report in January which said that EU governments are making a record number of demands to obtain data on its citizens.

It received requests for information on Google users' browsing history, email communications, documents and IP data, this has increased 100 per cent since the Internet company started publishing the transparency reports three years ago.

Some 7,254 requests were made on 9,240 users in the EU between July and December 2012, averaging over 1,200 requests a month.

UK-based NGO Privacy International (PI) said the figures represent over a third of all requests made by governments worldwide during the same period.

Google has refused to comply with over 50 per cent of all requests from Italy, France, Spain and Germany because their demands were disproportionate in scope, unlawful or submitted incorrectly, said the NGO.

The company also fulfiled just 17 per cent of user data requests from the Polish government.

Carly Nyst the head of PI's international advocacy has said that, "Governments must stop treating the user data held by corporations as a treasure trove of information they can mine whenever they please, with little or no judicial authorisation".

Google said the requests primarily involve criminal investigations.

It added that a single request is sometimes made for several types of data and that in some cases they notify the user in advance that a government police agency wants to pry into their accounts.

But with companies often hushing-up data breaches for the sake of their reputations, the EU is keen for more transparency on who can be trusted to protect consumer's rights.

The European Commission plans a new cyber security policy that will require companies like Google, Facebook and Microsoft to disclose if hackers break into their systems and to face sanctions if they were at fault.

Should we trust the state or the company providers with our data?

According to the Estonian President: EU citizens should trust the state on data rights. He told data protection experts in Brussels (23rd January) that the state is the only "fundamental guarantor of a citizen's digital life."

Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who also chairs a steering group that advises the European Commission on cloud computing, said the state has to step in where the market has failed to protect people's online data.

"We need to be much less concerned today about the state being the bad guy. It's not gone away, but that's not the big problem," said Ilves at a panel on cyber security moderated by Dutch Liberal MEP Sophie In't Veld.

For their part, other panellists noted that state sanctioned digital espionage is on the rise.

Professor Bart Jacobs, a cyber security expert at the Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands, said that Chinese hackers last summer broke into EU Council chief Herman Van Rompuy's email account.

The Chinese deny the attack.

But as well as accusing Beijing, Jacobs claimed the information was used to speculate on the market and to make a lot of money.

Mr Van Rompuy, whose email server was hacked this summer, caused rumour's to spread that the information from this server which was of high value at the time was subsequently used to speculate on the market and make a lot of money, said Jacobs.

He said that while the Chinese are probably the biggest culprits in digital espionage, they are not alone. Countries in the West are also implicated.

In some cases, the debates are shifting towards allowing the police, for instance in the Netherlands, to hack into people's computers even if they live outside the country, for the sake of criminal investigations.

"It's really far reaching," said Jacobs.

What all this shows is that the less personal information we put online the better.

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Immigrants take on liabilities

Do immigrants realise that they take on pre-existent public debt and liabilities?

Anthony Scholefield

One of the world's current puzzles is why immigrants continue to come to the UK, as well as other western European countries and the USA, where they automatically assume responsibility for the interest burden and repayment liabilities of enormous government debt. This debt was incurred by past government spending and incurring of liabilities before these immigrants even arrived. Little of this debt was used to acquire government assets.

There is another puzzle. Those who advocate immigration, and even talk about immigrants helping to pay for pensions, do not care to inform immigrants of the liability they are taking on. However, the fact is that new immigrants take on an enormous debt burden for past government spending. They become late entrants to a Ponzi scheme.

Those who advocate immigration are often quick to adopt a posture of high morality. This is difficult to justify when the fact is that they are putting forward a policy that will saddle new immigrants with large-scale debts for past government spending and entitlement promises.

Emigration - A further aspect is that emigrants from highly indebted countries, shed their share of that debt when they emigrate. Nowadays, there is an increase in emigration, especially of the better skilled, from southern Europe, Ireland and the UK. The motivation for this movement is to find jobs not to avoid debt. However, often mentioned is that these jobs carry lower tax burdens and the tax burden reflects, interalia, debt servicing. The fact is that if their emigration is permanent, they do shed their share of their native country debts.

Joel Kotkin in *Forbes* magazine, 28th June 2012, pointed out *"An estimated half million left Spain last year alone. Ireland, which in recent decades actually attracted migrants, was exporting a thousand people a week last year. In recession-wracked Britain, a 2010 poll found nearly half of the population would like to move elsewhere."*

There is clearly a danger that emigration of the better skilled, motivated at present by a search for employment, will leave the remaining population with more debt per capita. When this is realised, emigration may increase substantially.

Impairment of the security of lenders - Lenders to the British government need to be aware that their perceived security, which is the future taxes levied on the British taxpayer, and defined in the Whole of Government Accounts as 'Total Liabilities to be funded by future revenues', is gradually being transferred. The underwriting taxpayer is gradually changing as the better skilled emigrate and are replaced by immigrants whose taxable capacity may be less.

What are the figures for the UK? - According to the Office for National Statistics in its publication, *'Capital Stocks, Capital Consumption and Non-Financial Balance Sheets'*, the total wealth of the UK on the 31st December 2010 was £3,181 billion in terms of the net written down value of all fixed assets (£2,539 billion in 2004) and is, therefore, per head £50,781 (£40,532 per head in 2004).

The UK population is about 62 million. The gross value of UK fixed assets (stocks, work-in-progress and also land and foreign investment, are all excluded from these calculations of wealth and capital assets) in 2010 was £5,199 billion, or £82,996 per head. The actual total of government assets, according to the Whole of Government Accounts for 2009/10, was £1,207 billion (at 31/3/2010) or £19,268 per head, so the share of government assets acquired by each immigrant was £19,268 per head.

The total government liabilities of the UK were £6,269 billion on the 31st December 2010, that is, the total of government official debt, public sector pension and state pension liabilities, or approximately £100,000 per head. Therefore, each immigrant immediately assumes this amount of liabilities. As only half the population is actual workers or income generators, each worker assumes a debt of £200,000. From the figures on wealth above, the amount of written down capital assets acquired for use by an immigrant is less than half of this (£50,781) and his share of government assets is about twenty per cent of his share of government liabilities. An emigrant from the UK immediately sheds a corresponding amount.

These figures can be summarised as follows for the UK in 2010:

1. Total government liability acquired per head by a new immigrant £100,000
2. Total government liability acquired per head by a new worker £200,000
3. Total government assets acquired per head by a new immigrant £19,268
4. Total share of national wealth acquired for use per head by a new immigrant £50,781
5. Total wealth needed to be created for each new immigrant if capital assets per head are to be maintained. {This figure is different from that in (4) because new immigrants have to be equipped with new capital equipment as it is impossible to add extra part-used assets to the economy.} £82,996.

The enormous rise in formal government debt, public sector pension liability and state pension liability over the last six years, (it has more than doubled in five years) means that

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Immigrants take on liabilities

Continued from page 2

the total of liabilities taken on by the average immigrant is now substantially in excess of the total assets gained for use by an immigrant and massively more than his share of government assets.

Qualifications - For the purpose of this analysis, it is assumed that each emigrant or immigrant has exactly the economic characteristics of the average (mean) earner of the native population. In fact, the cost of taxes falls more heavily on higher earners, who do not include most UK immigrants but who will have to pay for a greater share of the burden of past government debt and liabilities.

An emigrant who is a high earner will, therefore, shed a greater sum of government debt than an average earner. A high earning immigrant will take on a greater share of debt than an average immigrant.

A broader perspective should also take on the possibility that government liabilities have grown so large that they can never be paid and must be defaulted on. This may make the apparently irrational intention to immigrate a more rational course of action.

Conclusion - Like most native citizens, immigrants do not usually form their judgement of whether to change their country of residence on contemplation of relative long-term government liabilities.

However, for most immigrants into the UK, it is clear they take on responsibility for past government debts on a massive scale. Similarly emigrants from the UK shed their share of responsibility for these debts.

Is there not now a case, both morally and practically, and in the interests of transparency, for giving a formal notice to each immigrant that they are taking on such a large liability?

National or European Parliament?

The independent Labour Peer, Lord Stoddart of Swindon has called for the European Parliament to revert to being an assembly, as it was until 1979, with representatives 'elected by and accountable to national parliaments'. In a written question in the House of Lords, Lord Stoddart asked if the Government would advocate such a course in any future discussions on revision of the European Union treaties.

Baroness Warsi, replying for the Government, would not be drawn into a direct reply, going no further than saying that the Government would work to "enhance the role of national parliaments in European Union matters, including by using existing mechanisms such as improved consultation, and through the reform of institutions".

Commenting on the Government's reply, Lord Stoddart said: "These weasel words simply aren't good enough. The European Parliament is now regularly seeing itself as senior to national parliaments. It is currently attempting to hold a secret vote on the latest EU budget settlement, which is quite disgraceful when you consider that they are dealing with how taxpayers' money is to be spent. It is national parliaments which raise the taxes that are handed over to the EU and who are directly accountable to the electorate. It is they who should have the final say, not the European Parliament.

Only yesterday, the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz said "the multi-annual budget negotiated by heads of governments will have no majority in the European Parliament, we will reject it for sure". He is openly challenging an agreement reached by elected heads of government on behalf of their taxpayers. This institution is out of control and badly needs to be reformed and returned to being an assembly with representatives responsible to national parliaments.

Written Questions - House of Lords, Hansard 26th February 2013.

Pay and the EU

The EU officials have struck a deal on new financial rules, including capping bank bonuses.

Under the agreement bonuses will be capped at a year's salary, but can rise to two years pay if there is explicit approval from shareholders.

The UK which hosts Europe's biggest financial services centre, was opposed to any cap on bank bonuses.

David Cameron said the EU should concentrate on tightening up banks other ways.

Chancellor George Osborne was in Brussels last week trying to renegotiate the proposals, he failed, but further talks are expected.

However, EU finance ministers in the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Ecofin) have approved the bonus proposals.

The City of London fears the rules will drive away talent and restrict growth and Boris Johnson has supported these fears.

The result of these changes means that yet another power will move to the EU, how long before they dictate wages and benefits?

The difference between salary and bonuses payments being included as pay will probably end up in the courts.

UKIP is getting stronger

The result of the Eastleigh by-election which saw UKIP rise up into second place just behind the Lib Dems, must make the Lib Dems, Labour and Conservative parties think again about the real costs of EU membership.

The seat was retained by the Lib Dems with a very greatly reduced vote of (-14.48%), while UKIP increased its vote by (+24.2%). Conservatives also lost votes (-13.96%) and the Labour party increased its vote by (+0.22%).

Mike Thornton - Lib Dem - received 13,342 votes (32.06%).

Diane James - UKIP - received 11,571 votes (27.8%).

Maria Hutchings - Conservative - 10,559 votes (25.37%).

John O'Farrell - Labour - 4,088 votes (9.82%).

No other party received more than 1,000 votes.

Who controls benefits, EU or UK?

Plans by the UK government to clamp down on "benefit tourism" could see some residents and immigrants affected by changes to the rules on entitlement.

Ministers are looking to limit access to benefits like health care and housing when the freedom to work controls on Romanians and Bulgarians ends on the 1st January 2014 allowing them full access to the UK.

The details of how changes might differ from current rules is not yet clear.

Downing Street said the curbs were being considered in response to "widespread public concern".

However, the UK is facing a "big battle" in the EU institutions over rules governing access to benefit, Works and Pensions Secretary, Iain Duncan Smith has said.

On the BBC's Andrew Marr Show (17th February) Mr Duncan Smith accused EU officials of trying to "take control" of policies previously left to member states.

"Social Security and welfare has never been in the province of the EU" he said.

Meanwhile, Labour who have accused ministers of windy rhetoric on access to benefits are starting to agree.

Tories and Human Rights

Justice Secretary, Chris Grayling has said he is "absolutely certain" the Conservatives will go into the next election with a "plan" that could involve a change in Hman Rights law.

Mr Grayling when asked if this could mean withdrawing from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), told the BBC he had "not ruled anything out",

The Lib Dems have said they are "committed to keeping the Convention".

The Human Rights Act incorporates the convention into British law.

Yet again the tories are implying they will stand up for Britain but will they?

Eurozone recession to continue

According to the latest forecast from the European Commission, the recession in the eurozone will persist in 2013.

The Commission has said that the eurozone economy will shrink by 0.3 per cent in 2013, making the governments' task even harder.

Governments face an uphill battle to rein in their overspending, with Spain, France and Portugal all failing to cut their deficits to agreed targets.

Spain's deficit, at 10.2 per cent of GDP in 2012, was well above its 6.3 per cent target and would stay above target in 2014.

Only three months ago Catalonia's new leaders pledged to hold a referendum on independence from Spain.

Now this same regional government has asked the Spanish government for a further €9 billion (£7.7 billion) in bail-out money.

According to the regional government it needs the money to pay down debts and meet the deficit reduction targets, this is on top of the €5 billion already asked for in August 2012.

Bank of England, more changes!

The new deputy governor of the Bank of England from 1st April will be Andrew Bailey.

He will be the chief executive of the central bank's new Prudential Regulation Authority, which will make sure that banks and other financial institutions do not take too much risk.

Mr Bailey currently does the job at the Financial Services Authority, but responsibility for such regulation is moving to the Bank of England.

He was previously chief cashier, which meant his signature appeared on bank notes.

BOOK REVIEW

Single Market exposed

Extract of the foreword by Barry Legg - sums up the problems associated with the EU Single Market clearly and concisely

Saying 'No' to the Single Market
Foreword by Barry Legg

Bruges Group Pamphlet 50pp 2013

Available from
The June Press
Price £4.00 + p&p
(see back cover)

ISBN 978-0-9564614-4-5

A collection of speeches delivered to the Bruges Group on the 20th anniversary of the creation of the EU's Single Market (2012) by Professor David Myddelton, Professor Jean-Jacques Rosa, Dr Andrew Lilico, Ian Milne and Ruth Lea.

"Many of the burdens on British businesses come from the UK being politically subsumed within the EU's Single Market. Yet too many opinion formers in both the media and politics mistakenly believe that exiting the EU will endanger British businesses selling goods and services to those on the Continent. The speakers ...explained that the psychological dependence upon the Single Market is one of the major ways by which the EU runs affairs in this country.

The government's strategy towards the EU is hamstrung by a mistaken belief that accepting the supremacy of EU law is a pre-requisite for trade with the EU. The Single Market is a Customs Union with the institutions of the EU making regulations which govern business within it. There are no important customs unions anywhere else in the world.

EU membership is not a pre-requisite for access to the Single Market. Switzerland and Norway which are outside of the EU, export more in relation to their GDPs and per capita than the UK does. Furthermore, both China and the USA each export more to the EU than the UK does and without having their economies burdened by costly EU regulation.

The Office for National Statistics (OECD) exaggerates the importance of trade with the EU. They take into account the reshipping of goods in Antwerp and Rotterdam. The reality using OECD figures which are not distorted by the Antwerp/Rotterdam effect show that 41% of British export trade is with the EU, not 48%. However, trade with businesses on the continent is declining and trade to the rest of the world is increasing. By 2020 around 70% of Britain's foreign trade will not be with the EU.Yet as members of the EU Britain is banned from negotiating trade deals with other countries.

Less than 10% of the British economy is involved with trade with the EU yet 100% of the economy is hamstrung by excessing EU regulations which disproportionately harm small and medium sized enterprises. SMEs employ the vast majority of workers in the UK. It has recently been calculated that the cost of EU regulation is some 5% of GDP equivalent to some £75 billion per annum.

On withdrawal, the EU would continue to trade with the UK. The UK is the 26 states of the EU biggest single customer. And actually has a trade deficit of £50 billion per year.

Under Article 3, 8 and 50 of the Treaty on European Union, the EU is constitutionally obliged to negotiate "free and fair trade" with non-EU countries - which it does. Besides, discriminating against exports would be illegal under the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Countries as far afield as Mexico, Turkey, Chile and South Africa have tariff free access to the Single Market. Without having to pay the huge costs associated with the EU. In fact around 60 other nations, outside the EU, have trade agreements with the EU. And the EU is in the process of negotiating around a further 60 other agreements . So there is absolutely no reason why the UK should not be able to enjoy such a status. Britain, with only 8% of the votes in the Court of Ministers has little formal power over the determination of the EU rules, whereas a sovereign state would have 100% authority over its own affairs.

Outside of the EU Britain can retake its seat on the WTO and negotiate according to our best interests instead of being represented by the EU trade commissioner who is currently from Belgium. Britain will then be able to negate without being encumbered by the differing interests of the other EU nations that often have a different outlook to the UK. And as one of the largest WTO members the UK can support the many members who share our global trading outlook.

French and German economies contract

Official figures have shown that in the final three months of 2012, the French and German economies have contracted.

The eurozones's largest economy Germany, has seen its gross domestic product (GDP) shrink by 0.6 per cent, as its exports declined. This contraction was the deepest since the first three months of 2009, at the height of the financial crisis.

Meanwhile, at the same time the French economy shrunk by 0.3 per cent.

The eurozone suffered a further set back by the contraction of 0.9 per cent in the Italian economy in the last quarter of 2012.

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

Single Market better outside EU membership

Dear Sir,
Reading the *Express* on Saturday 2nd December I was surprised to read the following: Independent Labour peer Lord Stoddart of Swindon asked the government by written question whether Japan, Canada, Singapore and Morocco in trade negotiations with the EU would have to adopt the laws and regulations that govern the Single Market before they can sell their goods.

The reply received from Trade Minister Lord Green confirmed: "it is not the case that as a result of these trade negotiations the countries concerned will have to adopt all the legislation and regulations that apply to EU members states". Duties levied on the goods exported by these countries are to be all but scrapped and yet they are expected only to uphold generally agreed international standards rather than EU regulations.

As Lord Stoddard states the apologists for EU membership say that we must be a member so that the UK can have a say in the legislation and regulations from Brussels. The genie is now out of the bottle. Trade agreements with the EU mean that countries like Japan, Canada, Singapore and Morocco will NOT have to adopt EU regulations and legislation.

DAVID NIXON
Staffordshire

Lack of self-confidence

Dear Sir,
How disappointing to read in *eurofacts* February 2013, book review - *Au Revoir, Europe*, - that a EU-free Britain "should consider joining NAFTA" "and the UK will have had to accept still making some financial contribution to Brussels."

Utter nonsense!

This is a residue of that self-confidence loss which Britain has suffered from since World War II - and has resulted in the country's entanglement with the EU.

We do not live on the American continent, so even considering NAFTA is inappropriate.

The UK does not need to be in any way associated with any kind of bloc to survive.

There is no country better placed than Britain to make its own way in the world. Numerous articles in *eurofacts* - as well as June Press publications - have made this clear.

All OUT for a free Britain!

RALPH MADDERN
Warwickshire

PM Boris Johnson?

Dear Sir,
I have seen your review of Mr Charter's book setting out his perception of our future relationship with the EU to 2023. The shameless exploitation of "beneficial crises" and the clandestine annexation of our civil; service notwithstanding, his appreciation is convincing.

I have only one caveat: "he looks back" lightheartedly in 2023 to the rather alarming survival as Prime Minister of Boris Johnson. Can we afford to be complacent about the gently smiling son of Stanley Johnson, founder member alongside Richard Balfe, of the Crocodile Club?

MRS JUDITH PARISH
Shropshire

Immigration from Bulgaria and Rumania

Dear Sir,
The Government, if it continues to bow and scrape before the EU juggernaut will, by the end of 2013, be forced to allow anyone from Bulgaria and Romania to enter Britain. The combined population of these two poor EU members is 30 million. The last time the British Government assessed how many people would come to this country from Eastern Europe their guess was wrong by a factor of 69!

According to the EU's own statistics on a country's "severe material depravation" Bulgaria stands at 44% and Romania at 29% - by far the worst in the EU. We risk a flood of job seekers and welfare dependents which will make the hundreds of thousands who came from Poland and Lithuania look like a tea party.

Sign the petition at:
http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/41492

Stop up to 30m Bulgarians and Romanians having free access to the UK!

RODNEY ATKINSON
Northumberland

EU cherry picking!

Dear Sir,
David Cameron's idea of cherry picking the best of the EU that works for the UK and dropping or changing the things he dislikes may yet result in real changes.

Many members of the EU are not happy at having more and more levers of control over their country being taken-over by the EU machine. Added to this is the backlash that their electorate is starting to inflict on the leaders of these countries.

Whether he can make enough changes to suit a democratic country like the UK remains to be seen but at least it cannot hurt to try.

If not, then we just have to leave this mad-house and return the UK to a country fit for the future by making trade deals with countries that actually will buy our goods and services resulting in a positive balance of trade.

We could start with the already growing trade in Commonwealth countries, plus India and China.

SARAH MASTERS
Bristol

MEETINGS

UK Independence Party
01626 831290

Saturday **23rd March**
All day conference

Further details including speakers to be announced

SPRING CONFERENCE
The Great Hall, Exeter University, Exeter, Devon
Admission £20

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Tuesday **16th April**, 6.00 pm

"Tony Benn and the idea of participation"

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

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

Campaign for an Independent Britain
07092 857684

Saturday **4th May**

Further details to be announced

PUBLIC MEETING
Upper Hall, Emmanuel Centre, London
Admission
(Fee to be announced)

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Tuesday **21st May**, 6.00 pm

"Sir Keith Joseph and the Market Economy"

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

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

Bruges Group
020 7287 4414

Monday **30th September,** 1.30 pm

Further details and speakers to be announced

PUBLIC MEETING
The Great Hall, Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester M60 2LA
Admission Free

DIARY OF EVENTS

2013

UK Parliament Budget — **20th March**

UK Parliament Recess Begins — **26th March**

UK Parliament Recess Ends — **15th April**

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

2014

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

European Parliament MEP elections — **due in June**

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

2015

Latvia takes over EU Council Presidency — **1st January**

USEFUL WEB SITES

British Declaration of Independence
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.uk
Democracy Movement
www.democracymovement.org.uk
EU Observer
www.euobserver.com
EU Truth
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www.europeanfoundation.org
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EU Referendum Campaign
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June Press (Publications)
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Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign
www.lesc.org.uk
New Alliance
www.newalliance.org.uk
Open Europe
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www.sovereignty.org.uk
Statewatch
www.statewatch.org
Team
www.teameurope.info
The EU Referendum Pledge
www.eupledge.com
The People's Pledge
www.peoplespledge.org
The Taxpayers' Alliance
www.taxpayersalliance.com
United Kingdom Independence Party
www.ukip.org

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European Movement	020 7940 5252
Federal Trust	**020 7735 4000**

AGAINST "EU"

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British Weights & Measures Assoc.	020 8922 0089
CIB	**0116 2874 622**
Democracy Movement	020 7603 7796
Freedom Association	**0845 833 9626**
Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign	020 7691 3800
New Alliance	**020 7385 9757**
Fishing Association	01224 313473

CROSS PARTY PRESSURE GROUPS

Congress for Democracy	**01372 453678**

CROSS PARTY THINK TANKS

Bruges Group	**020 7287 4414**
Global Britain	Email: globalbritain-1@globalbritain.org
Global Vision	**www.global-vision.net**
Open Europe	0207 197 2333

POLITICAL PARTIES

Conservative Rt Hon David Camaron MP	**020 7222 9000**
English Democrats Robin Tilbrook (Chairman)	**01277 896000**
Green Party Natalie Bennett	**020 7272 4474**
Labour Ed Miliband MP	**020 7783 1000**
Liberal Mr Rob Wheway	**01562 68361**
Liberal Democrats Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP	**020 7222 7999**
New Britain Mr Dennis Delderfield	**020 7247 2524**
UK Independence Party Nigel Farage MEP	**01626 831290**

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