

## A revolution in how the EU makes our laws

Anthony Coughlan

From 1st November, the voting system for making supranational EU laws changed to increase the weight of the big States, Germany in particular, and reduce the voting weights of the smaller States like Ireland.

The most important power-political change made by the 2009 Treaty of Lisbon, which gave the European Union its own Constitution, is that it also provided that from 1st November 2014 for law-making in the EU to be based on simple population size/number of citizens, just as in any State.

From that date a qualified majority for making supranational laws on the EU Council of Ministers now consists of 55% of the States - which means 15 out of the 28 - as long as that 15 comprise 65% of the total EU population of some 500 million people.

With Germany and France between them having one-third of the EU's population and half the population of the Eurozone, this provision of the Lisbon Treaty gives these two States a blocking minority on any issue if they can get one or two smaller allies. It also gives them a powerful say in pushing through whatever laws or policy measures they may wish for.

As Germany is the most populous EU Member State, this Lisbon Treaty provision means that now Germany's voting weight in making EU laws has doubled from its pre-Lisbon 8% of Council votes - i.e. 29 votes for each

of the four biggest States (viz. Germany, France, Italy and Britain) out of a total of 345 votes in all, a weighted majority being 255 - to 16%, because that is Germany's proportion of the total EU population.

Having a shareholding of 16% in a company of 28 shareholders can be close to a controlling interest.

Under this new arrangement the voting weights of France, Italy and Britain have risen from their pre-Lisbon 8% each to 12% each.

Moreover, under the new population-based system post-2014 the six largest EU States have increased their combined share of Council votes from 49% to over 70%, while the combined voting share of the 22 smallest States has fallen from 51% to less than 30%. Ireland's will fall from 2% to less than 1%.

This provision of the Treaty of Lisbon shows clearly how that treaty was a power-grab by Germany in particular, to increase its weight in the post-Lisbon European Union.

Since the 1957 Rome Treaty the three or four largest EU States had the same number of votes as one another in making EU laws - up to now 29 votes each out of a total of 345. Under the new system Germany for the first time will have one-third more relative voting weight than either Britain, France or Italy - 16% on a population basis as against 12% for the others.

Germany's population is 82 million in round figures, France's 64 million, the UK's 61 million and Italy's 60

million. The total EU population is 500 million.

It is sometime said that voting rarely takes place on the EU Council of Ministers, as if these voting weights do not much matter. In fact a process of "shadow-voting" takes place all the time whereby Ministers in the EU Council look around to see whether a qualified majority or a blocking minority exists for any proposal. Small countries rarely push matters to a vote if they see that the big countries are agreed on something. Most EU legislation is thus made "by consensus" on the Council of Ministers, but it is the voting weights which effectively decide whether there will be a consensus or not, and how matters will be decided when no consensus exists.

The relevant voting provisions of the Consolidated EU Treaties as amended by the Lisbon Treaty are set out in Art.16.4 of the Treaty on European Union and Art.238(2 and 3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

*Anthony Coughlan, Director The National Platform*

[Had Scotland won its referendum for independence it would then have tried to remain in the EU or seek membership, as the SMP have said. If this was successful then Scotland with a population of 5 million could have looked forward to even less control over its future.- Ed.]

# Constitutional code

There are various options set out for you to consider by a parliamentary Select Committee. Each of these options is itself open to debate and variations but they are for the people to decide;

## 1) The Constitutional Code

A document that doesn't have legal force, but which would set out the existing principles of the constitution and the workings of government.

## 2) Constitutional Consolidation Act

A document which would consolidate

existing constitutional laws in one place.

## 3) Written Constitution

A document of basic law by which the UK would be governed, setting out the relationship between the state and its citizens.

They are for you to consider. The Select Committee is initiating a national debate, and is deliberately not supporting a position for or against a codified constitution, believing it is for the people ultimately to decide that

question.

The Select Committee will consult widely and asks anyone who is interested in the future of the UK's constitution to send in their views on the questions.

The consultation closes on 1st January 2015. The Committee will report on the responses from the public in time for them to be taken into account ahead of the general election. The Committee's report and the research are available at:

([www.parliament.uk/pcrc-constitution](http://www.parliament.uk/pcrc-constitution))

## Why the EU needs the UK

Many reasons are put forward as to why the UK should leave the EU including unlimited immigration with the resulting costs imposed on the NHS, schools, housing requirements, roads, restrictions on the UK forming mutually beneficial trade agreements with countries outside the EU, unrestricted regulations, unnecessary directives and the huge costs involved with membership. All the costs are paid for by the UK taxpayer in one form or another.

Why, therefore, should the EU want the UK to remain a member of the club?

Could it be that;

a) The EU is jealous over the wide spread use of English in the wider

world, the American/UK or the Commonwealth/UK relationships that they fear.

b) The EU does not want the UK to succeed outside the EU because if that happens many other members of this club who are struggling to survive under its regime would also consider leaving, especially as the euro is not working and is actually damaging the economies of many members of the eurozone.

c) The UK net contribution of £12 billion and rising year-on-year would have to be met by other members or failing that by reducing the subsidies (some say bribes) it pays out to other countries in order to control them.

d) The loss of the UK would then

confirm the belief by many that the EU is a German dominated organisation and being used by Germany to extend its influence over Europe.

e) The cost of the protectionist policies like CAP would be further exposed.

f) The loss of the large very profitable exports to the UK as the UK sourced its requirement from outside the EU and at a lower cost especially in the areas of food.

If any or only part of these reasons is true, then the UK at the very least should insist on major changes of the rules of its current membership and not be afraid of actually leaving the EU in order to bring down its deficit and start paying back its outstanding loans.

## Eurozone economic forecast

According to a report just released by the European Commission the economy of the 18-strong eurozone members will grow by just 0.8% this year.

This forecast is well below the 1.2% estimate that was made earlier this year.

It gets worse, the commission has

also cut its growth forecast for 2015 to 1.1% from 1.7%.

The vice president of the EU Jyrki Katainen has said "the economic and employment situation is not improving fast enough".

Moreover, the report predicts that inflation in the eurozone will continue to be low and unemployment high.

To make matters worse the manufacturing growth in the eurozone slowed to a 13-month low in August according to a closely-watched survey.

The well-respected Markit's Eurozone Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) dipped to 50.7 in August down from 51.8 in July. A figure above 50 indicates expansion.

## EU rules over UK employment

The recent ruling by the European Union that overtime pay must now be taken into consideration when

businesses are calculating holiday pay and conditions only helps to underline why the EU is becoming the least

friendly environment in which to do business. For small companies growth in employment will be reduced.

# How to renegotiate with the EU

In this publication Martin Howe QC sets out the agenda for Britain's negotiations with the EU and the pathway for Britain to withdraw if the EU obstructs.

During the run up to next year's General Election, Britain's relationship with the EU will be central to the campaign, so how can voters' concerns be met that Britain maximises her trade with the EU and the wider world, while retaining vital control over borders and immigration? *Zero Plus*, sets out the legal and constitutional principles for a new deal with the EU.

In approaching the negotiations, he explains that two options exist: either to seek modification of existing treaties and EU regulations and directives, or to set out on a clean sheet what this country wants and be ready to withdraw from the EU. If it is not forthcoming, Mr Howe warns that former, issue-by-issue changes to EU treaties and laws, would be a complex, lengthy business, needing unanimous agreements by all Member States and ratification under their national constitutional requirements. That process could certainly delay any

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**Zero Plus:  
The Principles of EU Renegotiation**  
*by Martin Howe*

Politeia pamphlet 30pp 2014

Available from  
*The June Press*  
Price £5.00 + 10% p&p  
(see back cover)

ISBN 978-0-9926340-6-3

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settlement beyond 2017.

The author says that "the longer the list of demands, the longer the list of difficulties which will have to be faced and the larger the coalition of Member States which will be built up in opposition to agreeing to the UK demands".

Martin Howe QC, a distinguished EU lawyer whose proposal for *Safeguarding [UK] Sovereignty* was adopted by William Hague for the European Act 2011, explains the arrangements needed for international treaties and domestic matters. He shows how, if Britain were to

withdraw, it could refashion its relationship with the EU member states. The relationship which Britain could obtain by withdrawing should be the backdrop against which it should negate its terms of membership as an alternative to withdrawal. The EU, he explains, already has many "different categories of membership, in the sense that special Protocols to the EU treaties exclude certain states from some aspects of membership or at least modify their obligations in certain areas of policy".

Britain could, therefore, forge a very different relationship. Far from damaging Britain's future prosperity, proposing a new special category of membership with treaty obligations limited to mutual free movements of goods services and capital could make a renegotiation not only quicker and easier, but also more effective in keeping the goodwill of other Member States and promoting Britain's own interests, at home and abroad.

This fully detailed analysis should be read by politicians of all parties and all those who care about the UK's future.

## EU demands a further £1.7bn

**Professor Tim Congdon CBE**

The announcement that the EU wants an extra £1.7 billion (€2.1 billion) from the UK was presented in shock horror terms, as if sudden demands for more money were new. In fact, the EU has played this game a few times already. As I explained on pages 13-18 of the 2014 issue of *How much does the European Union cost Britain?*, in the last two years the EU seems to have lost control of its own expenditure and then bounced its member states into paying for major cost overruns. Already in 2012/13 the UK's net contribution to the EU Budget was £2.7 billion more than originally planned.

The newspapers are giving the impression that Prime Minister Cameron is aghast at the EU's pressure for more money and that he will resist it. In fact, he has conceded that, while the UK will not pay up on 1st December (as the Commission would like), it will pay up in due course as long as the figure is rounded down by a few hundred millions. This is pathetic and deceitful, but should not be a surprise. Cameron has been consistently pathetic and deceitful in his handling of EU issues since he became leader of the Conservative Party in 2005. Like Neville Chamberlain and Lord Halifax, he

does not understand that appeasing playground bullies only encourages the playground bullies to try again.

The correct response was of course to tell the EU 'no, we refuse to pay, full stop'. Cameron has not done that. As before, he needs to be reminded that he has lied in his claims to have cut the EU Budget. The truth is that the UK's net contribution to the EU Budget has more than doubled since 2009, the last full year before Cameron became Prime Minister. Indeed, I would not rule out that in 2015 the net cost will be treble its 2009 level.

Now is the time for Cameron to show real leadership!

# Free Trade and Customs Unions

In configuring their international trading relations, countries can choose between two basic models: the Free Trade Agreement (“FTA”) or the Customs Union (“CU”), they are radically different.

An FTA allows a country’s electorate, parliament and government to exercise national sovereignty when choosing arrangements for trade with the rest of the world.

A CU deliberately removes from its member-states the power to exercise national sovereignty in choosing arrangements for trade with the rest of the world. The exercise of power in a CU is by its very nature supranational.

FTAs & CUs are known collectively as Preferential (or “Regional” when appropriate) Trade Agreements (“PTAs”). Worldwide, FTAs account for the vast majority of the over five hundred existing PTAs. Most PTAs operate under the umbrella of the World Trade Organisation (“WTO”), which has 159 member-countries.

\* In an FTA, each participating country agrees on free (or free-ish) trade with the other countries in the FTA. A participating country is at liberty to make its own trading arrangements with countries *outside* the FTA.

\* In a CU, each participating country agrees on free (or free-ish) trade with the other countries in the CU. Each participating country cedes control to the supranational body which operates the CU of not just its trading arrangements *inside* the CU, but (unlike in FTAs) with all countries *outside* the CU. The participating country adopts the Common External Tariff set by the CU’s supranational operating body and accepts and implements whatever supranational trade policy the CU decides.

## Examples of FTAs

NAFTA<sup>1</sup>, the North American Free Trade Agreement, comprises Canada, the USA & Mexico. Canada (not NAFTA) already has an FTA with the European Free Trade Agreement

(“EFTA”)<sup>2</sup> countries (Switzerland, Norway & Iceland) & is currently negotiating an FTA with the EU CU.

The USA, the largest NAFTA member, has no FTA with the EU CU, nor with any EFTA country.

The third NAFTA member, Mexico, has had a separate FTA<sup>3</sup> with the EU CU since 2000. Under this FTA, Mexico has practically the same market access to countries inside the EU CU as EU countries themselves, with none of the EU regulations, and none of the costs, borne by EU countries.

Mexico (unlike the UK and its fellow members of the EU) retains the right to negotiate whatever trade arrangements it likes with all countries *outside* both NAFTA & the EU CU.

## Examples of CUs

The EU CU is the developed world’s only CU. Fewer than 10% of the world’s PTAs are CUs.

*Outside Europe, no significant industrial trading nation – not the USA, not China, not Japan, not South Korea, not Australia, not Chile – has chosen to conduct its international trade via a CU.*

The UK, in 1944 a founder-member of the WTO’s predecessor, gave up its seat & vote at the WTO on joining the then EEC in 1974. Since then, an EU Commissioner has voted at the WTO on behalf of the EEC/EU as a bloc. For the last 40 years, the UK, one of the biggest trading nations in the world, has had no direct influence or voting power at the WTO. Inside the EU CU, the UK, with 12%<sup>4</sup> of the votes in the EU Council of Ministers, can influence, but not determine, or block, EU trade policy. British policy has consisted in knowingly “offshoring” decisions on British trade to Brussels. Indeed, for the last 40 years, in law, constitution and practice, British trade policy has been *not to have a British trade policy*.

One example of the consequence of this policy can be seen in the current (2014) negotiations between the EU

and the USA on a future “Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership” (“TTIP”). On the European side, individual EU countries are excluded from these negotiations: the European Commission negotiates on behalf of all EU countries as a bloc. Whatever representations individual EU members (such as the UK) may make to the Commission, the decision to adopt or reject them is taken by the Commission alone.

## Preferential Trade Agreements (Free Trade Agreements & Customs Unions): Information Sources & Data-Bases

Preferential Trade Agreements – PTAs – comprise bi-lateral and multi-lateral trade agreements between countries or groups of countries. Regional Trade Agreements – RTAs – comprise bi-lateral and multi-lateral trade agreements at the regional rather than global level. There is significant overlap between PTAs & RTAs, which, broadly-speaking, can be Free Trade Agreements (the vast majority) or Customs Unions (a shrinking minority).

## Global Databases of all PTAs and RTAs

The Geneva-based WTO – World Trade Organisation ([www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)) – of which 159 countries are members, regulates world trade and maintains a register of PTAs/RTAs, of which there are currently (2014) over 500.

The World Bank and the Tuck Center for Global Business & Government at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, jointly maintain a comprehensive global database of PTAs/RTAs, the *Global Preferential Trade Agreements Database* or GPTAD. <http://wits.worldbank.org/gptad.html/> [www.info.com.tuck](http://www.info.com.tuck)

The Faculty of Law at Montreal’s McGill University, maintains a separate global database of PTAs & RTAs. ([www.ptas.mcgill.ca](http://www.ptas.mcgill.ca))

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# Free Trade and Customs Unions

## European Union PTAs

As of July 2014 the EU had PTAs in place with 48 countries, and PTAs in negotiation or “awaiting official conclusion” with another 84 countries, plus another 7 countries with which the EU is considering opening up “preferential negotiations”.

If all these PTAs come off, the EU will have PTAs with 139 countries<sup>5</sup>, representing 87% of the WTO’s total

membership of 159 countries.

### References:

1. NAFTA: [www.ustr.gov](http://www.ustr.gov)
2. EFTA: [www.efsa.int](http://www.efsa.int)
3. [www.globalbritain.co.uk](http://www.globalbritain.co.uk)>Briefing Notes>Archive>GlobalBritain Briefing Note No 19, The Mexico-EU Free Trade Agreement Points the Way, 1.3.02,
4. The UK’s percentage share of votes

in the EU Council of Ministers increased to 12% in October 2014, from 8% previously, following changes agreed earlier in the Lisbon Treaty

5. [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/does/2006/December/trade\\_118238pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/does/2006/December/trade_118238pdf)

Source: Global Britain Briefing Note No 97, 19th September 2014 Free Trade Agreements and Customs Unions are radically different.

## Post-Brexit trade in cars continues

Will companies continue to manufacture cars in the UK tariff-free after Brexit?

German, French and other EU manufacturers dominate UK car manufacturing, exports, imports and domestic consumption.

They, not politicians, will ensure that EU-UK trade in cars, in both directions, continues to be tariff-free post-Brexit

\* The UK imports over **twice** as many cars from Continental EU as it exports to Continental EU (1.4 million imported, 0.6 million exported).

\* Of the total 1.7 million cars imported into the UK in 2011, **eighty-three per cent** - 1.4 million - were from Continental EU.

\* Continental EU manufacturers have a 53% share of the domestic UK car market. German manufacturers

alone have a 32% share, Volkswagen Group having a 19% share of this.

\* Nissan/Renault’s Sunderland plant is the UK’s biggest car exporter, with 37% of all UK exports of cars (Renault has a 43% equity stake in, and management control of, Nissan. Nissan has a 15% equity stake in Renault.)

Source: Global Britain briefing note No 96, 12th September 2014

### UK Car Market in 2011: units manufactured, imported, exported and registered

	Units, millions	Notes
Output of UK plants	1.3	of which 0.5 million by Nissan/Renault, 0.2 million by BMW
Imports into UK from RoW	1.7	of which 1.4 or 83% from Continental EU
Exports from UK to RoW	(1.1)	of which 0.6 or 57% to Continental EU
Consumption	1.9	of which 1.0 or 53% made in Continental EU

Data sources: Milne & Hamill, “Withdrawal From the EU Would Not Damage Our Car Industry; True or False?” Civitas, 2013, [www.globalbritain.co.uk](http://www.globalbritain.co.uk) >Publications:..”Cars” excludes vans, trucks, buses, racing cars etc

## Why we need the Lords

The government has been defeated three times in the House of Lords over plans to limit the ability of individuals and organisations to challenge public decisions in the courts.

A coalition of peers from all parties regardless of party affiliation including

crossbenchers joined together to pass three amendments upholding legal discretion during judicial reviews.

Former judge Lord Woolf said recourse to the courts was a “key last resort”.

Lord Tebbit also voiced his opinion saying the voters, not judges, should

decide on such matters.

Meanwhile we hear that Ed Miliband and the Labour party are proposing to remove the Lords should they win the general election. His intention being to create a mainly elected chamber, he has not yet said how this would work.

## Ukraine’s problems grow

According to the World Bank, Ukraine’s economy is likely to suffer more than previously predicted because of the conflict in the east of the

country.

It now says the GDP is likely to contract by 8% this year, compared with its previous prediction of 5%.

Moreover, it now expects a 1% contraction in 2015, instead of 2.5% growth. Meanwhile the Russia/Ukraine situation remains unsolved.

# LETTERS

Tel: 08456 120 175 email: [eurofacts@junepress.com](mailto:eurofacts@junepress.com)

## Article 50: A damaging exit route?

Dear Sir,

Dr Richard North is usually right, but not on the use of Article 50 to leave the EU. Article 50 was designed more as a trap to keep countries in than a means of escape. It was designed by Giscard d'Estaing, arch-Europhile and author of the EU Constitution. It would mean a mandatory two-year negotiation, controlled by the EU and with the focus on protecting EU interests, not British ones. Under Article 50, the federalist majority in the European Parliament has a veto on any deal, and the UK would be presented with a "take it or leave it" decision at the end of the two years. This long period of uncertainty would do major damage to trade and investment in both the UK and the EU. Far better to take charge of the exit process ourselves and repeal the European Communities Act, which makes EU law superior to British law.

This route would also allow us to join EFTA as soon as we leave the EU. I don't think we could do that as an interim measure, during the Article 50 negotiation period. We would still be a member of the EU during the two years, and I doubt if we could be members of both EFTA and the EU at the same time.

KEN WORTHY  
Surrey

## Reckless

Dear Sir,

Although I appreciate the action of Mark Reckless MP for defecting from the Conservatives, I wish he had done it sooner. However, I admire his position in creating a by-election instead of just changing seats and keeping his pay.

Let us hope that he wins his seat back as a UKIP MP on 20th November and goes on to win again in May 2015.

Meanwhile, we now see Cameron

pretending to be more eurosceptic by making promises about his position regarding renegotiation, unfortunately for Cameron and the current political parties we have all heard such talk in the past only to find that at the last minute they all surrender to the EU machine.

The EU agenda of ever-closer-union will not be stopped by the UK remaining a member of a club with a completely different outlook on the world.

HELEN DAY  
Gloucestershire

## How much does the law cost?

Dear Sir,

Why is it that in Germany you can buy your way out of court but not in the UK? Is it that the EU under German rule has not yet decided to adopt this method throughout the EU as the UK politicians may find this will create more eurosceptics!

Bernie Ecclestone the Formula One magnate's charge of bribery brought under a German Court in Munich allowed the prosecutors and Mr. Ecclestone's defence lawyers to agree to drop the case against him with a payment of £60 million (\$100 million) by Mr. Ecclestone.

Under the German Code of Criminal Procedure, prosecutors can agree to drop a case in exchange for such conditions as a fine or community work, as long as the "gravity of guilt" doesn't pose an obstacle.

Munich prosecutors had charged Mr. Ecclestone with bribery and aiding and abetting to breach of trust in relation to a \$44 million payment that he made to Gerhard Gribkowsky, a former management board member of BayernLB, a bank controlled by the Bavarian state. In 2012, Mr. Gribkowsky was convicted too and sentenced for taking the money.

The payment is linked to the bank's sale of its 47% stake in Formula One in 2006. Private-equity firm CVC Capital

Partners bought the bank's stake for \$830 million in 2006.

The settlement overted a possible jail sentence of up to 10 years if Ecclestone - who had denied any wrongdoing - had been convicted.

Bernie Ecclestone is reported as saying, "Slowly, but surely, what I predicted about the EU is happening. What I said 10 years ago is that it would soon become a Third World economy. Europe was built on Germany and France. France is gone and Germany doesn't look good. Even with my help they are still in trouble".

Now we know how much the law is worth in the EU!

RICHARD SAUNDERS  
Birmingham

## Voting registration

Dear Sir,

Is the governments system of individual voter registration a further way to create ID cards by the back door?

It will be very easy for these records to then include information on date of birth to maintain a permanent record.

The system sounds very democratic but the fact that these records are also readily available as a snoopers charter for councils, businesses, political party's. Even worse they can literally be purchased by any organisation including EU based organisations that wishes to obtain further such information regarding its EU citizens.

During election campaigns the prospective candidates often obtain copies, they then turn-up at the door of your property already armed with your name. If however, you are criminally minded it also informs you if the occupant is single, with the subsequent use of facebook and other electronically stored information you are then able to obtain further details allowing credit card fraud and assisting other crimes against the occupant.

RONALD MERCHANT  
Dorset

# MEETINGS

**Gresham College**  
020 7831 0575

Tuesday **18th November**, 6.00 pm

*“The Military History of the First World War: an Overview and Analysis”*

**Professor David Stevenson**, London School of Economics

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

**Bruges Group**  
020 7287 4414

Saturday **22nd November**,  
10.30 am to 6.15 pm

*“Restoring Self-Government to Britain - The future for Britain is outside the EU”*

**Sir William Cash**, Conservative  
**Rt Hon Peter Lilley MP**, Conservative  
**Jeremy Nieboer**, Lawyer  
**Mark Pritchard MP**, Conservative  
**Mark Reckless**, UKIP candidate for Rochester & Strood by-election  
**Ewen Stuart**, Global Britain  
**Further speakers to be announced**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
Royal Over-Seas League, Royal Over-Seas House, 6 Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR  
**Admission £20**

**Gresham College**  
020 7831 0575

Tuesday **25th November**, 1.00 pm

*“Liberalism, Autonomy and Rights 2”*

**Professor the Lord Plant**, Gresham Professor of Divinity

Wednesday **3rd December**, 6.00 pm

*“Human Rights: Developments”*

**Sir Geoffrey Nice QC**, Gresham Professor of Law

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

**Gresham College**  
020 7831 0575

Thursday **4th December**, 6.00 pm

*“Greenness in Business and the City”*

**Carolyn Roberts**, Frank Jackson Foundation, Professor of the Environment

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

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**Contact Details**

**eurofacts Phone: 08456 120 175**

**or Email: eurofacts@junepress.com**

## DIARY OF EVENTS

**2014**

UK Government Autumn Statement **3rd December**

UK Parliament Recess Starts **17th December**

**2015**

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

UK Parliament Recess Ends **5th January**

UK General Election **7th May**

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

**2016**

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

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

## USEFUL WEB SITES

**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

**English Constitution Group**  
www.englishconstitutiongroup.org

**EU Observer**  
www.euobserver.com

**EU Truth**  
www.eutruith.org.uk

**European Commission (London)**  
www.cec.org.uk

**European Foundation**  
www.europeanfoundation.org

**EU Referendum Campaign**  
www.eureferendumcampaign.com

**Freedom Association**  
www.tfa.net

**Futurus**  
www.futurus-thinktank.com

**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

**Labour for a Referendum**  
www.labourforareferendum.com

**New Alliance**  
www.newalliance.org.uk

**Open Europe**  
www.openeurope.org.uk

**Sovereignty**  
www.sovereignty.org.uk

**Statewatch**  
www.statewatch.org

**Team**  
www.teameurope.info

**The People's Pledge**  
www.peoplespledge.org

**The Taxpayers' Alliance**  
www.taxpayersalliance.com

**United Kingdom Independence Party**  
www.ukip.org

**The Road to Freedom**

by Gerard Batten MEP. **£8.99**  
How to exit the EU and regain a proper future for an independent UK.

**Germany's Fourth Reich**

by Harry Beckhough. **£8.00**  
Code-breaker and spy explains the real drive by Germany for control over Europe without war. Re-produced from his original 2008 pamphlet.

**The City of London in retreat**

by Tim Congdon. **£5.00**  
Why the UK's most successful industry, the city is under attack from the Lisbon Treaty and the EU's regulations.

**A Pocket Book Of Freedom**

by Christopher Gill. **£5.00**  
The stupidity of abandoning fundamental aspects of our common law to the EU.

**A Doomed Marriage: Britain and Europe**

by Daniel Hannan. **£12.00**  
Why the European dream that was meant to unite us, bring peace, prosperity, freedom and democracy, has failed.

**Time for the UK to Face the Facts**

by Christopher Hoskin. **£7.99**  
An analysis of how and why the UK has lost its way by a lack of concern for the people whilst trying to appease the EU.

**Zero Plus:**

**The Principles of EU Renegotiation**  
by Martin Howe QC. **£5.00**  
Why Britain must be in a position to withdraw if its priorities are not met.

**The Norway Option**

Re-joining the EEA as an alternative to membership of the EU  
by Dr Richard North. **£5.00**  
Why EEA and EFTA are available.

**Sail On, O Ship of State**

Edited by Johanna Möhring & Gwythian Prins. **£12.00**  
A collection of writers including: Roger Scruton, Daniel Hannan, Frank Field and Tom Kremer, set out why the nation state should be preserved and cherished.

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