

It's time to be rude about the EU - everyone else is!

Many now recognise that the aspirations of the EU vastly exceed its competence and also grasp - though they have been slow to do so - that the appointment of a permanent presidency will not solve the problem

On numerous occasions in the past *eurofacts* has pointed to the sheer uselessness of the European Union in a crisis. The interesting thing is that the rest of the world, including many past admirers of the European project, is now coming to the same conclusion.

A front-page article in the *International Herald Tribune* from *Associated Press* - which can normally be relied upon to reflect majority opinion on foreign policy issues - declared on 17th January:

"Who listens to the EU these days? Not Russia and Ukraine, who ignore Europe's pleas to resume gas deliveries to Western Europe. Nor Israel, whose relentless assault on the Gaza strip continued amid EU demands for moderation."

It seems that those busy not listening even include European member states. At the height of EU attempts to negotiate a peace settlement in Gaza both Nicolas Sarkozy and German foreign minister Frank Steinmeier launched their own missions drawing accusations of grand-standing from one another as well as from Brussels officials.

Security Role

During the same week the pro-EU London-based Centre for European Reform produced a report which acknowledged that the EU would have little clout in the Middle East until it could "play a relevant security role" -

which does not look like being anytime soon.

"Many Israeli leaders believe that the EU does not have much to offer their security and therefore pay little attention to the EU in times of crisis," it said.

In the case of the energy crisis in Eastern Europe Brussels put its credibility conspicuously on the line by launching a high-profile diplomatic initiative to get the gas flowing. President Barroso is reported to have talked to Prime Minister Putin at least four times and also talked to his Ukrainian counterpart, Yulia Tymoshenko. Mirek Topolánek, the prime minister of the Czech Republic, which now holds the rotating EU presidency, visited Moscow and Kiev.

But after eight days of negotiating it became clear that Moscow, like Israel and China (which abruptly cancelled the China-EU summit scheduled for 2008 because it saw little value in the meeting) has a clear preference for dealing with nation states.

Andrew Wilson, a senior fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations complained to the *International Herald Tribune*: *"Moscow was very rude to EU officials and has been very sceptical of the Czechs. They may be waiting for big EU members to step in."*

Adversely Affected

It was also striking that Slovakia, a

country with a population of only five million and the one most adversely affected by the Russian decision to cut off gas supplies, should have decided that it could not rely on the EU to protect its interests during the crisis. It signalled its lack of confidence in the Commission by sending its own mission to Moscow.

In Central Europe it was long argued that small countries would have greater influence in the world as part of a larger entity, and that EU membership would provide protection against Russian bullying and intimidation. Eastern and Central Europeans know different and this is bound to colour their attitudes towards the wider European project. They sought EU membership on the basis of a fatal misconception: they now know that when the going gets tough you are on your own, and the EU can even get in your way.

Large Bloc

The argument that the national interest is best enhanced by membership of a large bloc has echoes of those which have figured prominently in the ongoing debate between British eurosceptics and their opponents. It is still routinely advanced by officials at the FO, and it is this belief which stands in the way of the robust assertion of national interest, although no other EU member

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EU fight against corruption ‘makes no difference’

Each year the EU spends millions to help fight corruption, human trafficking and smuggling in the Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus - all aspiring members of the EU - but according to a report from the European Court of Auditors the money is having little impact.*

Often the projects launched by the EU seemed to be used more for self-publicity by local politicians and officials than for the public good, Jacek Uczkiewicz, a member of the Court of Auditors said at a press conference 15th January:

“The visibility of the projects seemed to be designed for the prestige of the officials, not for the citizens,” said Mr Uczkiewicz.

The report covers the expenditure of €166 million during the period 2000-2005 in the area of freedom, security

and justice.

Asylum and migration projects were the least satisfactory, with projects facing huge delays, especially in the Ukraine.

Mr Uczkiewicz singled out two former military sites which the authorities were supposed to refurbish and equip as migrant accommodation centres for 1,260 persons, with an EU contribution of €3.8 million. By the end of 2006, several months after the scheduled completion date, the project had still not even started.

The only clear improvement observed was found in the management of borders, although the goal of achieving standards “*approximating to European good practice*” was still a long way from being achieved.

The European Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine

(EUBAM) which was set up in September 2005 to help the two countries manage their 1,200 km long common border was successful “*from a technical point of view*”. But, not being a peace keeping mission, it could not solve the problem of the frozen conflict in Moldova’s separatist region of Transnistria, say the auditors.

EUBAM found that Transnistria was a safe haven for smugglers, human traffickers and tax evasion. The report also noted that due to the level of corruption in the prosecutors’ offices smugglers were frequently released and were immediately able to return to their trade.

**Special Report No 9/2008: The effectiveness of EU support in the area of freedom, security and justice and Ukraine.*

Ken Clarke: what kind of Big Beast?

Will Kenneth Clarke turn out to be a loyal, trustworthy and industrious member of the Tory front bench? All things are possible in politics, and so *eurofacts*, whose views on this matter readers will not find difficult to discern, stands ready to eat its hat. For Mr Cameron it would seem to be enough that Clarke is deemed to be “a Big Beast”.

Of course eurosceptics are bound to be irritated by Clarke’s return to front-bench politics, but Mr Cameron’s allies are quick to point to his promotion of eurosceptics such as Eric Pickles and Mark Francois as proof of their leader’s eurosceptic-ish leanings.

However, there is one aspect of

Cameron’s attitude to party discipline which is bound to jar with eurosceptic sensibilities. Those who have signed up to the Better Off Out Campaign - and they include at least one obvious contender for a front-bench post - continue to be told that their careers are doomed until such time as they recant. In contrast, the Great Ken, a man who wants Britain to join the euro, and who once said he looked forward to the time when Parliament had no more powers than a county council and who marked his return to the centre stage by saying that he hadn’t changed his views one iota, has been given a starring role.

There is one other oddity about his appointment. Mr Cameron apparently

wishes to be seen as modern, even “post-modern” and “cool”. His new shadow Business Secretary is none of these things. He stands for the same beliefs as when he entered politics as a young Bow Grouper 40 years ago. He believes in big government, the welfare state - and ‘Europe’. No matter that two of these have been tested almost to destruction and the third is in decline even before its completion date.

It may not be the kind of ‘Big Beast’ the political correspondents are talking about but we suspect that the Great Ken will come to resemble a large and ageing sea creature left stranded on the beach after the retreat of the tide.

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Time to be rude about the EU

appears inhibited in this way.

On our letters page (p.6) one of our readers complains that the British have been discouraged from robustly defending their interests as the result of “*a paralysis of courtesy*”. The time for such inhibitions, if ever there was one, has passed. Others now recognise that the aspirations of the EU now vastly exceed its competence and also grasp - though they have been slow to do so -

that neither the replacement of the rotating presidency with a permanent presidency nor other forms of institutional tinkering - will overcome the problems arising from competing national interests. They consequently come to treat the European Union with scant respect.

Richard North in his excellent Referendum blog recently made very much the same point when he

complained that the British political class, having lost sight of the national interest long ago, blindly rush off to please their EU masters when a robust “***off” message would serve us better.

Now that so many others are saying precisely that to the EU, it is surely time Britain joined in. This is the kind of European solidarity we are prepared to support.

Ireland teeters on the brink of a financial and economic catastrophe

Anthony Scholefield shows how membership of the euro has weakened Ireland's capacity to deal with the credit crunch

Some europhiles have exploited the economic crisis to call for the UK to join the euro on the grounds that, at least temporarily, the single currency is holding its international value better than sterling. It is fortunate, therefore, that it is possible to analyse the situation in the other English-speaking EU country, Ireland, which opted for the euro in 1999, in order to examine how its fortunes have fared.

Contrary to the prognostications of the euro-enthusiasts, the situation is far worse in Ireland than in the UK, despite the fact that prior to the credit crunch the Irish record on controlling public spending was superior to that of the UK. It is currently verging on the catastrophic. In December, the Central Statistical Office in Dublin (CSO) published new data up to 30th September showing GNP fell by 4.9 per cent in the quarter (comparably 0.6 per cent in the UK). Economists, such as Austin Hughes of the Irish Bank, have suggested that these figures underestimate the extreme seriousness of the situation. *"We are likely to see even worse figures before things get better and it will be the end of next year before interest rate cuts and other stimulus packages begin to have an effect,"* he said.

The recent quarterly report by the Irish Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) has published more detailed forecasts. These indicate that GNP is likely to fall 4.6 per cent in 2009, bringing the total decline in GNP over the two years 2008/9 to more than seven per cent. With a rising population the fall in GDP per head is over nine per cent (*Irish Independent*, 19th December, 2008). The ESRI expects unemployment to be over ten per cent by December 2009 which means there will be 117,000 more unemployed (equivalent to an extra 1.8 million in the UK).

A fall of national income of this magnitude has serious add-on effects since it swells the government sector relative to the wealth-creating private

sector, increases the tax burden and the proportionate weight of debt vis-à-vis GDP - even without government action to increase public spending.

The rise in debt to GDP ratio is quite astonishing. With a government deficit of ten per cent of GDP in 2009, the combination of rising debt and falling GDP means the debt will reach 47.5 per cent GDP in 2009, up from 25 per cent in 2007, and is likely to be over 60 per cent GDP by 2012, according to the employers' body, the IBEC. Such a debt would quadruple the share of tax revenues required to pay interest on the debt to 20 per cent.

In the wider economy, bank shares are down 90 per cent, housing stocks down 50 per cent, all of which makes it clear that the housing and immigration bubble based on artificially low interest rates imported from Frankfurt has well and truly burst. The ESRI expect net emigration will be 50,000 next year (comparable figures for the UK would be 750,000) with immigration down by 70 per cent.

Easy Money

Of course, not all the damage can be laid at the door of the artificially low interest rates imposed by euro membership. The Irish government was running a budget deficit like the British government at the top of the boom - this was not mandated by Frankfurt but was certainly made easier by lax monetary conditions as were the inadequate capital ratios of the banks. The Irish government could have tightened budgetary policy and capital ratios but the flood of easy money made it harder to take the necessary actions.

The dreadful situation that now exists in Ireland has at least caused an injection of reality into public debate, something which would be welcome in the UK. The ESRI has called for all pay increases in government to be stopped and for a pay cut to be

imposed on all government workers.

Citing the imbalances above and the fact that government employees earn 20 per cent more than private sector employees, it says, *"Cutting public sector numbers through redundancy or natural wastage takes too long. Wage cuts get on top of the situation much quicker and that is what we need"*. It points out that these are quick, fair and keep necessary public services in being while pushing some of the financial pain off the private sector. Irish politicians have also agreed to take pay cuts. Brian Lenihan, Finance Minister, announced a ten per cent cut for ministers in October and others, such as Mary McAleese the President, John Hurley the governor of the Central Bank and Pat Neary of the Irish FSA, have followed suit. Whether the politicians have the will to follow through with pay cuts for government employees is doubtful. However, the measures taken so far show that politicians are taking matters seriously.

One of the europhiles' historic arguments has concerned the presumed benefits of the low interest rates imported from Frankfurt. But low interest rates are not necessarily better than high. The correct interest rate is that which clears the market without government distortion. The theory of the benefit of low interest rates for no reason has been tested to destruction in Ireland (and Spain and Portugal), economies with different trade patterns to the core EU members and which, for that reason, should never have joined the euro.

Perhaps the last word should concern another of the europhiles' favourite arguments, namely that a single currency provides the means to compare prices simply and quickly. Here they are on strong ground. It is undeniable that the single currency enables the cappuccino drinkers of Dublin to compare simply and quickly the price of their cup to that of a similar cup in Frankfurt. Some consolation!

As the recession takes hold Brussels continues to build its empire

Further evidence of the EU's ability to insulate itself from economic reality can be found in a leaked document which shows that while throughout Europe the private sector battens down the hatches the Commission plans to acquire huge amounts of additional office space.

Currently, the EU executive occupies 61 buildings in Brussels, or a total of 865,000 square metres. Some of the buildings are owned by the Commission, while others are rented. The Commission spent €207.49 million on buildings in 2007.

According to the Commission's building policy, which dates back to 2007, the accession of 10 new member states in 2004 and of Romania and Bulgaria in 2007 meant that a total of 3,350 additional officials required home and office accommodation in Brussels, as well as nursery and childcare facilities.

The additional office requirements between 2007 and 2010 were estimated to be 35,000 square metres.

The Commission, however, is currently seeking an additional 100,000 square metres.

According a document leaked to the

EUobserver one possible site for new EU offices is Heysel three miles from the city centre area, the area surrounding the Atomium, the atom-shaped structure seen on every Brussels postcard.

"By establishing itself in Heysel, the EU would affirm its imprint on the capital city and would extend its zone of influence outside the Leopold quarter," the draft paper argues.

Commission spokeswoman Valerie Rampi has confirmed that the European Union executive was considering several proposals for a new location. The Commission would not relocate its headquarters, but needed additional office space of at least 100,000 square metres from 2014 onwards, she said.

German MEP Ingeborg Grassle has criticised the secrecy surrounding the Commission's decision-making process and called for transparency concerning the various offers and the final decision.

"I am opposed to the Commission sweeping everything under the carpet. They can say anything. Of course the decision has not been taken yet, but the citizens deserve to know what is going

on behind the scenes," Ms Grassle said.

The main criteria for selecting a new location, according to the Commission's policy, were good public transport connections with the European quarter, good architectural and technical qualities in the buildings, good integration in the urban environment, a retail presence and good value for money.

According to the draft, the Heysel area lies on a direct subway line connecting it to the European quarter and is to host a new branch of the European school, where EU officials educate their children in their native tongues at the taxpayers' expense.

The existing parking facilities - the biggest in Belgium - were also presented as a plus, as well as the planned new residential area and the proximity of parks and leisure facilities.

How reassuring to know that, unlike the rest of us, our masters in Brussels will not face parking problems and, thanks to the close proximity of leisure facilities will not have to travel far to relieve the stress of empire building.

Working Time Directive to cost Britain billions

Lord Stoddart of Swindon: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated annual cost to the British economy of ending the opt-out from the European Union Working Time Directive. [HL444]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform & Cabinet Office (Baroness Vadera): The UK is one of 14 member states that

enables workers to opt-out of the maximum 48 hour working week, should they wish to do so. This flexibility is used by over 3 million employees in the UK who choose to work longer hours. Loss of this opt-out would therefore cost the UK billions both in costs to industry and lost earnings. As a result, it could also only have a negative impact on overall employment levels.

The Government remain committed to fight for the continuation of this important flexibility and will be calling on the European Council to reject the damaging amendments on the Working Time Common Position adopted by the European Parliament.

Source: *House of Lords Hansard, 9th January 2009.*

British MEPs to receive huge pay increase

If the pound/euro exchange rate stays where it is now British MEPs will see their pay rise by almost £20,000 to £82,000 in July, as a result of a deal

that was intended to end the disparities in salaries of MEPs from different countries. The increase, which will mean that they will earn considerably

more than MPs reflects the fact that from the summer all MEPs will be paid in euros.

How Empires rise and fall

By Ian Milne

"The death of Tamerlane in 1405 was a turning point in world history. Tamerlane was the last of the series of 'world-conquerors' in the tradition of Attila and Genghis Khan, who strove to bring the whole of Eurasia - the 'world-island' - under the rule of a single vast empire. Within fifty years of his death, the maritime states of the Eurasian Far West, with Portugal in the van, were exploring the sea routes that became the nerves and arteries of the great maritime empires.

It seems a familiar tale, until we look closer. The rise of the West to global supremacy by the path of empire and economic pre-eminence is one of the keystones of our historical knowledge.... It was the high road of history: all the alternatives were by-roads or dead ends. When Europe's empires dissolved, they were replaced by new post-colonial states, just as Europe itself became a part of the 'West' - a world-spanning league under American leadership. The aim of this book is partly to show that the passage from Tamerlane's times to our own has been far more contested, confused and chance-ridden than this legend suggests - an obvious enough point. But it tries to do this by placing Europe (and the West) in a much larger context: amid the empire - state, - and culture-building projects of other parts of Eurasia. Only thus, it is argued, can the course, nature, scale and limits of Europe's expansion be properly grasped, and the jumbled origins of our contemporary world become a little bit clearer."

The paragraphs above, from the book's preface, set the scene. The rise of European maritime empires from the 1500s onwards was matched by the rise of other Eurasian empires, amongst which figure the Russian, the Ottoman, the Iranian, the Chinese and the Japanese. Though the triumph of the West might seem inevitable now, nothing was pre-ordained. Islam was well on the way to conquering Europe before William the Conqueror invaded England and half a millennium later came close to doing so under the

After Tamerlane
The Rise & Fall of
Global Empires
1400 - 2000

By John Darwin

Penguin Books Pbk 576 pp 2008

Available from *The June Press*
Price £10.99 + p&p
(see back cover)

ISBN 978 0 1410 1022 9

Ottoman Turks. Russia had the wherewithal to dominate Europe, and nearly did so in the latter part of the Napoleonic era. That the nineteenth-century British Empire tended to eclipse its Eurasian rivals for a relatively short period was happenstance. In the present century the prospect of survival of the American world imperium is hotly debated, not least by the Americans themselves.

The land-based expansion of Russia in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was on an astonishing scale: its land surface increased from 2.1 million square miles in 1600 to some 5.9 million a century later. The British, rightly or wrongly, playing the "great game" in the nineteenth century, feared being driven out of India by the Russians. (We are now witnessing Putin's bid to revive Russia's great-power status). While seventeenth-century Russia was driving eastwards, both China and Japan, far from being economic backwaters became fast-growing, prosperous and powerful empires themselves. The Manchu dynasty in China and the Tokugawa shogunate in Japan "*created polities that lasted some 250 years. Both presided over a period of rapid population growth, extensive agricultural colonization, widening internal commerce and rising demand for books*". Chinese population

increased threefold in the eighteenth century; the country was a sophisticated mercantile economy; and though its part in international commerce may have been small, its internal trade may have been as large, if not larger, than that of contemporary Europe.

The population of Japan increased from 12 million in 1600 to some 31 million by 1721 - a figure half as large again as that of France, Western Europe's demographic giant. The population of Edo (present-day Tokyo) was about 1 million (perhaps double that of London at the time); that of Kyoto 350,000 and of Osaka 360,000 - all major cities by world standards. For a long time, deliberate Japanese protectionism and isolation "worked". In central Eurasia, Ottoman expansionism posed a real threat to Western Europe for centuries; while Iranian (Persian) power might well have kept or thrown out the British from India.

In our own period, Darwin argues that America is an empire, behaves as such, and is likely to remain so for a long time to come. Though its military power is overwhelming (more than 700 bases - and 234 military golf courses - in 130 countries!) Darwin notes that the American empire (like the British before it) is not the preserve of governments and policymakers. Much of the energy that fuels American expansionism is unofficial and private.

What about "Europe" in all this? It will come as no surprise to *eurofacts* readers that Darwin does not even mention the EU, despite its own pretensions, as a contemporary empire, let alone as a would-be rival or counterweight to the American one.

This is a magnificent monumental work of history, a masterpiece - no mere review can do it justice. Britain may no longer have an empire, but its existing generation of first-rank historians, now joined by John Darwin, are world-beaters. Curiously enough, almost all of them are eurosceptics.

LETTERS

Tel: 08456 12 12 65 Fax: 08456 12 12 75 email: eurofacts@junepress.com

Eurocepticism: Time for a New Phase

Dear Sir,

Your lead article "*Dark days for eurosceptics*" refers to a vital challenge, though I believe you are mistaken in seeking a solution via "*a major political figure who has made Britain's withdrawal his or her central objective*".

And you are mistaken, too, in looking for a figure outside the political class appearing to offer salvation. So we will have to get used to the idea that we shall have to rely entirely on ourselves.

We have had about 15 years of speeches, articles, reviews, meetings, conferences, pamphlets, books etc. All very useful. We have a mountain of material as back-up, thanks to *eurofacts*.

In 2009, *eurofacts* should establish a secure e-mail loop in which readers with ideas on how to move forward can participate. The discussion should be about how to establish a broadly-based political movement that can take our country forward. A useful handle might be: *Middle Britain Facility* - classless with no allegiance to any vested interest whatever.

The long-term interest of Britain would be the sole objective.

eurofacts has given sterling service to

the eurosceptic movement since it was founded in the mid-1990s. Time now to advance into the next phase.

RALPH MADDERN
Warwickshire

[We are giving serious thought to Mr Maddern's suggestion and would very much welcome the suggestions of other readers about how eurofacts might play a new or different role in the next phase of the battle to achieve Britain's withdrawal from the EU.-Ed.]

Cameron's Pledge

Dear Sir,

Like Frederick Forsyth, I too felt that the article "*Dark days for eurosceptics*" was inordinately gloomy and an encouragement to throw in the towel.

However, in listing his five "feasible ifs" it is the second - which concerns David Cameron's pledge to quit the European People's Party (EPP) - which looms large and uncertain for me. Can Cameron be trusted to fulfil this pledge? This was a promise he made when campaigning for the leadership; it is a matter of record that he reneged on this; he now has form.

JOSE H O'WARE
Middlesex

Paralysed by Courtesy

Dear Sir,

I write in the hope of getting answers to the following questions:

(1) Why are we paralysed by "*courtesy and frankness*" (Scholefield on Giscard 3rd October 2008) in somebody who has calculated to the last whimper the moral cowardice that has brought the United Kingdom to this pass, and who holds all the aces? Have these wittering peers and compromised journalists forgotten, or could it be that they remember with a sneaking pleasure, the snubs, the ostracism, the back-stabbing and derision heaped at European Council meetings on the only person who has ever defended our interests in the jolly old club? I hardly need rehearse with you what the (then) Mrs Thatcher endured; it is all so unforgettably described in Booker's "*Great Deception*", pages 221-319. No gentlemanly restraint there, I think. "*Fear of losing a place at the top table*", in the face of widespread mounting euroscepticism, doesn't explain it.

(2) So what are the 'frighteners' and how are they applied? Perhaps some of your distinguished insiders could give an educated guess?

MRS JUDITH PARISH
Shropshire

Dave talks tough on Europe

In an interview with the *Financial Times* on 13th January, Conservative Party leader David Cameron said that if his party were to win a summer general election, "*we could have a referendum in October*" on the Lisbon Treaty.

Presumably eurosceptics are meant to get excited about such a prospect and cease to doubt the Conservative leader's eurosceptic credentials.

In fact, as Mr Cameron would be aware British general elections almost never take place in summer. The last summer election took place in 1945 in the aftermath of World War II. There

have been three general elections in late spring (1970, 1983, and 1987) since that time. But at the risk of giving hostage to fortune there is no prospect of a spring election this year since this would mean that the campaign would coincide with that for the European election - the last thing Mr Brown wants. And recent opinion poll findings are not likely to have changed his mind.

One therefore concludes that Mr Cameron raised the possibility of a summer general election precisely because he knows there isn't going to be one, and that his mind was on the

forthcoming election to the European Parliament rather than on a referendum on Lisbon.

A recent opinion survey has shown that around seven per cent of Tory voters are likely to defect to United Kingdom Independence Party in the EP election. Cynics are likely to conclude that when Dave can't bring himself to be bold or tough he fakes it. This stratagem may have a recognised place in the repertoire of political ploys, but such is the level of cynicism and suspicion among eurosceptics that its use on this occasion is more likely to give offence than to win votes.

MEETINGS

Witney Constituency Association
07702 275544

Friday **30th January**, 7.30 pm

“The Financial Crisis: Why we are lucky to be outside the Eurozone”

Professor Tim Congdon CBE,
Economist

PUBLIC MEETING
The Corn Exchange, Witney, Oxford
Admission Free

Freedom in the City
07979 695611

Wednesday **11th February**, 1.00 pm

Simon Heffer, *Journalist*

PUBLIC MEETING
The Counting House, 50 Cornhill,
London EC3V 3PD
Admission Free

**Campaign for an
Independent Britain**
0116 2874 622

Wednesday **18th February**, 7.00 pm

“Defence and EU related matters”

Sir Nicholas Bonsor

SOCIAL EVENING
The Gun Room of Naval Club, 38 Hill
Street, Mayfair, London W1J 5NS
(Green Park tube station 10 minutes)
Admission Free
(Space is limited so admission is by
advance reservations by phone or Email:
georgec.west@talktalk.net)

Marlborough Group
01672 511385

Sunday **22nd February**, 2.00 pm

“Conservatives versus Constitution!”

Dr Sean Gabb
Chairman, **Harry Beckhough**

PUBLIC MEETING
The Bear, Marlborough, Wiltshire
Admission Free

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Tuesday **24th February**, 6.00 pm

“The American Presidency: George
H.W. Bush”

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

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

UK Independence Party
(Salisbury Constituency Branch)
01722 790839

Monday **2nd March**, 7.30 pm

“UK can’t afford EU”

Trevor Coleman MEP
Nigel Farage MEP and Dr Julia Reid

PUBLIC MEETING
The Guildhall, Salisbury
Admission Free

The Freedom Association
(Wiltshire and Bath Branch)
01225 705260

Friday **6th March**, 7.30 pm

Guest Speaker
The Rev’d Dr. Peter Mullen

ANNUAL DINNER
The Bath and County Club, Queen’s
Parade, Bath, Somerset BA1
Admission £25
(After 13th February £27.50)

UK Independence Party
01626 831340

Saturday **18th April**, 10.00 am

Nigel Farage MEP
**Further details including Speakers to
be announced shortly**

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE
The Great Hall, Exeter University,
Exeter, Devon
Admission Free

**British Weights and
Measures Association**
020 8922 0089

Saturday **9th May**, 10.00 am

**Further details including Speakers to
be announced shortly**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Victory Services Club, 63 Seymour
Street, London W2 2HF
Admission Free

SELECT COMMITTEES

House of Lords
020-7219 3000

Tuesday **3rd February**, 10.35 am
Evidence will be heard on the *Inquiry into
EU Financial Regulation* from Professor
Charles Goodhart, Professor Emeritus of
Banking and Finance, London School of
Economics.

Tuesday **3rd February**, 4.30 pm
Evidence will be heard on the *December
European Council* from the Rt Hon
Caroline Flint MP, Minister for Europe.

Wednesday **4th February**, 11.00 am
Evidence will be heard on the *Inquiry on
the Revision of the Less Favoured Areas
Scheme* from Dr Mark Avery and Ms.
Mandy Gloyer, Royal Society for the
Protection of Birds and Birdlife
International.

Tuesday **3rd February**, 3.35 pm
Evidence will be heard on *Economic
Affairs* from the Rt Hon Alistair Darling
MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

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

DIARY OF EVENTS

2009

European Parliamentary **4th June**
Elections

Sweden takes over **1st July**
EU presidency

2010

Spain takes over **1st January**
EU presidency

How much does the European Union cost Britain?
by Gerard Batten MEP. **£3.00**

This shows amongst other costs that the accumulated trade deficit since joining the EU in 1973 is £383.7 billion.

Germany's Fourth Reich
by Harry Beckhough. **£5.00**

Beckhough a former code-breaker and intelligence officer, shows how the EU is being formed by the needs of Germany.

The End Of The English
The European Superstate
by David Brown. **£6.99**

As an apology to all grandchildren, it analyses how the EU plans for control of the UK have destroyed democracy. Required reading for all those worried in any way about the EU's power over us.

The Plan

Twelve Months to Renew Britain
by Douglas Carswell and Daniel Hannan. **£10.00**

Britain is heading in the wrong direction. This book shows how to put our country on the right track to self-governance.

After Tamerlane The Rise & Fall of Global Empires 1400 - 2000
by John Darwin. **£10.99**

This history book explains the rise of empires but does not rate the EU.

The Return of History & the End of Dreams

by Robert Kagan Hdbk. **£12.99**

A new configuration of power is shaping the international order. Nationalism, and the nation itself, has now returned in Europe the EU model is now in decline.

A Tribute to Ralph Harris 1924-2006
by CRCE. **£9.95**

Lord Harris of High Cross was one of the leading figures in the fight against the EU and injustice everywhere.

Squandered

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