

Can Britain still be said to be a democracy?

Whenever EU membership is at the root of a particular problem British politicians avert their gaze from the source of the difficulty or pretend it lies elsewhere

When the foreign prisoner scandal broke last year the British Prime Minister Tony Blair offered the British people some firm words of assurance: "It is now time that anybody who is convicted of an imprisonable offence and is a foreign national is deported."

There has frequently been a disconnect between the words and deeds of the outgoing Prime Minister as proved to be the case on this occasion. For, as the *Daily Mail* reported on 23rd May, up to 3,000 foreign criminals will be released from prison this year without any attempt to send them home being made. Under new rules all except the most serious offenders, such as killers and rapists, will not even face any attempt at deportation by the Home Office's Criminal Casework Department.

This is an extraordinary situation, but it is one which throws light on a system of government which is still more extraordinary.

Public Good

In the past overseas criminals warranting a jail sentence of more than a year or two could be kicked out of Britain on release on the grounds that their presence was not conducive to the public good.

That situation has changed as the result of EU Directive 2004/38/EC concerning "the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of member states."

Recently a Home Office document (Probation Circular 11/2007), a copy of which fell into the hands of the *Daily Mail*, has been sent to probation staff with the intention of insuring conformity to the EU directive. This makes it clear that only those who pose "a present, genuine and sufficiently serious threat" to society can be removed. They must also be deemed likely to re-offend. In other words the criteria for deportation have become far more stringent.

Muggers and Fraudsters

The *Daily Mail* is right to be horrified by this situation but, as Richard North pointed out on the excellent North-Szamuely blog, neither the media nor the public should be surprised by it. The reason that convicted foreign muggers, burglars, fraudsters and the like can remain in Britain for as long as they wish is the result of British membership of the EU and the consequent need to conform to a particular European directive that has been in force for more than a year.

Normally politicians are only too pleased to pass on the blame for major failures of policy. But where these are the result of EU membership there is now a convention whereby the Government and the Opposition parties - supporters all of 'open government' and 'transparency' - conceal this fact. Recently they have failed to point to the origins of the fiasco over Home Improvement Packs

(see page 3) or the recent increases in postal charges or the recent problems over land-fill sites. On these occasions the mainstream press has been either a willing accomplice or too lazy to explain.

Thus, in the present crisis over foreign prisoners David Davis, the Conservative home affairs spokesman is obliged to pretend that the problem has arisen because John Reid - that "Glaswegian attack dog" in Jeremy Paxton's memorable phrase - is not being tough enough, an obviously absurd suggestion.

However, it is only when one stands back from particular problems arising from EU bad-law making and examine the processes by which the law is made that the full extent of what the British have lost in the way of open and accountable government becomes apparent.

Integrationist Zeal

Our laws - at least seventy per cent or more of them - begin their lives in Brussels. Probably few are dreamed up by the Commissioners themselves. Most reflect the integrationist zeal and interests of the senior bureaucrats who as Gunter Verheugen recently acknowledged to the intense embarrassment of his colleagues really run the show. The Directors General and their senior colleagues are, of course, even less unaccountable than the Commissioners who at least have

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Appeasement rears its head

On 23rd May the Russian state-run news agency RIANovosti reported that the EU had agreed to hand over 400 million in regional development aid to the Russian government during the period 2007-2013. The agency quoted the Commissioner Hubner as saying: "We must put in place policies that ensure the benefits of globalisation are widely shared."

In any list of deserving aid recipients Putin's Russia must surely come a long way down the list. The likelihood is that rather than reflecting the innate altruism of the EU the decisions reflect the EU attempt to appease Russia in

the hope that it will not use the oil weapon against it in order to achieve political goals.

In the same week that he agreed to hand over large sums of European taxpayers' money to Russia the Russian government approved plans for an oil pipeline that could enable the country to buy-pass Belarus and tighten Moscow's grip over much of Europe's energy supplies.

The proposal by Transneft, Russia's oil pipeline monopoly to build a new one million barrel a day spur across Russian territory to the Baltic port of Primorsk will greatly boost the terminal's capacity as a hub for

supplies to Europe. The pipeline is expected to be operational in 18 months.

The announcement came just a matter of days after Russia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan agreed to expand shipments of gas out of central Asia via Russia, delivering a blow to Western hopes for alternative pipelines that would by-pass Russia.

Appeasement has a long and inglorious history. What price Moscow will demand for keeping the oil and gas flowing and in what coin it is likely to be paid remains to be seen - but it is quite likely to exceed the 400 million currently being handed over.

British troops may use German ammunition

British soldiers may be forced to use German or French bullets in future, as BAE Systems could shut down its Royal Ordnance munitions factories, *The Times* reported on 22nd May.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is renegotiating its ammunition contract with BAE and has started to sound out European suppliers as an alternative.

Sources close to Royal Ordnance say that BAE, which bought the Royal Ordnance factories in 1987, is demanding a new longer and more lucrative contract to cover the investment needed to modernise its factories.

However, the MoD is concerned that it will be paying more for British bullets, explosives and artillery shells

than it would do if it bought them on the open market.

Perhaps the MoD should be concerned about the impact on national security. There is a worrying precedent: during the Gulf War Belgium, Britain's loyal EU partner, refused to sell it ammunition.

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Is Britain still a democracy?

been nominated by elected governments and are themselves former elected politicians.

Legislation receive only cursory inspection by a European Parliament which remains little more than a consultative body whose voting procedures are so unreliable that the decisions of members are sometimes wrongly recorded.

Where approval by the European Council is necessary decisions are taken by consensus and in secret.

On its own admission the House of Commons Scrutiny Committee has inadequate resources to properly scrutinise the flood of EU legislation brought before it and lacks the power even to delay it. It is then transposed into British law, often being 'gold-plated' in the process.

Then, when predictably and inevitably, legislation turns out to be

deeply flawed and to throw up serious problems, mainstream politicians avert their gaze from the source of the problem or pretend that it lies elsewhere. Conspiracy is too crude a phrase to describe what is happening, but there is a commonality of interest at work which has profoundly corrupted British political life.

The former German President Roman Herzog recently pointed to a comparable phenomenon in his own country: "*In unpublished comments, German politicians on a national and state level repeatedly express their criticisms and concerns at the developments being taken by European politics. But scarcely any of them are prepared to express these fears and concerns in public - for fear that this could harm the on-going unification process.*"

In one way the situation here differs

from Germany. We suspect that few British politicians remain silent because they are worried about harming the unification process - they remain silent because they are terrified about being found out. Or to be more precise they are terrified about the consequences of the public finding out the enormity of their folly in backing the European project.

Herzog has also been brave to doubt whether as a consequence of EU membership and all that went with it Germany could unreservedly be said to be a democracy. Exactly the same doubts can be expressed about Britain. Is it chauvinistic to suggest that because of Britain's long and glorious history of self-government our loss has been the greater and those responsible are more culpable than their German counterparts?

Home Information Packs - it's the EU stupid!

Almost no one in Britain, including the Government, wants Home Information Packs. They are likely to slow the already lengthy process of house purchase and to push up prices as vendors pass on the cost of the scheme to purchasers. Many of the packs, which will run to 200 pages, cost around £4000, will be out of date by the time a deal is finalised. The government has been forced to water down the scheme and just eight days before it was due to come into effect on 1st June it was forced into the humiliating position of having to postpone it because there were not enough inspectors to enforce it. It will now come into effect on 1st August but only for houses with three or more bedrooms. The scheme will be extended to other parts of the property

market if and when more inspectors can be trained.

Few experts believe that the HIPs, which will be required to include an Energy Performance Certificate, will affect the decisions of buyers or sellers and according to a survey from Open Europe the total cost will be £337 million a year - almost exactly three times the estimate contained in the Government's Regulatory Impact Assessment.

The one thing that might have been found useful by a prospective purchaser - a survey of the property - doesn't have to be included in a HIP unless the seller chooses to include it. This has led the Consumer Association, which once supported the idea, to withdraw its backing.

Given the near-universal opposition

to the scheme and the fact that the Government plans are in a state of acute disarray, why is it so determined to bring HIPs in? Because an EU directive says it must. The one in question is the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive ("EPBD"). This was issued by the Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport. As a British government website*, helpfully makes clear, "By 2009, all buildings in the UK that are constructed, sold or rented out will have to have an Energy Performance Certificate, in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive."

* www.homeinformationpacks.gov.uk

Margot fails to win over the Brits

The EU's communications supremo vice-president Margot Wallstrom has a mission to reach out to ordinary people in order to make them think more highly of the European Union. Unfortunately, the remarks of the glamorous, politically correct Swedish socialist display a characteristic which make it impossible for her to achieve the task to which she has dedicated herself: a sense of humour deficit. Her utterances are so literal and so earnest - especially when she is 'reaching out' - that it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that she is the creation of Peter Simple. Her personal blog (www.blogs.ec.europa) - part of her mission to communicate directly with the people provides a rich source of unintended mirth. Here is a random example:

On 9th May I was in Stockholm to celebrate what is called Europe Day (since it was the date when the French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman,

presented his plan for European cooperation some 57 years ago). My programme started with a TV interview at 7.15 in the morning and I looked, felt and sounded like "mornings are not my best time of the day". The reporter called me the "PR-chief" of the Commission and had I not been so tired I would have reacted to that... Public Relations is not enough as a concept to express what EU institutions have to do. Because we are not selling a product, we are part of a political and democratic process...

I have accepted and adapted well to the new security rules at airports but an overzealous security guard made me wonder about the proportionality of all toothpastes and lip glosses having to be put into plastic bags - I just hope we catch some terrorists with it...

In the category of non-political comments let me immediately admit that I watched the Eurovision Song Contest. Fully aware that I have a lot

of UK visitors to my blog there is still only one word to describe the UK contribution: pathetic! And for some reason the Irish must have decided that they did not want to win...I liked the Russian song and singers most but the winning Serbian woman had an impressive voice. To all those who complain about the "Eastern countries" voting for each other: this is a reflection of the transformation of Europe! Get used to the fact they have a right to both speak up and vote for whoever they like! And that they might win again! As eurofacts readers might have surmised Mrs Wallstrom does not appear to have achieved a great deal of success in winning round her British readers. Many reacted unkindly to her suggestion that the EU had something to do with democracy, and did not seem to share her views on lip gloss or the European Song contest, either. Sadly, the best of the replies were to rude for us to publish.

The madness of metrication

"The scientists adopted the decimal system on the basis of the metre as a unit. Nothing is more contrary to the organisation of the mind, memory and

imagination. The new system will be a stumbling block and source of difficulties for generations to come. It is just tormenting the people with

trivia."

Napoleon Bonaparte, les mémoires écrits à Sainte-Hélène, 1823.

Why Cameron has wrecked his own plans to lead new EP group

By David Wilkinson

If there is a justification for the EU it is Russia. After the War it was necessary, from the point of view of the West and certainly Washington, to make the part of Europe we had liberated stable and secure from internal communism and an aggressive Red Army looking to internationalise the revolution westwards. It has always been nice if Europeans can contribute to their own defence. That meant German soldiers and German guns and selling that in Paris. Not much has changed.

When David Cameron held his inaugural Movement for European Reform conference he said that the reasons we need the EU are the environment, African poverty and growth.

His mistake has ensured that the MER is unlikely to succeed, at least under his leadership.

The MER project is of incredible importance. To stop the malign development of the EU in its tracks would take an alliance of parties - and governments - to implement a programme reforming the EU out of all recognition. This means finding allies in the new, that is former Soviet-occupied, members of the EU.

I have been involved on the losing side of two accession referendums: one in Finland and the other in Estonia. In both Russia was the only issue that really mattered. You can write as many daft laws about bananas, as much tax harmonisation and slow economic growth as you like, but so long as you help keep the Russians out, then it is a "yes" vote.

To find an alliance for such radical reform as we require you have to address the Russia question - not the poor African question and not the Al Gore movie question.

Two recent incidents have been nails in the MER coffin.

The first nail was the failure of the Bulgarian Union for Democratic Forces, to pass the threshold for election to the European Parliament. Hardly Cameron's fault but indicative that such is the only ally that the Tories and their Czech partners, the Civic Democrat Party (ODS) had.

The other event was in Tallinn at the end of April when ethnic Russians rioted and the Kremlin imposed trade sanctions, an oil blockade and cyber attacks and the Moscow embassy was besieged.

Most of the civilised world sent

messages of support. Condoleezza Rice, the Senate, Czechs and Poles immediately. The EU and in particular the EPP were very firm in their words. While there are fears about how strong this support will remain and the price asked, it was still the best support and it had its effect in Moscow.

There was no message from HM Government. And no criticism from the Conservatives. The party of Margaret Thatcher did not do anything for Estonia in her hour of need.

As the EU evolved a common foreign policy, Hague was silent.

Mart Laar is a hero for conservatives and the leader of one of those parties that Cameron needs to leave the EPP. Why should he take the political risks involved for a partner who does not seem to understand the fundamental question nor even utters a whisper of support during a very serious crisis?

In a video recording Mart Laar made with us he goes further.

As long as Cameron and Hague alienate potential allies so totally, there will be no new group in the European Parliament and there will be no British Tory-led alliance for a new kind of Europe.

EU rule 'will close one in three maternity units'

Almost one in three maternity units in England could close because of expected cuts in doctors' working hours as a result of the European Working Time Directive, according to figures quoted by the Conservative Party. The figures suggest that 50 out of 176 consultant-led maternity units are under threat of being downgraded

or closed under rules which will limit the number of hours doctors spend on wards to 48 by August 2008.

The Conservative estimates are based on a report issued in February by Sheila Shribman, the Government's maternity adviser.

As a result of the changes mothers and babies at risk of complications

during delivery will have to travel farther to receive specialist care.

Maternity units in Manchester and Teeside are among those parts of the country which have been earmarked for a radical overhaul and deliveries in local units staffed by midwives are expected as a result.

ECB calls on Britain to join the euro

The French newsagency AFP reported on 22nd May that European Central Bank head Jean-Claude Trichet has called for the UK to join the euro. Trichet was quoted as saying, "We encourage the whole

United Kingdom to enter the eurozone. I would simply say to the UK that the single market to which it is tightly linked can only fully function with a single currency. Imagine for a second that you are the United States and that

the currencies differed between Massachusetts, California, Florida and Alaska what would you really see: a single market in the United States? My argument is no more complicated."

No let-up in UK net budget contributions to the EU

The Treasury has just published its annual "Statement on the 2007 EC Budget and measures to counter fraud and financial mismanagement".* Everything anyone might want to know about our contributions to and receipts from Brussels is there - except the essential.

The missing bit is how much our soon-to-be-departed Prime Minister gave away when, in December 2005, he signed us up to the "2007-2013 Financial Perspective". His government has refused point blank, despite valiant efforts of MPs and Peers via Written Questions in Parliament, to disclose the information. This document is equally silent on the matter - despite the fact that we're already six months into the 2007-2013 period.

All it says (para 2.10 on page 7) is:-
The revenue side (i.e. how much the

British taxpayer will be paying - Ed.) will be taken forward through a new ORD (Own Resources Decision) which

campaign for the ORD to be the subject of a referendum in the UK?

As for the UK's net contribution to the EU Budget (after the abatement and public-sector receipts from Brussels), Table 3 on page 47 gives the figures, of which the last five years' are set out in the table.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
£ bn	3.68	3.01	3.58	3.91	4.70
Increase yr on yr	+17%	(18%)	+19%	+9%	+20%

The overall increase

2003 to 2007 is + 28%, which British taxpayers are presumably very happy with given the (literally) incalculable "benefits" they keep on being told they derive from membership of the EU.

has been agreed by unanimity by Member States. This now has to be ratified by all Member States in accordance with their own constitutional requirements. In the UK, this will involve primary legislation, amending the 1972 European Communities Act. Following ratification, the ORD will come into effect from January 2009 with some aspects of it being retrospective (sic!) to 1st January 2007.

* *Statement on the 2007 EC Budget and measures to counter fraud and mismanagement, Cm 7090, May 2007, HM Treasury.*

Will the Conservatives vote for it when the ORD comes before the Commons and Lords? Will they

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk>Recent Publications>European Community Finances 2007.

FROM THE COMMONS

The rising cost of regulation

Philip Davies (Shipley) (Con): What estimate he has made of the cost of EU regulation to British businesses; and if he will make a statement. [135433]

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): The Government estimate that the total administrative burden on businesses, charities and the voluntary sector in England derived from EU legislation is approximately £6.3 billion. This estimate excludes the costs of EU administrative burdens on financial services, which are not available in this format.

Philip Davies: Gunter Verheugen, the EU commissioner, has said that the cost of EU regulations on EU businesses amounts to 600 billion, but the European Commission has said

that the benefits to EU businesses of the single market amount to less than 200 billion. With the regulations costing three times as much as the benefits and with 90 per cent of British businesses not getting any real benefit from the single market but facing all the costs of the regulations, is it not increasingly clear that British businesses would be better off out of the European Union?

Margaret Hodge: This is a welcome day: all sorts of Jekyll and Hyde Tory policies are being announced by Conservative Back Benchers. I am delighted to hear a confirmation of what we all believe to be the view of most Conservatives-that they want to withdraw from Europe, with a massive cost to jobs, prosperity and the growth of the UK economy. The hon.

Gentleman attributed a figure to Gunter Verheugen, but I think that that figure alluded to another set of figures. The figure of £6.3 billion is an estimate accepted both by ourselves and by the Commission. I am sure that the hon. Gentleman will be delighted to know that, as a result of the work being done by the UK together with the Netherlands and Denmark, we have encouraged the European Commission and the EU to look for a reduction of administrative burdens of 25 per cent. by 2012. That mirrors the ambition that we have in the UK, and it will mean more effective use of EU resources and regulations to support growth not just in the UK economy, but in Europe for the global economy.

Source: Hansard - House of Commons Parliamentary Copyright 15th May 2007.

Finally, two EU regulations are withdrawn - but they still continue to multiply

For once the BBC was lavish in its coverage of an EU decision. In reporting on 22nd May the EU decision taken the previous day to withdraw two regulations - the timber quality or so-called "knotty-wood" directive and the food packaging sizes regulation - it gave vastly more prominence to the matter than the UK Press.

This was the first time ever that EU regulations had been withdrawn as the result of the "Better Regulations" campaign and listeners to the BBC reports could have been forgiven if they had concluded that the EU was on the brink of a counter-revolution. These quoted Guenter Verheugen, the EU industry commissioner as saying that the decision "*shows that we have moved from words to deeds and that we*

are working hard to cut away red tape on all fronts".

The decision proves no such thing. When the 'campaign' was launched in October 2005 the EU Commission Manuel Barroso committed the Commission to the goal of withdrawing 220 regulations involving 1,400 legal acts over the following three years, a target which the BBC reports somehow neglected to mention.

If progress is maintained at the present rate we can expect a total of four or five regulations to be removed during the period of the campaign i.e. the cuts achieved will represent only two per cent of the target figure! But if the rate at which new regulation is introduced is also maintained we can expect hundreds of new regulations to be enacted during the same period.

The *acquis communautaire* - the entire body of EU legislation - now stands at 170,000 pages (now available in 21 languages), and grows fatter with every monthly updating.

There should, however, be no mystery about the cause of the EU's regulatory hyper-activism or its unwillingness to change its ways. Regulation - the so-called "Monnet method" - is the means by which the EU is bound together politically and by which the EU Commission consolidates and extends its power. The idea that if only he wields his axe sufficiently often Guenter Verheugen can reduce the volume of EU legislation consequently rests on a comprehensive misunderstanding of the European Union.

Increase in welfare payments to EU immigrants

More than 120 Romanian and Bulgarian immigrants are arriving in Britain every day as the result of EU enlargement, according to figures released by the Home Office.

The figures show that 10,535 Bulgarians and Romanians have registered to work in Britain in the last five months. Some 40,000 more are expected to arrive by the end of the year. Meanwhile the flow of migrants from other eastern European countries

continues. The figures show that 49,000 entered the UK in 2006, putting the total number registered with the Home Office at 63,000, compared to the Government's famously inaccurate initial estimate of 13,000.

These figures do not include the self-employed, spouses, children or those who do not register. So the total number of Eastern and Central Europeans who have arrived in Britain as the result of EU enlargement is

likely to be considerably higher.

The figures also show a big increase in the number of migrants from Eastern Europe claiming welfare benefits - a fact which casts further doubt on Government claims that the present flow of immigrants brings major economic benefit to the British economy. A total of 91,994 cases were reported in a six month period - showing an increase of 31 per cent over the the same period last year.

It can't go on like this

"EU integration therefore has become not just a process of depriving Europe's peoples of their national democracy and independence. Within each member state it represents a gradual coup by government executives against legislatures, and by politicians against the citizens who elect them.

"It hollows out the nation state, sucking the reality of power from its traditional government institutions, while leaving these still formally intact.

"They still keep their old names - parliament, government, supreme court so that their citizens do not get

too alarmed, but their classical functions have been transformed.

"Their prime purpose now is to be transmitters of EU laws, executive edicts and legal judgements, as the attempt to subsume the nation states of Europe into a highly centralised supranational EU federation grinds relentlessly on its way.

"This is why sensible people everywhere will surely echo the concluding words of the former German president [Roman Herzog] in a recent article:

"Most people have a fundamentally positive attitude to European integration. But at the same time, they

have an ever increasing feeling that something is going wrong, that a non-transparent, complex, intricate, mammoth institution has evolved, divorced from the factual problems and national traditions, grabbing ever greater competences and areas of power; that the democratic control mechanisms are failing: in brief, that it cannot go on like this."

Anthony Coughlan, senior lecturer emeritus in social policy at Trinity College, Dublin, and secretary of the National Platform EU Research and Information Centre, Ireland.

MEETINGS

UK Independence Party

South Dorset Branch
01929 422036

Friday **8th June**, 8.00 pm

Graham Booth MEP

David Campbell Bannerman, *Deputy Leader*

PUBLIC MEETING

St Francis' Church Hall, Littlemoor Road, Weymouth

Admission £1.50

(includes Wine & Cheese refreshments)

Bruges Group

020 7287 4414

Wednesday **13th June**, 7.00 pm

Chris Heaton-Harris MEP

Julian Morris, *Executive Director of the International Policy Network*

PUBLIC MEETING

Princess Alexander Hall, Over-Seas House, 6 Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A

Admission £10 (includes drink)

Payable on the door or in advance

UK Independence Party

South Dorset Branch
01929 422036

Friday **15th June**, 8.00 pm

The Earl of Dartmouth

Roger Knapman MEP

PUBLIC MEETING

The Roman Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage

Admission Free

New Britain

020 7247 2524

Saturday **16th June**,

12.00 noon Trooping the Colour

1.00 pm Buffet lunch

3.00 pm Songs, Dancing, and more

KEEP THE UK UNITED PAGEANT

St Saviours Hall, Pimlico, London

Admission £5.00

(Tickets and more details from: New Britain, 10 College East, Gunthorpe Street, London E1 7RL)

Trade Unions Against the

EU Constitution

(TUAUEC)

0845 345 8902

Saturday **16th June**,

Noon to 3.00 pm

"No to the EU Constitution, No to the Services Directive, Yes to Democracy, Yes to Trade Unions Rights"

Bob Crow, *RMT General Secretary*

John Cryer, *T&G Political Officer*

Graham Fletcher, *Engineering Gazette*

Kelvin Hopkins MP, *RMT General Secretary*

Carolyn Jones, *Institute of Employment Rights*

Eric Meijer, *Dutch Socialist Party MEP*

PUBLIC MEETING

Friend's Meeting House, Euston, London

Admission Free

(Apply - TUAUEC PO Box 46295 London W5 2UG)

Gresham College

020 7831 0575

Thursday **21st June**, 6.00 pm

"Sixty Years On Leadership and Change: Prime Ministers in the Post-War World - John Major"

Professor Vernon Bogdanor CBE

FBA, *Gresham Professor of Law*

with a response by

Professor the Lord Butler of

Brockwell KG GCB CVO

PUBLIC MEETING

Staple Inn Hall, Holburn, London

Admission Free

Marlborough Group

01672 515275

Sunday **8th July**, 2.00 pm

Ashley Mote MEP

PUBLIC MEETING

Assembly Room, Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough

Admission Free

SELECT COMMITTEES

House of Lords

020 7219 3000

Tuesday **12th June**, 4.10 pm

Evidence will be heard on the *UK Economic Regulators* from in the form of a round-table session from the UK Economic Regulators.

Wednesday **13th June**, 10.00 am

Evidence will be heard by the *Communications Committee* from (a) Mr Gavin Davies, former Chairman of the BBC; (b) Sir Michael Lyons, Chairman, BBC Trust; and Mr Mark Thompson, Director-General, BBC; (c) Mr Hugo Swire MP, Conservative Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Tuesday **19th June**, 11.00 am

Evidence will be heard on the *The Inquiry into Air Travel and Health* from witnesses to be confirmed.

Tuesday **26th June**, 11.00 am

Evidence will be heard on the *The Inquiry into Air Travel and Health* from witnesses to be confirmed.

Tuesday **10th July**, 11.00 am

Evidence will be heard on the *The Inquiry into Air Travel and Health* from witnesses to be confirmed.

Note:

Committee Meetings can change from Public to Private without warning

DIARY OF EVENTS

2007

French **10th and 17th June**
Parliamentary Election

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

2008

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

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

The European Question and the National Interest

by *Jeremy Black*. **£16.99**

A leading historian's interpretation of Britain's relations with EU/EC/EEC.

A Democratic Europe: An Alternative to the EU

by *Richard Body*. **£10.00**

Sir Richard lays out the case for a truly democratic European Union as opposed to an undemocratic super power.

The Great Deception: Can the European Union survive

by *Christopher Booker & Richard North*. **£10.99**

This book is the most comprehensive history of the EU.

Living in a Fascist Country

by *Vernon Coleman*. **£15.99**

The disappearing freedom and privacy.

Hard Pounding: The Story Of The UK Independence Party

by *Peter Gardner*. **£9.99**

An inside story of the rise of UKIP.

The Bumper Book of Government Waste

by *Matthew Elliott and Lee Rotherham*. **£9.99**

An exposure of the huge levels of waste in Britain and the EU.

The Future is a Foreign Country

by *Matthew Illsley*. **£10.00**

Full of useful detail and quotes on how and why we got into the EU mess. It leads to the conclusion that withdrawal from the EU is the only way forward.

Disappearing Britain

The EU and the death of Local Government by *Lindsay Jenkins*. **£14.99**

The detailed Brussels agenda for the break-up of the United Kingdom.

The Missing Heart of Europe

Does Britain hold the key to the future of the Continent?

by *Thomas Kremer*. **£11.99**

Can nation states flourish? A European businessman's view of the impact of divergent national cultures.

Iran The Clash of Ambitions

by *Houchang Nahavandi*. **£16.95**

A history of the people and influences that have formed the Iran of today. It has a history of integrating invaders.

Corruption -

The World's Big C

Cases, Causes, Consequences, Cures by *Ian Senior*. **£12.50**

Senior shows how corruption in the EU is becoming worse and why the UK should not sign up to the proposed European Constitution.

EU: Papacy Reincarnated?

by *Mark Stout*. **£9.99**

This book explores the origins and functioning of both the EU and the Medieval Papacy from a legal/political/historical perspective and unearths a startling number of parallels

Video

Britain On The Brink

by *Sanity*. DVD or VHS Video **£5.00**

Latest film starring Christopher Booker, Christopher Gill, John Bingley, Lindsay Jenkins, Ian Milne & Vladimir Bukovsky.

Better Off Out! Okay What Next?

by *Bruges Group* DVD

Morning/Afternoon Session **£20.00**

Evening Session **£10.00**

The 2006 Conference, held in the Great Hall of King's College, London.

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