

## Forget the election rhetoric, it's business as usual in Europe

*The Tories might have talked tough in their bid for public support, but the coalition's approach to Brussels is turning out to be depressingly familiar*

When even the European President admits that the Lisbon Treaty might need to be changed in order to apply new rules and greater fiscal integration, an observer might conclude that an opportunity could arise for David Cameron. His approach to Europe, such as it was, during the election campaign was to promise not to permit any further transfer of powers to Brussels without a referendum and, indeed, to repatriate a number of them to Westminster.

Herman Van Rompuy told the *Financial Times* that there would be no taboo against amending the treaty if changes with a perceived impact on sovereignty were needed. Brussels has done its best to play down the possibility of treaty changes for fear that member states – Britain in particular – would use negotiations to rewrite parts of it for their own political interests. It seems, however, that no one need have worried.

Now in office with his Europhile coalition partners, Mr Cameron surprised Tory Eurosceptics by suddenly softening his tone on the ceaseless Brussels search for greater powers of supervision over national governments. He told the House of Commons that the British Government would support a revision of the Lisbon Treaty to allow Brussels to exercise greater control over the economies of member states.

"There may well be significant changes coming down the track," the

Prime Minister said. "Whether they require treaty changes or not, our position will be the same. We will back measures that help sort out the eurozone." Then came the familiar weasel words: "We will not back measures that pass power from the UK to Brussels." By this Mr Cameron meant that while the Government would be happy to give Brussels sight of its budget proposals, it would be in a spirit of "co-ordination and consultation", not "clearance".

This is either a display of staggering naivete or a case of deception. Does Mr Cameron seriously believe that by agreeing in advance to permit rewriting of the treaty to transfer financial powers to Brussels, those powers would be restricted to the eurozone? Can he really think that the measures the Eurocracy has in mind would be confined to casting an eye over national budgets?

When collapsing Belgium took over the rotating EU presidency on 1st July, the agenda became clear. Belgian officials said their concern was to restore the financial health of Europe, for which the aim was not merely budgetary supervision but also power to police financial markets and dictate the terms under which national regulators operate – as well as authority to raise new Eurotaxes.

"It is necessary to transfer some decisions away from national to European authorities," one official said.

In a sense, of course, Mr Cameron's statement shows his bowing to the

inevitable. British officials in Brussels have already been warned that Lisbon Treaty amendments will not be subject to any UK veto. Yet rolling over in advance of any negotiation does not seem to be a very effective policy for someone pretending to be dedicated to holding back the encroachments of the European state. Clearly, the sort of changes being considered involve questions of sovereignty and if Mr Cameron were to be true to his electioneering words, he would signal to Brussels that, majority voting or not, the UK would have to submit the terms of any rewritten treaty to a referendum before ratifying it.

Once again, however, the whiff of betrayal is in the air as the crowd-pleasing rhetoric of an election campaign gives way to the political cynicism that calls itself Realpolitik and the cold fear of seizing back independence that has weakened so many among our governing classes.

Witness the language of William Hague, the man who once campaigned on a platform of "saving the pound". Now, as Foreign Secretary, he talks of increasing Britain's "influence" in Europe by placing more British officials at the heart of the enterprise. We're back to the old "part of Europe but not run by Europe" myth.

It appears that either Mr Cameron and Mr Hague have, like so many before them, "gone native" when it comes to the EU – or else that the coalition dog is being wagged by its Liberal Democrat tail.

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# Enlargement: Turkey 1, Croatia 20

**B**ritish voters will not stand for Turkish membership of the EU, Tory MEP Roger Helmer declared earlier this month. That could well be one of the most redundant comments in political history. The way Turkish accession talks are going, the chances of British voters, or any others, having to express their opinion look extremely slim.

Mr Helmer was responding to a speech by Foreign Secretary William Hague, who said the UK would “make a particular diplomatic effort” to work with Europe’s largest emerging economy. He did not specifically mention the prospect of Turkey joining the EU and, notwithstanding Mr Helmer’s knee-jerk reaction, it would have been premature to do so.

Following our report last month of growing disdain for the EU among the Turkish political classes, a new round of talks between Turkey and the EU took place and the ground covered made “the snail king of the race track”, as the *Financial Times* put it. Of the 35 chapters, or heads of agreement, under discussion, only one new element was opened and that covered what might be regarded in overall terms as the relatively peripheral subject of food security.

Since Turkey was accepted as an EU candidate in 2004, just 13 negotiating chapters have now been opened and of those only one has been provisionally signed off. Twelve chapters are in limbo because of Turkey’s row with Greece over Cyprus or as a result of objections by a number of European

leaders – principally President Sarkozy of France – who are opposed to membership talks.

“Turkey will need to submit an updated Negotiating Position at a later stage,” the Commission report of the recent talks noted. “The EU will revisit its Common Position to incorporate new elements stemming from the updated Turkish Negotiating Position.” One step forward and two backward?

The EU is well aware of Turkey’s economic and strategic importance and is keen to keep the country engaged in order to prevent it from turning elsewhere – especially towards the east – in pursuit of its global ambitions. The question is how long the Turks will put up with the painful rate of advance, particularly when it knows a significant body of EU opinion does not want the negotiations to succeed.

One sign of Turkish frustration, possibly increasing disillusion, was the country’s refusal to support the EU over new sanctions against Iran at the UN Security Council last month. Accession could never happen if the Turks failed to meet the requirement that candidate countries should align themselves with EU foreign policy. Is Turkey’s position a sign to Brussels that there are other fish in the sea which might appeal to a significant regional power and standard-bearing Muslim democracy?

If Turkey remains in no-man’s-land so far as EU membership is concerned, the position of accession candidate Croatia is advancing at what looks by contrast an express pace. At the tenth

ministerial conference between Croatia and the EU at the end of June, all but two of the negotiating chapters were declared open and no fewer than 20 were provisionally signed off.

A statement from the EU Commission said: “The conference, which is the fruit of extensive work over several months, dealt in total with eight chapters and represented a significant milestone in Croatia’s accession process with the opening of the last three screened negotiating chapters, Competition Policy, Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and Foreign, Security and Defence Policy.”

Little Croatia, of course, with a population of 4.5 million and a world ranking of 70 by GDP, is a sprat for the EU to swallow up, though what contribution it will make is debatable. The advantages of EU membership to Croatia, which suffers from a large export deficit, significant public borrowing and an unemployment rate of more than 17 per cent, are obvious, but most of the rest of the EU will barely notice its accession. That will merely serve the delusions of the Eurocracy.

Turkey is a very different matter, a founder member of the OECD and the G20, ranked 17th in the table of world economies. It is doubtful that the EU could accommodate such an economic powerhouse. It would surely be better for Brussels and reluctant member states to end the farce of endless accession talks and seek to reach strategic and economic partnerships without the disadvantages for both sides of the one-size-fits-all myth.

## Who’d want to join the euro now? Estonia, it seems

**A**s the financial crisis in the eurozone drags on and the euro itself teeters on the brink, the European Parliament appears to be counting on little Estonia to help save the single currency. MEPs have voted overwhelmingly to support Estonia’s application to join the euro, having accepted the assurances of Eurostat that the figures supplied by the country fully substantiate its claim (as those of Greece once apparently did, of course).

“Estonia’s interest in the euro in these difficult times is the Eurozone’s light at the end of the tunnel,” crowed the Estonian MEP Ivari Padar. Well, that’s all right, then – the euro is saved.

The Parliament’s rapporteur, Maltese MEP Edward

Scicluna, commented: “It is very significant that such a small country knocks at the eurozone’s door at the time of the worst financial, economic and social crisis. It says a lot about the prospective member. It also says a lot about the eurozone itself.”

It certainly does, though not perhaps quite what Mr Scicluna had in mind.

Estonia has certainly been an economic success story, achieving growth rates of more than 7 per cent until the recession struck. It is known as the “Balkan Tiger”. But then we all remember, don’t we, the Celtic Tiger of Ireland, one of the most successful economies in the EU? That is, until it was persuaded to throw in its lot with the euro.

# How they'll try to make us love the EU

The EU is preparing to embark on a new propaganda campaign in an attempt to combat growing public apathy and disaffection and an “extremely worrying” fall in the number of journalists who find it worth covering events in Brussels.

The European Parliament’s Culture and Education Committee wants national governments to make it clear to public service broadcasters such as the BBC that they have “a responsibility to cover the EU” and even to include such coverage in the remit set for such organisations.

The MEPs also seek the establishment of transnational “Euro-media” fostered by the EU, presumably in pursuit of less critical coverage than is often found in national media.

The committee is further concerned at the growth of social media because it does not like the sort of opinions that are often expressed by users. “The way in which data is handled on social network platforms can in many cases be dangerous,” MEPs say. Clearly they believe that the danger from the point of view of the EU is that free comment and the dissemination of information on such sites cannot be managed or controlled to the satisfaction of

Brussels: “Their reliability as sources cannot always be sufficiently guaranteed and they cannot be considered to be professional media.”

Their response is the requirement to draw up “a code of ethics applicable to new media” – in other words, to impose some kind of censorship on what can be said in blogs and on sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

As for the dwindling Brussels press corps, the committee calls for more “support” (whatever that means) for those who do continue to cover EU affairs. In addition, it wants an increase in the budget of the EU’s own information/propaganda offices in member states. It also wants to extend EU “training schemes” for journalists.

Meanwhile, the Commission is planning to embed journalists with high officials when they attend meetings abroad. The Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, and Commissioner Viviane Reding are concerned that while press teams travel with national leaders, the EU is largely ignored. Commissioner Reding is to submit a budget and operational details leading to the Commission paying the costs for handpicked journalists to accompany senior EU officials on international trips. Under the plans, Mr

Barroso will also have two photographers on round-the-clock call and a television crew available to travel with him.

Like the Culture and Education Committee, the Commission is also worried about the freedom enjoyed by contributors to social networking sites and wants its communications department to set up a panel of experts to supervise targeted use of such sites by the EU. Officials are to have internet monitoring software that will send them alerts when unfavourable comment is posted on blogs. This is intended to allow them to broadcast “fast and effective rebuttal”.

Having failed in all its efforts to win warm approval and support from the public, the EU is looking towards future generations to gain popular backing for the European project. The Culture and Education Committee says that “improving citizens’ knowledge of the EU requires EU studies to be incorporated into the school curricula”, which should “cover the EU more extensively, focusing on the historical background, purpose and workings of the EU.”

*Out of the mouths of babes and journalists hast thou ordained strength...*

## Euro flaws make new recession ‘almost inevitable’

The current crisis in the eurozone could have the potential to destroy the European Union, the world’s best-known investor, George Soros, told a seminar in London last month. He said that flaws in monetary union that had been present from the beginning had now become acute – and the responses to the crisis of Brussels and EU governments were likely to make matters worse.

“That’s the real danger of the present situation – that by imposing fiscal discipline at a time of insufficient demand and a weak banking system, by wanting to have a balanced budget you are actually... setting in motion a downward spiral,” Mr Soros said. “Germany is going to smell like roses but Europe is going to be pushed into a

downward spiral, stagnation lasting many years and possibly worse than that. In other words, I think a recession next year is almost inevitable given the current policies.”

The potentially fatal flaws of the euro system, he added, were the lack of any overall mechanism capable of dealing with financial difficulties in individual countries and the absence of arrangements for countries to exit the monetary system.

Mr Soros said European banks had bought large quantities of sovereign debt from the weaker eurozone economies for an inconsequential differential in interest rates:

“That’s one of the reasons why the banks are so over-leveraged and why the German and the French banks own

Spanish bonds. Now... they have a loss on their balance sheets which is not recognised and it reduces the credibility of those banks, so the banking system is in serious trouble. The commercial paper market, for instance, in America, is now refusing to lend to European banks so there is even a funding crisis and the ECB has to step in and the banks are unwilling to lend to each other.”

What all this adds up to is that the EU faces a double-dip recession and possibly years of stagnation because of a badly designed and maintained monetary union based on hubris and fantasy whose faults are compounded by the failure of Brussels and the eurozone countries to confront or even understand the mess they have created.

# EU taxes among the world's highest

*This extract from Eurostat's latest report on tax trends in the European Union shows that we pay over a third more than people in the US and Japan – and raises the question of whether it's worth it*

The European Union is, taken as a whole, a high tax area. In 2008, the overall tax ratio, the sum of taxes and social security contributions in the 27 Member States amounted to 39.3 per cent in the GDP-weighted average, more than one third above the levels recorded in the United States and Japan. The tax level in the EU is high not only compared to those two countries but also compared to other economies in general; among the major non-European OECD members, only New Zealand has a tax ratio that exceeds 34.5 per cent of GDP. As for less developed countries, they are typically characterised by relatively low tax ratios.

The high EU overall tax ratio is not new, dating back essentially to the last third of the 20th century. In those years, the role of the public sector became more extensive, leading to a strong upward trend in the tax ratio in the 1970s, and to a lesser extent also in the 1980s and early 1990s.

In the late 1990s, first the Maastricht Treaty and then the Stability and Growth Pact encouraged EU Member States to adopt a series of fiscal consolidation packages. In some Member States, the consolidation process relied primarily on restricting or scaling back primary public expenditures, in others the focus was rather on increasing taxes (in some cases temporarily). At the end of that decade, a number of countries took advantage of buoyant tax revenues to reduce the tax burden, through cuts in

the personal income tax, social security contributions, but also in the corporate income tax.

Despite the high average level of the overall tax ratio, 11 Member States display ratios below the 35 per cent mark, highlighting that differences in taxation levels across the Union are quite marked; the overall tax ratio ranges over more than twenty points of GDP, from 28.0 per cent in Romania to 48.2 per cent in Denmark. In other words, the tax burden in the highest-taxing EU Member State is over 70 per cent higher than in the least taxing one.

As a general rule, tax-to-GDP ratios tend to be significantly higher in the old EU-15 Member States (i.e. the 15 Member States that joined the Union before 2004) than in the 12 new Members; the first seven positions in terms of overall tax ratio are indeed occupied by old Member States. There are exceptions, however; for example, Ireland's and Greece's tax ratios are amongst the lowest in the EU; the Spanish overall tax ratio, having dropped by some four points in 2008, is now relatively low too, ranking just above Greece's. Consequently, since the euro area (EA-16) is mostly composed of old Member States, it shows a slightly higher overall tax ratio than the EU-27 (about half a percentage point difference in the arithmetic average).

Given the fact that the EU is, in general, one of the most highly taxed areas in the world, one pressing issue is what lessons tax policy should learn

from the global financial crisis. In theory, its well-developed welfare systems, made possible precisely by those high taxation levels, should have made Europe more resilient; in addition, heavy taxation is usually believed to take a higher toll on growth during cyclical upturns, when it contributes to factor scarcity and exacerbates inflation, rather than in a recession, when the spending it funds should sustain demand; yet, although the crisis originated in the United States, it spread quickly to the EU and resulted in a slump of comparable proportions.

Does the crisis suggest that another fiscal policy model would have been preferable? This is a question that will probably occupy economists and policymakers for some time.

Indeed, although there is a fairly wide consensus that the crisis did not originate from taxation, there is little doubt that the EU will have to act decisively to face the twin challenges of financing a significantly increased government debt and the incipient retirement of the large baby-boom generation.

The issue of whether tax systems could be reformed to contribute not only to speed up GDP growth but also to stabilise the economy, will be at the forefront of the policy reflection for the foreseeable future.

*Taxation Trends in the European Union 2010, Eurostat/European Commission*  
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## Now children, let's all go on holiday together

Is there nothing they won't try to harmonise? The latest wheeze from the Brussels machine that tries to make everything to fit the same size is to co-ordinate school holidays across Europe, supposedly to boost tourism.

Like so much else, it is a spin-off from the Lisbon Treaty, which gives the Eurocracy power to develop a strategy for spreading "vacation culture" across all seasons.

The EU has already decided that having a holiday is a necessity, if not a human right, and is now particularly concerned about providing "low season" travel for young

people, older people, poorer families and disabled people. To this end, it is set to require member states to join "a voluntary information exchange mechanism" to blend school holidays into Euro-vacations "to strengthen the tourist season, particularly for young people."

Commissioner Antonio Tanjani said: "This school co-ordination would be without prejudice to national sovereignty."

He did not specify what punishment the headmaster might apply for pupils refusing to co-operate with the authorities.

# Lack of initiative involving citizens

The great advance in European democracy that was one of the important selling points of the Lisbon Treaty seems destined to prove as illusory as so many other so-called benefits of European union.

We have already seen what the “greater influence” of the European Parliament means – an increase of 18 in the number of MEPs, with all the taxpayers’ money that involves in salaries, expenses, staffs and so on, and a substantial rise in the parliamentary budget to cover all its “extra responsibilities and additional work”.

Now it is beginning to look as if the much-vaunted European Citizens’ Initiative might be rather less than the exercise in direct democracy it was billed to be. Some people, indeed, think it will be merely a mockery of people-power.

The idea, of course, was that the European Commission would be obliged to consider legislation based on concerns raised in public petitions supported by a million citizens. However, so many obstacles to clarity have been raised in consultations among the Commission, the European Parliament and member states that instead of being a law-making

instrument the ECI could turn out to be nothing more than “a debate-making instrument”, according to Piotr Kaczynski of the Centre for European Policy Studies.

One stumbling block is the Commission’s power to determine the admissibility of any matter placed before it by citizens. The bureaucrats, afraid of bad publicity that might arise from an initiative, have wrapped up their criteria in vagueness designed to allow them to avoid any action even if a million people desire it. They also for admissibility will need to have gathered 100,000 signatures.

Meanwhile, most member states have insisted that the signatories to a petition must supply identification details and that every one of the million signatures must be verified. This worries critics, who say it will put off people who have no wish to see their identities spread about.

Nor does the Commission’s assurance that petitioners’ details will be destroyed at the end of the process satisfy opponents of the current proposals. They say that at least email addresses should be retained so that signatories can be given the Commission’s reasons for refusing to

act on an initiative. “Otherwise this kills the conversation that could be generated by these initiatives,” Mr Kaczynski told *euObserver*.

That point could be dealt with by a suggestion made by an MEP that the European Parliament should hold hearings on concerns raised by the ECI and might subsequently exercise its right to demand action by the Commission – but that, of course, is an idea that would not go down well in the Brussels corridors of power.

Like so many other elements of the “advances” enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty, this one is proving difficult to implement because of political manoeuvring and attempts to protect bureaucratic territories sensitivities. It had been hoped that the ECI might come into force on 1st December this year, to mark the first anniversary of the treaty, but so tortuous have been the negotiations that this is unlikely to be achieved, as debate in the parliament is delayed until a reasonably coherent text can be agreed by the interested parties.

We have a suggestion to resolve the impasse: they could always ask the people what they want.

Keep your eyes open for flying pigs.

## ‘The history of European union has been dictatorship’

The European movement now mimics the Roman Catholic church in the 16th century. Its popes and cardinals, in perpetual conclave, fear Protestant dissent on all sides yet do nothing but reassert the dogma of ever closer union and demand that everyone works for a “better Europe”. Rebellious provinces must be suppressed. Any move to democratic referendum, such as in 2005, must be ignored. Top-down edicts pour forth and cash is lavished on subordinate governments...

The best analysis of this phenomenon remains Larry Siedentop’s *Democracy in Europe*, which argued, in 2000, that the union was doomed without a legitimacy beyond the synthetic nonsense of the European Parliament.

Language, geography, history, kinship and customs of consent had to be recognised as the building blocks of a new democracy. Siedentop called for English as the common European language, the evolution of a collective political class, more respect for localism and a European senate. It was not enough to consign national and sub-national identities to a department of minority languages, funny clothes, country dancing and cheese.

The one thing Siedentop did not contemplate, writing still in the 20th century, was that the major premise of his analysis might simply be rejected by Europe’s peoples. They might no longer regard it as essential to their security and prosperity to enter a union to finance the spendthrift welfare of Greece and Spain. A new generation

might not see the corruption of Brussels as “a price worth paying” to avoid a third world war...

Since the debacle of the Lisbon referendums, Euro-pluralism has emerged as proof against ever closer union. The Single European Act of 1986 appears to have been a sort of psychological boundary, beyond which political unity should not have strayed. Go too far, as did the Lisbon Treaty, and the threads would snap. Europe would lose touch with its component countries, and they would lose touch with their subnational identities. In extreme, they would face break-up... The history of enforced European union has, after all, been a long parade of catastrophic dictatorship...

*Extracted from a column by Simon Jenkins, The Guardian, 17th June 2010*

# LETTERS

Tel: 08456 12 12 65 Fax: 08456 12 12 75 email: [eurofacts@junepress.com](mailto:eurofacts@junepress.com)

## One obvious cut

Dear Sir,

With all the “doom and gloom” on the financial situation, it seems to have escaped our politicians what could be saved by our exit from the EU. The cost of membership to UK taxpayers was put at over £40 million a day by UKIP at the election, which would be over £15 billion annually.

Exit from the EU is obviously now a financial imperative, and a democratic imperative as well because the agreements our politicians have made with the EU involve the loss to the electorate of our sovereignty and independence, which is against the British Constitution.

What is the sense of British taxpayers having to tighten their belts in order to fund the profligacy of other EU member states?

EDWIN BATEMAN  
Cumbria

## An illegal Parliament

Dear Sir,

Imagine that after our general election three people who had no right to be MPs were nevertheless given seats in the House of Commons, while 18

others who had been properly elected were arbitrarily excluded. There would be public outrage, and lawyers would warn that, as the House was unlawfully constituted, all its acts could be null and void.

In fact, the European Parliament is presently in just such an unlawful state, and has been since 1st December last year when the Treaty of Lisbon came into force.

Under Article 14(2) of the Treaty on European Union, as now amended by Lisbon, “No Member State shall be allocated more than 96 seats.”

Yet there are still 99 German MEPs, as under the previous rules, and as an indirect result 18 MEPs elected in 12 other countries are being denied admission.

Rather than insisting on the obvious remedy that Germany should reduce its delegation by three members in line with the amended treaty, EU leaders have belatedly opted to make further changes to the treaty to permit the three surplus Germans to remain in the Parliament, and incidentally to also allow the 18 other MEPs finally to take their seats.

A protocol serving to make these

amendments was signed on 23rd June, but will not come into force until this 1st December at the earliest, provided that it has been ratified by all member states.

So for at least a year the European Parliament will have been unlawfully constituted, and consequently all its acts during that period will be open to legal challenge.

And once again our government has said nothing about these blatant illegalities, showing its own disregard for the rule of law within the EU.

Dr D R COOPER  
Kent

## Mr Cameron's chance

Dear Sir,

The arrival of “budgetary interference” from Brussels will enable Mr Cameron to overcome his frustration at being too late into government to give us a referendum on Lisbon. For now he can set up a referendum on a “major EU change” in the British political system that will impinge on our financial independence as a unitary state.

L.G. HOLT  
Kent

## Bureaucrats use the crisis to try to grab more power

The European Central Bank has proposed a radical reversal of EU practice in the panic-stricken attempt to impose what Brussels calls “economic governance” on member states as a way out of the public debt crisis. The bank wants the Commission to have the power to punish financially wayward states *unless a majority of the European Council agrees that any such punishment is unjustified*.

At present, economic sanctions on countries that break the Stability and Growth pact – which is supposed to restrict public deficits to 3 per cent of GDP and national debt to a maximum of 60 per cent of GDP – can only be applied if a majority of member states agree. The ECB plan would turn this process on its head, placing the onus on

the alleged “offender” to prove that it does not deserve the punishment and to gain the support of a majority of its fellow-members. In other words, guilt is assumed and punished unless a majority of the “jury” overturns the verdict and sentence.

Worse still, the proposal effectively places the power of punishment firmly in the hands of the unelected and unaccountable European bureaucracy, leaving the elected representatives on the Council to cobble together ad hoc alliances in order to overturn bureaucratic decisions.

The Eurocracy acknowledges that the ECB plan would require changes to the Lisbon Treaty, but it hopes to bypass any public scrutiny of such changes via referendum by tacking them on to the

accession treaty for Croatia, which is currently being fast-tracked through the Brussels machinery (*see page 2*)

The Commission has recently toughened up its proposed punishments for states that break the Stability and Growth Pact. It originally envisaged withholding funds for regional development but now wants to go further, stopping payments applied to the common agriculture and fisheries policies.

Source: *EurActiv*

● The European Parliament Economic Committee wants to give Eurostat “dawn raid” powers to swoop unannounced on treasuries it suspects of being less than entirely accurate with budget figures, particularly in relation to off-balance sheet activities.

# MEETINGS

**The Freedom Association**  
0845 833 9626

Saturday **31st July**

**Guest speaker:**  
**The Rt Hon the Lord Tebbit of Chingford CH PC**

SUMMER PARTY  
Stanway House, Stanway,  
Gloucestershire GL54 5PQ  
**Admission**  
(Further details contact the Freedom Association)

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**UK Independence Party**  
01626 831290

Friday/Saturday **3rd-4th September**

**Speakers to be announced**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
The Riviera Centre, Torquay, Devon  
**Admission**  
(Details to follow)

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## FRINGE MEETINGS CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE

**The Freedom Association**  
0845 833 9626

Monday **4th October**  
Tuesday **5th October**

**Speaker to be announced**

THE FREEDOM ZONE  
Austin Court, 80 Cambridge Street,  
Birmingham, Warwickshire B1 2NP  
**Admission Free**  
(Further details to follow)

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**Bruges Group**  
020 7287 4414

Monday **4th October**, 2.30 pm

**Roger Helmer MEP**  
**Melanie Phillips**, *Columnist with the Daily Mail*

PUBLIC MEETING  
The Birmingham & Midland Institute,  
Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

**Bruges Group**  
020 7287 4414

Tuesday **19th October**, 7.00 pm

**Simon Heffer**, *Associate Editor of The Daily Telegraph*

PUBLIC MEETING  
Further details to follow

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Saturday **6th November**, 10.30 am

ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
The Great Hall, King's College, London  
**Admission (details to follow)**

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**FREE**

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## DIARY OF EVENTS

<b>2010</b> UK Parliament Recess Starts	<b>29th July</b>
UKIP Party Party Conference Torquay	<b>3-4th September</b>
UK Parliament Commons Return (for 2 weeks)	<b>6th September</b>
Lib-Dems Party Conference Liverpool	<b>18-22nd September</b>
Labour Party Conference Manchester	<b>26-30th September</b>
Conservative Party Conference Birmingham	<b>3-6th October</b>

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## USEFUL WEB SITES

**British Declaration of Independence**  
[www.bdicampaign.org](http://www.bdicampaign.org)

**British Gazette**  
[www.britishgazette.co.uk](http://www.britishgazette.co.uk)

**British Weights & Measures Assoc.**  
[www.bwmaOnline.com](http://www.bwmaOnline.com)

**Bruges Group**  
[www.brugesgroup.com](http://www.brugesgroup.com)

**Campaign Against Euro-Federalism**  
[www.caef.org.uk](http://www.caef.org.uk)

**Campaign for an Independent Britain**  
[www.euroseptic.org.uk](http://www.euroseptic.org.uk)

**Democracy Movement**  
[www.democracymovement.org.uk](http://www.democracymovement.org.uk)

**EU Observer**  
[www.euobserver.com](http://www.euobserver.com)

**EU Truth**  
[www.eutruth.org.uk](http://www.eutruth.org.uk)

**European Commission (London)**  
[www.ccc.org.uk](http://www.ccc.org.uk)

**European Foundation**  
[www.europeanfoundation.org](http://www.europeanfoundation.org)

**European No Campaign**  
[www.europeannocampaign.com](http://www.europeannocampaign.com)

**Freedom Association**  
[www.tfa.net](http://www.tfa.net)

**Global Britain**  
[www.globalbritain.org](http://www.globalbritain.org)

**Global Vision**  
[www.global-vision.net](http://www.global-vision.net)

**I Want a Referendum**  
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