

Food prices: it's your fault, Darling tells EU

Worsening economic conditions are forcing a recognition of the enormity of what has been ceded to Brussels - but the Tories are not taking advantage of this situation

When things go badly wrong it can be taken for granted that governments will try to blame someone else. It is an oddity of our present political condition that the British government and more generally the political elite have been prepared to go to great lengths to conceal the truth that so many current problems do not originate in Westminster but in Brussels. The closure of post offices and the chaos and delays resulting from the introduction of the ludicrous and unnecessary Home Improvement Packs (HIPs) are just two items on a long and ever-expanding list of problems for which the Government has been forced to take responsibility because it did not wish to acknowledge that they were the consequence of British EU membership.

Impotent and Redundant

The reason for this apparently uncharacteristic readiness to shoulder blame is not difficult to discern: in the instances quoted above politicians have been prepared to admit fault because they do not wish to draw attention to the greater fault of allowing the government of this country to be transferred to Brussels while leaving shell-like British institutions still standing but impotent and redundant. The refusal to acknowledge the true origin of so many of our current difficulties also serves as a means of limiting anti-EU sentiment and avoiding a radical

change of direction.

However, as the economic storm clouds grow blacker and the Labour Party contemplates electoral meltdown there is evidence that the Government is seeking to modify the terms of the blame game. The clearest indication of this came on 12th May when the *Guardian* reported that the Chancellor, Alistair Darling had written to his European counterparts urging them to extend the suspension of import tariffs on grain and to reconsider its bio-fuels policy to help ease soaring food prices.

"It is unacceptable that at a time of significant food price inflation the EU continues to apply very high import tariffs on many agricultural commodities", he wrote.

Tight Supplies

The European Union agreed in December to temporarily drop import prices on most cereals as a result of tight supplies and high prices.

Darling said the tariff suspension should be extended and import tariffs on other agricultural goods should be cut. And although not by nature the most emphatic of men he called for an end to direct payments to EU farmers and the phasing out of all elements of the CAP that are designed to keep prices above world market levels.

"Barriers and distortions in the global market increase volatility and stifle the incentives to increase supply and match demand", he wrote. Darling

also called for a "close examination" of the impact of the EU bio-fuels policy on food prices.

Will the French and the Germans take any notice of Mr Darling's earnest entreaties?

There is not the faintest possibility that they will do so, or even that Mr Darling thinks that they will. But as food price rises hit record levels - 19 per cent per annum according to the *Daily Mail* on 12th May - the oil price rockets to new highs and the banking crisis spreads to the real economy, Mr Darling wishes to share the blame. He is consequently prepared to acknowledge he must now beg permission for actions which until relatively recently would been the clear prerogative of British chancellors.

Other ministers - not least his friend and mentor Gordon Brown when Chancellor - have been critical of Brussels but skillfully gave the impression that 'Europe' was something that happened over there while Britain stayed virtuous and aloof.

Electoral Abyss

Now, as Labour peers into an electoral abyss, owning up to the realities of rule by Brussels appears to be an easier and more credible option than taking responsibility for the state of the economy while blaming 'world factors'. Other ministers are likely to

Continued on p.2

INSIDE: How serious is Cameron about 'renegotiation'? p.2 - When the people are cheated p.2 - MEPs threaten to tear up 'gentleman's agreement' p.3 - EU states oppose lid on migrants' detention p.3 - Something the British love to hate p.3 - Not a single EU power returned p.4 - EU 'conceals budget ambitions' p.4 - Europe faces demographic winter p.5 - Judicial review on referendum p.5 - Irish referendum date confirmed p.5 - How good men become crooks p.5

How serious is Cameron about ‘renegotiation’?

How clearly formed are David Cameron’s thoughts on what an incoming Tory government would do about ‘Europe’?

The Tory leader evidently sees little political profit in enlightening the electorate on this matter and an interview with the Conservative leader by the *Spectator’s* political correspondent Fraser Nelson published on 10th May produced no direct answers, but his reaction to one question was at least interesting.

Nelson put to him an idea that has been circulating in Tory circles for some time - that the Conservative Party should include in its general election manifesto a commitment to renegotiate the terms of British membership and then put the result to a referendum.

Nelson reports that this idea had been backed by two members of the Shadow Cabinet.

When he put the suggestion to Cameron, Nelson reports that he did not get the “brush-off denial” that he expected. Instead, Cameron replied: “*These suggestions are options for how*

to deliver what I have spoken about.” This, Nelson says, was a reference to his promise ‘*not to let things rest*’ in the event that the Lisbon Treaty is ratified - an enigmatic form of words first employed by William Hague - by the time he arrives in Downing Street.

Cameron’s words suggest that he has not ruled out the ‘renegotiate - then ask the people’ route but of course his words say nothing about the scope of a possible renegotiation or indeed about how he would overcome the resistance to the idea from other EU states.

Tory rhetoric on particular EU issues has been notably lacking in specifics and it is difficult to be confident a Cameron renegotiation would turn out to be any more serious than the ‘renegotiation’ sought by Harold Wilson. However it is important to remind the Tory leadership of such commitments as there have been. The most important of these has been the pledge to restore national control over social and employment policy, and it is important that these are not allowed to slip from the public memory. Chapter

and verse are therefore cited below:

“In an increasingly competitive world we simply cannot afford to have Britain held back by the burden of unnecessary EU regulation. That is why we have said that we should re-assert national control over social and employment legislation.” Speech by William Hague to *Open Europe*, 7th June 2006.

“I do not believe it is appropriate for social and employment legislation to be dealt with at the European level. It will be a top priority for the next Conservative Government to restore social and employment legislation to national control.” Speech by David Cameron to the first conference of the *Movement for European Reform*, 6th March 2007.

The restoration of national control over social and employment policy, if pursued systematically and with determination, could set in train a course of events that would fundamentally change Britain’s relationship with the EU. It is all down to Dave.

When the people are cheated...

“When the people feel they are being made subject to laws in which they feel they have played no part and taxes to which they have never consented, respect for both law and government is undermined. Our tradition for order and peaceful change is based not only on the character of our own people but

on an enduring, if tacit, bargain between Government and governed that the former will play fair and will be scrupulous in how they deal with the people’s rights. But if Governments do not play fair, if they behave in a way people consider to be in itself unconstitutional, there is evidence

enough in British history to show we are not a docile people but a very determined and fierce one indeed.”

Speech by Peter Shore during the second reading of the European Communities Bill in February, 1972.

Continued from p.1

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follow suit, and not just in Britain.

In rewriting the terms of the blame game Mr Darling runs the risk of not merely looking an impotent agent of the government in Brussels, but of vindicating the eurosceptic cause.

However, this course is made somewhat easier than it would be as the result of the reluctance of the Conservatives to respond to the movement of events by upping the European ante. Tory commitments on how it would deal with ‘Europe’ remain limited and vague (*see item above*) and do not extend to agriculture or fishing. Tory ministers and MPs

may rail against the inhumanity and iniquities of the CAP about which Mr Darling now complains but they still haven’t said what they would do about it.

In previous issues we have suggested that things would have to get very much worse before they got better. When we made that judgement we had in mind the possibility that further twists of the integrationist ratchet would finally produce a more explosive public reaction. What we are witnessing as the result of worsening economic conditions is a forced acknowledgement of the enormity of

what has *already* been conceded to Brussels. The fact that politicians are now reverting to the time-honoured practise of blaming others - in the present case the European Union - for present woes is a sign of Labour’s desperation and one which invites the belated if inevitable reminder that Britain should not have ceded power to Brussels in the first place. It is too soon to gauge the public’s reaction to this death-bed political confession but it is possible we are entering a new phase in the argument about Britain’s relationship with Europe.

MEPs threaten to tear up ‘gentleman’s agreement’ in EU power struggle

A hotly contested power struggle is being fought over the control of the new European diplomatic service which will be set up after the Lisbon Treaty comes into force in January 2009.

Working papers circulating in Brussels suggest that 160 EU offices would become embassies staffed by what will officially be known as the European External Action Service (EEAS). However, an internal memo by Hans-Gert Pöttering which has been leaked to the media insists that the EEAS remains “administratively connected to the European Commission”.

“The EEAS will have to be in a specific way administratively connected to the European Commission”, it states.

The memo reflects widely reported anxieties among MEPs and Commission staff that the new service could come under the control of the European Council, leading to a transfer of powers away from the centre to

member states.

“Any inter-governmentalism of policy areas under Community competence has to be avoided”, says the leaked document.

On 8th May Reimer Böge, a German centre-right MEP and chairman of the EP budget committee told *EuropeanVoice*, the on-line newspaper that if MEPs’ concerns were not met they would tear up the ‘gentleman’s agreement’ whereby EU institutions do not interfere in one another’s affairs. The agreement was in any case “a relic from the 1970s”. If there was no agreement about the EEAS the European Parliament would withhold the funds needed to create it, he added.

US-style Hearings

Böge is reported to want US-style hearings at which EU ambassadors would be accountable to the European Parliament.

Pöttering evidently concurs: “Parliament should aim for proper hearings of special representatives and ambassadorial nominees in the

tradition of the US Congress for nominations of a clearly political nature”, says his leaked paper.

The EEAS is expected to number 2,500 to 3,000 at its inception, but is likely to grow rapidly thereafter. The UK is expected to contribute 20-25 senior diplomats.

Some estimates suggest that the EEAS will ultimately comprise 20,000 personnel.

Meanwhile, according to the *Daily Telegraph* on 6th May the British government is said to be alarmed that the EEAS would be a stepping stone to a single supra-national diplomatic service, although what other possible outcome there could be is difficult to fathom.

For its part, the FO continues to maintain its heroic policy of refusing to call a spade a spade: “The UK opposes and will argue against naming EEAS offices embassies”, a spokesman said. So that’s alright, then.

EU states oppose lid on migrants’ detention

EU member states have failed to agree the maximum period a migrant can be kept in detention after setting foot onto the union’s territory, further prolonging a nearly three-year-long wrangle between EU institutions.

On 7th May, EU diplomats discussed the draft of a return directive, which would set out common rules on how to deal with Europe’s eight million

migrants found to be here illegally, including the length of time they can be detained and banned from re-entry.

The draft law suggests a maximum detention policy of six months, with the possibility of extending it up to a total of 18 months, but only in very specific circumstances.

According to the Reuters news agency, more than 10 countries voiced

their opposition towards the text.

Currently, the maximum detention period is decided by each government. For example, France has a 30-day limit on detention, while Malta has an 18-month maximum and the UK imposes no limit.

Source: *EUObserver* 8th May.

Something the British love to hate

“The UK has double standards...It is something you love to hate. It’s something to laugh at. It’s something continental. It’s a scam. It’s ridiculous. The British like to distance themselves from it.”

The “it” in question is the Eurovision

Song Contest and the words above are those of Bjorn Erichsen, director of Eurovision television. He was criticising British attitudes towards the contest and the “flippant” way it is introduced by Terry Wogan. But don’t the words also go a long way to

describing British attitudes towards the EU? The recent revelation that Cliff Richards was robbed of the prize 40 years ago by a corrupt dictator somehow serves to make a comparison between the two more apt.

Not a single EU power returned, Minister confirms

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: Can the Minister help us a little by answering some questions? First, have any powers been returned to nation states since 1972 and, if so, can she identify them? Does she agree that the word competence is very unfortunate, because competence usually means an ability to do something and to do it well? We have come to use the French word “competence”, which means power, so perhaps we should use the word “power” in future when we discuss these matters.

What will be the procedure for returning those powers in future, which I maintain have never been returned in the past? Will that be by qualified majority voting or unanimity? Supposing that the other member states do not want to return powers that we might want returned, how will that work?

Baroness Ashton of Upholland: I have never known the word competence to have had such an emotive response from the noble Lord. Competence is a word that, as I understand it, has a legal meaning; that is why it is used. Words in the European Union often have meanings that are understood across all member states. I do not know of any powers that have been returned; the noble Lord may well be quite right. If I can get the answer to that now, I certainly will.

I do not know what procedure would be used, because that has not as yet been determined. My point was different; it was to say that the Treaty recognises the possibility that powers could be returned. That of itself is novel and not to be under-estimated as

a potentially important aspect of thinking about the role of the European Union now and in future. As noble Lords have said, we are not going to get into the detail of what those competences would be today. If noble Lords read the evidence given to the Select Committee by my honourable friend Jim Murphy, they will see set out the areas of difference in competences relevant within the Lisbon Treaty; for example on sport, which is new; on space, which noble Lords have mentioned; on energy, tourism and so on...

My point on this amendment is simply to say that we believe that categorisation is positive, that it is important to list the competences to understand the limits and parameters of the role of the EU and, as I said, to recognise that this is power - if the noble Lord wishes to use that word - conferred on the European Union by member states, not the other way round. I can confirm to him that no powers have been returned thus far.

Lord Stoddart of Swindon: The noble Baroness says that in the Treaty there is the opportunity to get powers returned, but that has been the position since 1992, when John Major was Prime Minister and negotiated the subsidiarity clause. He came back to this country and declared, “*Game, set and match*”, because he had got that introduced into the Maastricht Treaty. Since then, no powers or competences have been returned to this country at all, as the noble Baroness has just confirmed.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: Does my noble friend remember that Mr Major

said that 25 per cent of all EU legislation was going to be repatriated to member states as a result of his brilliant negotiating skills at Maastricht?

Finally, I put this to the noble Baroness. She says that these powers are conferred by Treaty on the European Union by the nation states. If she cannot tell us how those powers are eventually to be returned, and if no powers ever have been returned, does this not confirm that we are dealing with a one-way ratchet? We are dealing with the *acquis communautaire*. The treaties, the protocol on subsidiarity and all the rest confirm that once a power has been passed, it cannot be given back without unanimity in the Council, which is unrealistic. I do not think that it helps to say that these are merely conferred powers.

Baroness Ashton of Upholland: The noble Lord is not going to agree with me on this, but he is right to say that you would have powers returned by unanimity, except in some areas of shared competence where, if the EU does not act, qualified majority voting might apply. As we move forward with the European Union of 27 member states, and begin to think about how it is going to operate in the future, one of the interesting points in the Treaty is the recognition - whether or not it has been recognised before - that powers could be returned if that were most appropriate. I should have thought that the noble Lord would welcome that.

Source: House of Lords Hansard, 12th May 2008.

EU ‘conceals budget ambitions’

The EU Commission is reluctant to present its proposals for the EU’s post-2013 budget - “*terrain that is too sensitive in this period of ratification of*

the Lisbon Treaty”, according to the French language blog *Euronews*. Meanwhile *European Voice*, the on-line newspaper, reports that Brussels

has called for a 3.1 per cent increase in the EU budget, with extra funding for research, the environment, and energy.

Europe faces demographic winter as birth rate becomes 'critical'

A report on the family underlines how adverse demographic and social trends can impact on one another

Europe's social and demographic future is likely to be one of almost unremitting bleakness. This emerges from a report from the *Institute for Family Policy*, an international NGO, which presented its gloomy findings to the European Parliament on 7th May.

Warnings that the 27 EU countries face a "demographic winter" as pensioners outnumber teenagers and birth rates plummet have become commonplace, but the report also describes others aspects of social dislocation and decline. Amongst the evidence it produces are the increase in the number of couples seeking divorce and the rapid increase in abortions. The report points out that more and more people are living solitary domestic lives and more are likely to do so. 54 million people currently live alone and two out of three households have no children at all.

The divorce rate is rising sharply with one million couples obtaining divorces every year and the number of people choosing to marry in sharp decline, with a "dramatic" reduction in the marriage rate of 24 per cent occurring between 1980 and 2006. The average marriage in the EU now lasts 13 years with one marital breakdown occurring ever 30 seconds.

One in five pregnancies now ends in abortion with the total number of abortions each year equalling the

population of Slovenia.

The report - entitled *The Evolution of the Family in Europe 2008* - describes the European birth rate as "critical", with almost one million fewer babies born last year than in 1980. The total European Union population contains six million more over-65s than under-14s. In 1980 children outnumbered pensioners by 36 million.

"Europe is undergoing a demographic winter, and now Europe is an elderly continent", the report states.

Family Breakdown

The recommendations - the preparation of a Green Paper on family policy, the appointment of an EU Commissioner for the Family - plus family-friendly tax and benefits policies are almost as depressing as the deeply-rooted social malaise to which it points. But what is most depressing is the extent to which the problems that it identifies are likely to bring others in their wake. The rising incidence of divorce and family breakdown seems destined to produce an increase in crime, anti-social behaviour and delinquency. In turn, secondary poverty - i.e. poverty caused by the misuse of resources rather than their absence - is likely to worsen. In such a situation there is likely to be a

tendency for the most enterprising, gifted and energetic members of society to leave their countries for the US, Canada or the Far East as low-skilled immigrants flood in to help solve labour shortages; this, however, is likely to lower the wages of the indigenous poor.

The report can be criticised on a number of grounds, not least its lumping together of countries with widely differing histories, cultures economies, but in describing a Continent in economic, political and demographic decline it serves a number of useful purposes, not least by drawing attention to the way in which adverse demographic and social trends can impact on one another.

Although as a result of immigration Britain's population is not in free-fall it is not immune to the trends which the report describes: its divorce rate is among the worst in Europe and it displays the signs of social atomisation that can be observed elsewhere in the EU. However, a country such as Britain, with strong historic links to the Anglosphere can look beyond Europe's borders to parts of the world where demographic and economic trends are far more favourable and with which it can develop economic, security and cultural ties - providing, of course, that its policymakers recognise the opportunity.

Judicial review on referendum

"The obligation to hold the promised referendum cannot be avoided simply by the fact that it now bears a different name" - the Hon Justice Owen speaking in the High Court on 2nd May when granting businessman

Stuart Wheeler a judicial review on whether the Labour Party's manifesto commitments meant he had a legitimate expectation that he should be able to vote in a referendum.

The judicial review will take place on

9th and 10th June 2008. If the court were to rule against the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary it could instruct the Government to introduce a new bill providing for a referendum.

Irish referendum date confirmed

The Irish government has confirmed that 12th June 2008 will be the date for the referendum on the Lisbon

Treaty. It has launched its campaign with the slogan *"Good for Ireland, Good for Europe"* and will send an

"information" leaflet to all households in Ireland.

LETTERS

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

What the Polls Signify

Dear Sir,
Albeit they were only local elections, the massive rejection of Labour on May 1st must lay to rest any idea that the present House of Commons is the true representative of the British people.

So it is clearer than ever that parliamentary ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, without the promised referendum, would be devoid of democratic legitimacy. The people would be under no moral obligation to accept such an outcome.

Governments across the EU should reflect on this iron rule of the British constitution: "*No Parliament may bind its successors*".

This unrepresentative Parliament may pass the Bill to ratify the Lisbon Treaty, but other EU member states would be wise to regard that as no more than a provisional ratification, which may later be revoked after a retrospective referendum - even if the Treaty had come into force by that time.

Dr D R COOPER
Berkshire

Disappearing Post Offices

Dear Sir,
Muriel Parsons may be right about the role of the Single Market in the death of local post offices (letters 25th April), but what about the EU Postal Services Directive which laid down that all postal services must be thrown open to competition?

I don't know whether that Directive left it open for our so-called "government" to stipulate that any would-be competitor must provide a full country-wide service like the Royal Mail's. But, that wasn't how it interpreted the Directive, and newcomers were allowed instead to cherry-pick the low-cost high-profit

city deliveries only, leaving our Royal Mail to cope with the more costly country ones.

Thus deprived of the essential cross-subsidy that since 1841 had enabled us to enjoy Briton Rowland's Hill invention of a single-price country-wide delivery service, Royal Mail has no hope of continuing to support its unprofitable country post offices. They will disappear one by one unless our legislation implementing the Directive is changed.

ANTHONY HOYLE
Buckinghamshire

In Defence of Farage

Dear Sir,
Further to Dr Cooper's letter about the UKIP leadership (25th April), I do not know what he means by saying that Nigel Farage is "*leading us up the garden path*".

I have been in UKIP since it first started but the message has always been the same, loud and clear: "*Let's get out of the EU*". I have yet to see the "garden path" mentioned by Dr Cooper, and I do not think that anyone could be more direct and to the point than Nigel - which is why people speak so well of his broadcasts.

CATHERINE STRAKER
Sussex

Single Issue Politics

Dear Sir,
The London *Evening Standard* of 6th May 2008 published the results of the London Mayoral election and the London Assembly elections in greater detail than the national press.

Readers may be interested to know that the votes cast for the ten contestants for Mayor of London were

as follows:

Conservative	1,168,738
Labour	1,028,966
Lib Democrat	236,685
Green	77,374
BNP	69,710
Christian Party	39,249
UKIP	22,422
Left List	16,796
English Democrats	10,796
Independent	5,389
Conservatives (approx. 53%)	
Labour (approx. 47%)	

The London Assembly election returned 11 Conservatives (up 2); 8 Labour (up 1); 3 Lib Dems (down 2); 2 Greens and 1 BNP. UKIP lost 2 seats and now has no representation on the Assembly. BNP secured 5.33 per cent of the total votes cast and UKIP 1.90 per cent. Other fringe candidates came nowhere.

The above figures prove the near impossibility of fringe parties breaking the mould of British politics and one might expect that sooner or later UKIP will take on board that very few people are attracted to single issue parties - especially when the chips are down. The clear indication from the London elections and the local elections in England and Wales is that the Labour Party will not achieve a fourth term of office under Gordon Brown or any other Labour politician who might replace him before the next general election. The Conservatives appear to be on course for a substantial overall majority at Westminster, as evidenced by all recent national opinion polls and the results seen on the 1st May 2008.

DAVID OWEN
Devon

How good men become crooks

"The truth is that MEPs are drawn into an intrinsically corrupting system: a system that tends, over time, to turn good people into crooks. From the moment you arrive, you are

encouraged in a particular habit of thinking. You feel insulated from - even contemptuous of - public opinion."

Dan Hannan MEP commenting on the

News of the World allegations that British MEPs have been exploiting loopholes in order to claim thousands of pounds in expenses.

MEETINGS

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Thursday **27th May**, 6.00 pm

“The American Presidency: Transformation and Change John F Kennedy, 1961-1963”

Kennedy's brief Presidency still has glamour attached to it. His performance divides historians. Some claim that he was learning from experience; if he had lived, he would have introduced radical reforms in civil rights and withdrawn from the US commitment in Vietnam. Others argue that his foreign policy would not have been very different from that of his successor, and that he would have had less success in persuading Congress to pass civil rights legislation.

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

PUBLIC MEETING

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

Marlborough Group
01672 515275

Sunday **15th June**, 2.00 pm

Further details to be announced

PUBLIC MEETING

Court Room of the Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough, Wiltshire
Admission Free

Bruges Group
020 7287 4414

Wednesday **18th June**, 7.00 pm

“Repealing the Lisbon Treaty and Independence from the EU”

Gerry Frost, *Editor of eurofacts*
Lord Willoughby de Broke, *UKIP representative in the House of Lords*

PUBLIC MEETING

Foreign Press Association, 11 Carlton Terrace, London SW1Y 5AT
Admission £10
on the door or in advance
(Includes, wine, juice, water and nibbles)

USFULL WEB SITES

Better off Out Campaign

www.betteroffout.co.uk

British Declaration of Independence

www.bdicampaign.org

British Weights & Measures Assoc.

www.bwmaOnline.com

Bruges Group

www.brugesgroup.com

Campaign Against Euro-Federalism

www.caef.org.uk

Campaign for an Independent Britain

www.cibhq.co.uk

Democracy Movement

www.democracymovement.org.uk

EU Observer

www.euobserver.com

EU Truth

www.eutruth.org.uk

European Commission (London)

www.cec.org.uk

European Foundation

www.europeanfoundation.org

European No Campaign

www.europeannocampaign.com

Foreign Affairs

www.foreignaffairs.org

Freedom Association

www.tfa.net

Global Britain

www.globalbritain.org

Global Vision

www.global-vision.net

I Want a Referendum

www.iwantareferendum.com

June Press (Publications)

www.junepress.com

Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign

www.lesc.org.uk

New Alliance

www.newalliance.org.uk

Open Europe

www.openeurope.org.uk

Regional Assemblies

www.regionalassemblies.co.uk

Speak Out Campaign

www.speakout.co.uk

Sovereignty

www.sovereignty.org.uk

Statewatch

www.statewatch.org

The People's "No" Campaign

www.thepeoplesnocampaign.co.uk

United Kingdom Independence Party

www.ukip.org

SELECT COMMITTEES

House of Lords

020-7219 3000

Tuesday **10th June**, 4.15 pm
Evidence will be heard on the *Priorities of the French Presidency of the EU* from the French Ambassador.

Tuesday **3rd June**, 10.40 am
Evidence will be heard on the *Inquiry into European Trade Policy* from Professor Richard Higgott, University of Warwick; and Professor Simon Evenett, University of St Gallen, Switzerland.

Note:

Committee Meetings can change from Public to Private without warning

DIARY OF EVENTS

2008

Irish Referendum on Lisbon Treaty **12th June**

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

UKIP National Conference Bournemouth **5-6th September**

Liberal Democrats Party Conference Bournemouth **13-17th Sept**

Labour Party Conference Manchester Central **20-24th Sept**

Conservative Party Conference Birmingham **28th Sept - 1st Oct**

European Reform Treaty to be Ratified **December**

2009

Czech Republic takes over EU presidency **1st January**

European Parliamentary Elections **11th June**

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

2010

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

Thinker Tailor Soldier Spy

by *Harry Beckhough*. **£18.99**
A remarkable book about a soldier, code-breaker, intelligence officer, teacher and political activist.

The Treaty of Lisbon in Perspective

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by *Christopher Booker & Richard North*. **Hdbk £16.95**
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A New Dawn for Britain

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by *Vernon Coleman*. **£9.99**
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An exposé of the huge levels of waste in Britain and the EU.

Hard Pounding:

The Story Of The UK Independence Party

by *Peter Gardner*. **£9.99**
An inside story of the rise of UKIP.

A Life of Mayhem, Money and Unintentional Treason

by *J Brian Heywood*. **£9.99**
This novel clearly shows how easy it is for good intentions to be used by anyone with ambitions for a world government.

Lost Illusions:

British Foreign Policy

by *Ian Milne*. **£4.00**
Is it time to make British self-reliance the guiding principle of foreign policy.

Warning: Immigration Can Seriously Damage Your Wealth

by *Anthony Scholefield*. **£6.00**
Scholefield argues that while immigration increases a nation's GDP it must inevitably reduce per capita income.

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.

Allegations

Selected works by Alexander Litvinenko
Edited by *Pavel Stroilov*. **£12.95**
Translated from Russian with an introduction by Vladimir Bukovsky.

The Principles of British Foreign Policy

by *Philip Vander Elst*. **£4.00**
Should British Foreign Policy reflect any political principles or should it merely be shaped by current conceptions of national self-interest, which may change?

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by *Tom Wise MEP*. **£3.00**
How the Common Fisheries Policy destroys lives, economies and environments. Tom Wise is MEP for the Eastern Counties.

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