

Sarkozy's strategy is to isolate the Irish

Grand ideological projects always end badly - there is no reason to think that the European project will be any different

Nicolas Sarkozy, the spinning top of European politics, is scarcely the most consistent of political leaders, although he has been undeniably consistent in his support for the Lisbon Treaty. His recent change of heart towards the President of Poland Lech Kaczynski is nevertheless notable.

On July 1st the French President said of his Polish counterpart: *"The Polish president has never been an easy partner to work with in building and shaping a stronger Europe. I can't understand how he can go against the will of the [Polish] parliament. It's odd."*

Press Reports

What had irritated Sarkozy was Kaczynski's response to a question about whether he would sign the Treaty following its rejection by the Irish voters. Acknowledging that legally-speaking the treaty was dead the Polish head of state had replied, with logic as well as the law on his side, *"It's pointless"*.

The Polish press subsequently reported that the two men spoke at length on the telephone.

Two days later, on 3rd July, President Sarkozy declared: *"President Kaczynski is an honest man and a head of state. He signed [the treaty] in Brussels, he must ratify it in Warsaw. It's a moral question. I have confidence in the Polish president. We will go on, we will find solutions ... and get to a point where we convince the Czechs to*

ratify as well".

What of course happened between the two public statements by President Sarkozy was that the Polish government announced that it would *"not stand in the way"* of the Lisbon Treaty. It may be some time before we discover whether the Polish President caved in because Sarkozy took time off from bullying Peter Mandelson to bully him, or whether there were blandishments as well. In any event, Polish resistance to treaty ratification promptly collapsed.

Sarkozy's strategy is clear: it is to isolate and intimidate the Irish, a course of action which will be advanced one further step when the modest resistance to the Treaty being offered by the Czech government has been abandoned.

Events have unfolded with total predictability: no intelligent eurosceptic could have imagined that the drive for political integration would be halted in the event of an Irish no vote; the history of the European project decreed otherwise. But the statements of Sarkozy and EU leaders do help us to view matters in greater perspective.

Democratic Legitimacy

We already knew that the EU was undemocratic; it was also obvious that a refusal to heed an Irish 'no' would destroy any semblance of democratic legitimacy to which Europe's future political development might pretend.

We already knew that Europe's political elite regarded public opinion as something to be circumvented when it did not coincide with its own (which is most of the time), not as a reason to change course. But there is more: it is now clear that the architects of the European project are also prepared to violate their own laws in the service of the European idea in much the same way that Soviet leaders elevated ideology above legal and constitutional rules.

David Miliband, Britain's *jejune* and *nerdish* Foreign Secretary sounded distinctly uncomfortable in the aftermath of the Irish vote because despite all of the vacuous assurances about the need to listen to Irish concerns he knew that one way or another the Irish were going to be made to swallow the Treaty. In contrast an older and more cynical political player like Sarkozy reacted with ill-concealed anger and contempt (*"They are bloody fools. They have been stuffing their faces at Europe's expense for years and now they dump us in the s..."*) But never mind, David, you will find such feelings of discomfort will soon pass. And once you violate the principles of constitutional government, it will come easier next time: all that matters is that the European idea should prevail.

Legally Binding

And prevailing it most certainly is.

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Treasury vision of EU's financial future doesn't correspond to reality

HM Treasury has just published a surreal 28-page paper entitled *Global Europe: Vision for a 21st century Budget**. This, apparently, is the official British contribution to the "review" of the EU Budget which was the only crumb Tony Blair "secured" in return for giving up billions of pounds worth of the UK rebate in 2005 when the 2007-2103 budget settlement was being finalised. Needless to say, Brussels will brush the British position aside with a contemptuous flick of the hand.

Amazingly, HM Treasury seems to believe that the "Lisbon Strategy" (which was designed to make the EU the most technologically-advanced economy on the planet by 2010) is still operative, since the paper says that the EU budget should be judged on its

ability to meet the Lisbon objectives. One is reminded of those 20th Century lookouts in Dover Castle whom the Army forgot to decommission when Napoleon abandoned his invasion plan. Sorry, Alistair, but the Lisbon Strategy, like the Lisbon Treaty, is stone cold dead.

After droning on about addressing the challenges of climate change, building a prosperous Europe within a strong global economy, ensuring security, stability and poverty reduction, the paper finally gets round to what may or may not be HMG's bottom-line:

"Spending on Pillar 1 of the CAP should be phased out".

Wow! That's telling them! Except that Sarkozy and Merkel have already ruled it out. (In any case - though the Treasury may have forgotten - Chirac

had already ruled out any substantive change to the CAP as soon as the Blair giveaway was concluded).

It would of course be too much to expect a British Prime Minister who lectures the world about waste to see the irony in his Treasury wasting time and effort on this pointless, vacuous drivel. Meanwhile, back in the real world, British taxpayers can rely on their taxes going up to fund the increased UK contribution to Brussels.

Incidentally, HM Treasury has still not published this year's annual backward-looking *European Community Finances*, which usually comes out in April or May. Of course, they've had other things on their mind of late.....

*www.hm-treasury.gov.uk>Recent Publications>Publications 2008

Galileo will be used for military purposes

As we have repeatedly pointed out, there is no economic rationale for investing millions of huge sums of taxpayers' money into the Galileo global positioning system. The reason for persisting with this absurd, unnecessary and grandiose project is a military one reflecting the French desire to reduce dependency on the US and to build a countervailing military force. The British government has been in denial about all of this, insisting that the scheme will not be used for military purposes - despite French and Commission statements which implied otherwise.

In June 2007, then Transport Minister Stephen Ladyman, said in reply to a question from the late Gwyneth Dunwoody MP: "*Galileo remains a*

civil programme under civil control. This has repeatedly been confirmed by the EU Transport Council; most recently in its October 2006 Council Conclusions".

As Europe Minister Geoff Hoon also said: "*The UK will continue to maintain that Galileo is a civil programme under civil control*".

But earlier this month the European Parliament approved a bill, which confirms that the system will be used for military purposes, by 502 votes to 83. The bill, proposed by German MEP Karl von Wogau, Chair of the Security and Defence sub-committee, aims to create a space surveillance system "*to watch out for space debris and other threats*". Changes to the bill proposed by the Greens to use the system purely

for civilian purposes were rejected. The text of the bill said: "*The EU and NATO are expressly called upon to start up a strategic dialogue on the politics of space and missile defense*".

The second test satellite for the system - which will comprise a total of 26 navigation satellites - was launched into space at the end of April.

Official estimates put the cost of running Galileo at £10 billion over 25 years of which Britain is expected to contribute 17 per cent (£1.7 billion), although since actual costs have exceeded estimated costs at every stage of the programme, the final bill - if the scheme is ever completed - could be even higher.

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Treaty or no, several of the provisions contained in the document - for, example, the provision for a European External Action Service - are already in place. European institutions have declared that they will treat the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which the Lisbon Treaty would have made

directly justiciable, as if the Treaty was legally binding.

Political projects based on ideology have ended disastrously; there is no reason whatever to think that the European project will be any different. In the words of the Czech president Vaclav Klaus: "*The EU cannot ignore*

its own rules. The Lisbon Treaty has been roundly and democratically rejected by Ireland, and it therefore cannot come into force. Any attempt to ignore this fact and make recourse to pressure and political manipulation to move the treaty forward would have disastrous consequences for Europe".

The Brussels gravy train insulates the eurocrats from reality

As a symbol for the European project the special high-speed train which now pulls out of the Gare du Midi in Brussels for Strasbourg on a regular basis could scarcely be bettered. Its journey is completely without point, the ticket prices are expensive and members of the public are not permitted to join the privileged passengers on board. Their only role is to pay the bill.

Travelling on the Thalys TGV are the MEPs, eurocrats and interpreters who constitute the European Parliament. As readers will be aware this switches from Brussels to the Alsace capital for one week in four and until this month the journey has been by air and road.

The main purpose of the new rail service, which was inaugurated by the French government on 7th July, is to defray public criticism of what is almost universally referred to by the media as "a travelling circus". More than one million people have signed a

petition calling for the Strasbourg Parliament to be scrapped. There have also been vocal criticisms of the environmental costs of using six charter planes to make the 280-mile journey between the two cities and demands for a smaller carbon footprint.

The cost to the taxpayer of the return rail service is £220 per person - twice as much as the rail fare paid by ordinary members of the public travelling between the Belgian capital and Strasbourg for whom there is no direct rail link. But then the privileged occupants can relax in wide reclining seats while sampling a selection of the world's wines or indulge themselves in the buffet car while filling in their travel expenses, without, of course, the inconvenience of meeting members of the public.

As a PR gesture the initiative does not appear to have been a huge success. Almost all of the newspapers reporting

the inauguration of the new rail-link predictably referred to it as a "gravy train" and many used the occasion to point to the obvious absurdity of leaving the hugely expensive Strasbourg parliament building empty for 307 days of the year. Nor will the rail-link necessarily bring significant savings. MEPs are already campaigning to preserve two of the six charter flights which used to take them to and from Strasbourg. A survey of staff in Brussels also suggests that they are unhappy about the hazards of mixing with ordinary travellers at the Gare du Midi before boarding the train and are demanding special police protection as well as special coaches to take them from the Parliament building in Brussels to the train. If successful they will have succeeded in insulating themselves almost entirely from the real world - which, after all, is one of their main aims in life.

Short term the euro looks solid - but its long term prospects are just awful

Six months ago (*eurofacts* 25th January 2008, page 5: "Sterling slumps against the Euro") we noted that the exchange rate between sterling and the US dollar had barely moved, while sterling had slumped against the euro. We also wondered whether "*the current UK deficits could be signalling even more serious trouble ahead*".

Six months on, the trouble does indeed look more serious. No one knows how long it will last. However, on the currency markets, some sort of stability has returned. The pound/euro rate seems to have settled at around £1 = €1.26, while the pound/dollar rate is still just short of £1 = \$2.

Stability seems to characterise another deep and highly liquid financial market, that of British "gilts". Gilts are bonds - interest-bearing IOUs - issued by the British government and traded widely and quoted on major stock exchanges. Here, despite the raft of bad economic news - Northern Rock, the clogging-up of the housing

and mortgage markets, rising fuel and commodity prices, rising unemployment and so on - current gilt prices and yields are very little different from their levels in September 2007, just before the Brown Devaluation began.

Short-term, the euro looks solid enough. Long-term, doubts are growing - and not just in eurosceptic circles. The europhile, Lisbon-and-Sarkozy-supporting *Figaro*, in its 8th July 2008 leader, said that current world-wide economic problems made the eventual break-up of the euro "*very probable*". Within the eurozone, the economic fundamentals between Germany and "Club Med" members continue to widen. Continental and British commentators speculate about the strains within the eurozone becoming unsustainable. However, the euro was never ever an economic project. It was, and is, a political project. Arguably, it is the only EU "policy" that has ever "worked" - at

least in the narrow technical sense. Its collapse would almost certainly mean the collapse of the EU itself.

So Brussels and Frankfurt will do whatever they can to hold the euro together. The southern European members will just have to put up with interest rates, exchange rates and unemployment rates which, for them, are utterly unsuitable. After a generation or two (so reason the euro-fans) the Club Med economies will finally fit the mould deemed appropriate by the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, the pain being assuaged by copious injections of cash, overt and covert.

In the end, of course, economic reality will prevail - it always does. Eventually, the euro will disintegrate. But, as we have seen with the Irish no, the so-called EU "elite" are determined to keep ignoring reality, political or economic. They'll stop at nothing to keep in power. The euro will be with us for some time yet.

Non-Governmental Organisations get EU millions to support lobbying

Between 2005 and 2007, the EU gave over 50 million euros of taxpayers' money to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) who then spent much of their time lobbying the EU in their own interests. They included lobby groups for 'planned parenthood', refugees and exiles, homosexuality and human rights groups, as well as anti-racist groups. Youth groups, women's interests, the disabled,

and – predictably - the European Movement itself, were all substantial beneficiaries.

A report, published by the Alliance of Independent Democrats in Europe (AIDE), details the money paid by the EU to NGOs in the years 2005-2007.

It also shows that over 120 million euros of taxpayers' money went to Oxfam and its linked aid charities.

In addition to their finances, the

report details the scale of the larger lobbying interests. There are now 134 environmental groups lobbying the EU, with many others *displaying environmental interests*. Over 100 groups are now lobbying Brussels on climate change, 55 on health and 16 on banking.

The 24 organisations receiving most from taxpayers' funds during the years 2005-2007 are listed below.

Income from EU of Top NGOs – 2005-2007	
NGO	EUROs
OXFAM GB LBG	64.212.248,37
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE UK	35.183.952,89
FUNDACION INTERMON OXFAM, SPAIN	9.601.873,92
ACTIONAID CO LTD	9.390.372,94
STICHTING OXFAM NOVIB	7.416.030,67
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC)	4.811.171,06
VZW OXFAM-SOLIDARITEIT/ASBL OXFAM SOLIDARITE	3.854.855,42
EURO CITIZEN ACTION SERVICE	3.349.093,05
EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM AISBL (EDF)	3.140.509,54
EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM AISBL (YFJ)	3.118.000,00
SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND VZW (SFCG)	2.988.271,28
INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION (IPPF)	2.954.454,91
EUROPEAN MOVEMENT	2.552.005,97
LOBBY EUROPEEN DES FEMMES AISBL (LEF)	2.377.910,07
EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST RACISM	2.205.402,01
EUROPEAN OLDER PEOPLE'S PLATFORM (AGE)	1.975.289,27
EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON REFUGEES AND EXILES	1.969.521,62
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU (EEB)	1.914.781,66
CONCORD	1.806.911,31
INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN AND GAY ASSOCIATION (ILGA)	1.538.825,23
INCLUSION EUROPE	1.462.223,85
HEALTH AND ANVIRONMENT ALLIANCE (HEAL)	1.333.678,80
SOLIDAR	1.274.908,73
INTERNATIONAL HELSINKI FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	1.149.911,39

Britain or Brussels, David: It's your call

Cameron has an opportunity not given to any Tory leader since John Major, helpless glove puppet of Clarke and Heseltine, refused a referendum over Maastricht

By Frederick Forsyth

When Margaret Thatcher came to office in 1979 she did not need to be told because everyone knew it: that the real power in Britain was not vested in the tenant of Downing Street but in the trade union supremacy.

Under Harold Wilson, Labour Minister Michael Foot had only one task: to commute from Transport House to Downing Street bearing the latest demand of the union barons, which would be immediately conceded.

And the leadership of most unions was extreme Left, Marxist-Leninist, Trotskyite and pro-Moscow. Elections to several of the most powerful executive committees had been nakedly rigged and with impunity. Being what they were, the Hard Left owned the workplace, so they owned the economy, so they owned the country.

And finally they were quite prepared to employ the nuclear option if confronted; we had already been made the sick man of Europe and endured the Winter of Discontent.

Cowardly and Defeatist

Mrs T. also inherited the Received Wisdom. It is the distilled opinion of the Establishment, in the form of the entire civil service, all the party greybeards and much of the private sector at board level. It is virtually without exception timid, cowardly, defeatist and appeasement-dedicated. Thus it was in 1938, in 1980 and still is.

The received wisdom can be summed up in a sentence. *'It is of course utterly deplorable, Prime Minister, but, alas, nothing can be done. Even to attempt to change matters would be much too risky and surely destined to fail.'*

Margaret Thatcher's genius in confronting the TUC... is that she did not. Apart from violent secondary picketing nothing was banned by law.

She said, in effect, you can strike morning, noon and night. You can strike this country into bankruptcy and oblivion. But on one condition. All strike action must be agreed by the entire workforce voting in secret ballot.

The last two words accomplished a revolution and set this country back on the road to recovery, slow though it was. Freed from the nightly intimidatory show of hands, the name-taking and the bullying of the Commies, millions of working men and women, in the privacy of the booth, voted with a cross: we do not want to strike. And for twenty years strike action became virtually a non-event.

Received Wisdom

So what did she do that was so amazing? Nothing amazing at all. She simply gave the trade unions back to the membership. And the membership ousted the Marxists and voted in the moderates. In other words, she just trusted the people with their destiny and they trusted her back.

The devisers of the Received Wisdom never trust the people, regarding them as ill-educated by comparison with themselves, dense, obtuse and incapable of arriving at a suitable decision.

The position David Cameron is in has remarkable parallels. He tentatively prepares for a premiership that seems likely to be his in two years. He must realise, for he is not stupid, that the real power to govern this country does not reside in Westminster but in Brussels. On every side he hears the ophidian hiss. It is terribly disagreeable, but there is nothing you can do about it and it would be maniacally risky to try.

In my lifetime there have only been two giants emerging from the Conservative Party: Churchill and Thatcher. They had this in common. They both found a country in crisis.

They both took the leadership of a land facing defeat. They were both assured that nothing could be done and, unpleasant though it must be, continued appeasement was the only viable policy. They both rebuffed the defeatism of the has-beens and mandarins and trusted the people instead. And the people did not let them down, but elevated them to the Pantheon.

David Cameron faces a very similar choice. He knows the Establishment and its Received Wisdom is totally pro-EU. He cannot fail to know that the mood of the majority - and a huge majority - is the reverse.

Knowing the mood of the people is today easier than it has ever been. Polls, focus groups and the internet reveal to a national politician the deep desires of the British on an almost daily basis. Sometimes those desires fluctuate wildly, revealing that it would be unwise to trust the mood of the hour. On this the issue the mood is as steady as the Rolling Thames.

Listening to the People

On every other issue David Cameron is listening to the people and instructing his team to tailor for him policies that correspond to what people yearn for. But on one single issue - our dreadful terms of membership of the EU and a massive public desire for a referendum - he appears to chicken out. The frighteners seem to have done their job as usual.

In truth he has an opportunity not given to any Tory leader since John Major, helpless glove puppet of Clarke and Heseltine, refused us a referendum over Maastricht. He can read the speech of that constitutional giant Lord Neill of Bladen. He can declare that his party therefore repudiates Brown's irrelevant ratification. He can pledge that a post-factum referendum, far from being *'almost impossible'* is

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Even a eurosceptic can sympathise with the decline of the French language

*Ironically, the longer the European project survives
the greater the threat to le français*

That the French entry to this year's *Eurovision Song Contest* was sung in English was bad enough, and caused the expected row in the popular media. But far more serious, from the point of view of the defence of the French language, is the insidious invasion of English (or rather a bastardised version of English baptised "globish") at the very summit of French government, diplomacy and business.

Christine Lagarde, the current French finance minister, is a lawyer who spent a number of years in Chicago as head of Baker & McKenzie, a prestigious US law firm. Ms Lagarde is thus absolutely fluent in English. (As a teenager in Le Havre she was also a member of the French national synchronised swimming team - something which, without wishing to be unkind, one can scarcely imagine the current crop of British female cabinet ministers ever doing, even as schoolgirls.) She has caused consternation within the Finance Ministry by writing her comments on the memos and letters that cross her desk in English.

More consternation has arisen because of the practice at the *Quai d'Orsay*, the French foreign ministry, of sending internal diplomatic telegrams in "globish" rather than

French. The current foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, is a fully-paid-up member of the "transis" - those who denigrate the very notion of the nation-state, and believe that the future will be of a trans-national "elite" (self-appointed and self-perpetuating) governing the world through multinational bureaucracies. He speaks English whenever he can, even within France.

In the business world, English has become the working language (including for internal memos between French executives) of many French multinationals, as well, naturally, of Franco-German multinationals such as Airbus. The recently-retired head of the *patronat*, the approximate equivalent of the CBI, Ernest-Antoine Seilliere, caused outrage in France when, as head of the main European business lobby group, he insisted on speaking in English rather than French.

In parallel - as the language in which the French entry for Eurovision was sung showed - popular culture in France is for all practical purposes almost terminally-contaminated by English. Magazines have English titles like *Closer*. A successful TV soap, *Plus Belle La Vie*, set in Marseille, is a direct imitation of *East Enders*. New-born babies are given names like Kevin or

Loana. (At least though the female presenters on *France-Musiques*, the equivalent of Radio 3, still have Christian names like Anne-Charlotte.) Even the metric system is suffering: TV and computer screens are measured in inches.

From time to time French politicians protest that EU documents are written and circulated in English only, but they know, and the EU knows, that they are just going through the motions. The longer the European "project" continues and the more the EU expands, the more inevitable will be the emergence of a variant of English. English as the sole EU working language - spoken in the strangulated rhythms of, for example, José-Manuel Barroso and written in the weirdly computer-like style of EU communiques. As many French commentators repeatedly point out, French participation in the *projet européen* is going to end up not just in the disappearance of the French nation-state but in the destruction of the French language. This is a prospect which even a British eurosceptic can view with sympathy and deep regret.

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Britain or Brussels, David: It's your call

exactly what we had in 1975, to ask if we, the British people, wished to renegotiate the Act of Accession to the Treaty of Rome in 1972; and that therefore he will give us our stolen referendum on taking office.

He would have to face vicious criticism from the forces of defeatism and appeasement. So did Churchill. So did Thatcher. Because they trusted the British people to decide on their own destiny. It took courage. Will David

Cameron have that courage?

I hope so. I dearly hope so. Because I want him to succeed. But no man ever succeeded by running away. It is Britain or Brussels, David. Your country, your choice.

*The next issue of eurofacts will be
published on 5th September 2008
We wish our readers a restful summer break*

David Davis's resignation over 42 days detention ignores a greater threat to liberty

The latest nail in the coffin of British freedoms is the EU Framework Decision on the enforcement of decisions rendered in absentia, says Gerard Batten

Many of us applauded David Davis's principled stand against the erosion of our liberties and his opposition to 42 days detention without charge. But so far the discussion of the issues raised by his resignation as an MP has served to divert attention from a very important fact: our protection from arbitrary arrest and detention actually went out of the window in 2004 with the introduction of the European Arrest Warrant. As a result British citizens can be extradited without any protection under British law, provided that the necessary extradition form has been correctly completed by the official of a foreign court. No prima facie evidence needs to be presented to a British court so that it can determine whether there is a proper case to answer.

The latest nail in the coffin of British freedoms is the EU Framework Decision on the enforcement of decisions rendered in absentia (see EU consultation document CNS/2008/0803). This is an initiative from seven EU countries, shockingly including the UK. Its purpose is too; *"establish common rules for the recognition and/or execution of judicial decisions in one Member State issued by another Member State, following proceedings where the*

person is not present".

Consider the implications. A British citizen accused of an offence in an EU member state court may very well decide to decline the invitation to face a trial in that country: but no matter, he or she can then be tried in his or her absence. If convicted and a fine levied the British authorities will be required either to recover the fine from the convicted person or to extradite them under a European Arrest Warrant.

These provisions apply not just in the case of serious crime and terrorism but also to road traffic offences carrying fines as little as €70! A confiscation order applied to someone must be executed even if the home state of the person concerned does not recognise their criminal liability.

Endemic Corruption

It is not reassuring to reflect that that arrest warrant may be issued by courts in countries such as Bulgaria or Romania where corruption is endemic and which will have the power to impose a fine on a British citizen of tens or hundreds of thousands of pounds. In such circumstances the British legal authorities will have to recover the money on behalf of the issuing state - even in circumstances

where it regards the accused as being wholly innocent. Still more disturbing, it is all too easy to imagine a situation in which British citizens are tried and convicted in a foreign court in their absence and then extradited to that country to serve a prison sentence. Their only option then would be to seek to quash a conviction made in absentia through an appeal or re-trial.

These measures, which have the support of the British Government are due to be agreed in November. The likelihood is that after that date British citizens will have even less protection in British courts from arbitrary arrest and imprisonment by other EU states. Concern about the extension of detention to 42 days is understandable but this more fundamental threat to the liberty of British citizens is going largely unrecognised. Sadly, we can take for granted that the great British media, in reporting David Davis' epic struggle with assorted comedy candidates in the Haltemprice and Howden by-election, will leave the real story untold.

Gerard Batten MEP, has represented London in the European Parliament since June 2004 for the UK Independence Party.

Brussels fines France as well

The leading eurosceptic newsletter in France, *L'Independance*, has been working out how much "Brussels" is costing the French economy in fines imposed on France by the EU. For 2008, *L'Independance*

reckons that French taxpayers will have to find €610 million (against €587 million the previous year).

The fines arise from judgements by both the Commission and the European Court of Justice. Although

"environmental" infractions are the most numerous, fines for the alleged misapplication of CAP procedures are also thought to be substantial.

Doing Democracy the Sarkozy way

"There will be no EU Treaty Mk III", President Sarkozy of France explaining why the Irish referendum result should, in effect, be disregarded during a press briefing in Paris on July 1st 2008. He is

reported to have added, "If the perspective of a second referendum has been raised it is because it has happened before. We need some kind of vote to get out of the

situation, Parliament or referendum, I don't know. But when a democratic society says 'no', you need some democratic solution".

You can be cool *and* pro-EU, says Miliband in most pro-EU speech to date

The reputation of David Miliband as the most pro-EU member of the Cabinet was strengthened by a speech delivered to the think-tank *Progress* at Westminster on 2nd July. The full text of the speech can be found on the FCO website (www.fco.gov.uk), but the following extracts provide sufficient reason for thinking that even in comparison with predecessors Miliband will not be just disinclined to stand in the way of further political integration, but positively in favour of it.

"The trouble we have today is not that the EU has failed. It is the opposite. The problem is that it has succeeded. Citizens of democratic nations, trading against a backdrop of durable peace, can take Europe for granted. When the prospect of war seems more remote, people ask: what is the point now?"

"Imagine if the EU did not exist today. We would, without question, be trying to invent it. Trade, climate change and terrorism don't respect

borders. So nations need to work together to forge shared rules and institutions that reflect common values...."

"The EU Emissions Trading Scheme should become the basis for a global carbon market. It should link to emerging carbon markets in America and transfer billions to China, India and Africa to fund clean energy."

"Europe should speak with one voice in negotiating with major producers such as Russia. We should have a European Energy policy - a liberalised energy market with much better interconnection between countries."

"If we don't take the right decisions now, in 10 years time we could face a crisis of energy insecurity: our gas and oil supplies facing interruptions; European nations scrambling to cut bilateral deals. Alternatively Europe could, through its regulations and carbon market, have pioneered technology in carbon capture and storage and electric cars, and be ready to declare a goal of oil

independence...."

"Britain's arguments with France often obscure how much we have in common. But what strikes me about the French priorities for their Presidency is how closely they tie with our own ambitions for the EU, as set out in the Global Europe policy statement last autumn, whether on energy and climate change, migration, near neighbourhood policy, and the next steps on European defence...."

"I am personally committed to ensuring that the United Kingdom plays its part in making Europe strong because I know that without a strong Europe, the British economy will be weaker, our people poorer and our lives and well-being at greater risk...."

"The cool case for Europe, which is the one I'm making, is pragmatic. It is based on defining problems to which the EU is clearly part of the answer."

"...if we keep our minds trained on the right issues, the case for Europe can be made. No, more than that, the case for Europe must be made."

EU regulation costs £50 billion - but intangible costs still greater

"The resilience of society is not measured in pounds or even euros, so it is very difficult to calculate the cost that over-regulation of risk imposes on society. The measurable cost of regulation to businesses and charities is probably akin to £100 billion, with EU regulation accounting for around half the total. A reasonable case can be made that the intangible costs to society are even greater.

"We need radical change if we are to create a healthier society where individuals and communities can thrive and live rather than merely exist as clients of the state or supra-state. Innovative solutions that would help reverse the regulatory imbalances are available to us. We must place more institutional hurdles in the way of regulations so that they are subject to more sceptical analysis prior to legislation. We need Whitehall to confine itself to regulating with respect

to issues - such as clean air - with which it is best placed to deal, while leaving many others to local communities and the individual to manage.

"The dynamic of the regulatory system can be fundamentally altered through a combination of measures including: educational improvement; healthcare reform; using alternatives to classic prescriptive regulation; using democracy to tame the media's lobbying for ever-more regulation in the wake of each tragedy; litigation reform; equalising funding opportunities for holistic and single issue pressure groups; reducing the number of MPs and increasing the opportunities for ministers to manage government bodies rather than merely legislating.

"All of the above reforms would help the UK create a freer and more harmonious society, more resilient and

better able to help each individual achieve his or her potential - a worthy achievement for politicians on both the right and left of the political spectrum.

"Of course, these vital reforms can't happen without a substantial renegotiation of the terms on which Britain participates in the European Union. Without that, the value of the reforms this paper advocates would be negated by legislation imposed on Britain by the EU institutions.

"Good regulation is not easy. It will always be an art rather than a science but our leaders need to appreciate the probability that their quest for risk reduction has damaged and will continue to damage our culture and society. Politicians need to have the courage to implement radical changes if we are to survive as a free people."

*William Mason, *The Costs of Regulation: And How the EU Makes them Worse*, (details, see back page).*

I won't resign - it is the Conservative Party which has broken its promises

UKIP MP Dr Bob Spink replies to our suggestion that he should consider resigning his seat in order to allow his constituents a vote on the EU

May I start by wishing your excellent editorial staff and readers a relaxing summer. The article (4th July) was graciously written, well intentioned, but well off the mark.

It said I '*lost the Tory whip*'; in fact I resigned. The Tories then maliciously published false statements seeking to damage me. And to top it all, they lied to solicitors, seeking to avoid their guilt. I sued, they folded, I won. Cameron played a key part in their dishonourable conduct which led to a total bill of around £160,000. But that is nothing compared to what Tory deceit on Europe could cost Britain under his leadership.

I'm now helping the strong UKIP team, led by Nigel Farage MEP, a man of honour and principle. Our clear vision is that trade and cooperation with Europe is right and the 'Federal Project' is wrong.

The article said David Davis resigned 'on a point of principle'. But he says he still supports the previous increase of 14 days without charge, to 28 days, and he voted for it. There is no difference '*in principle*' between that, and the increase to 42 days. This said, David is a superb MP. I hope he will now fight for Britain's independence and for decency in a Tory Party he could well

one day lead.

David should have resigned over the Lisbon Treaty betrayal on which the Tories are as guilty as Labour and the Lib-Dems. The Tories hypocritically criticise the Treaty and other parties, while they quietly confirm they will do nothing about it if they win power. So why give them power? The only way to change the main parties is to make it hurt at elections. Of course, Parliament could and should dump the Treaty, but that demands honesty, political will and leadership, and Cameron, unlike Davies, does not have these.

The article said I should resign. I did. I resigned from the Tories as should everyone who values honesty and Britain's independence. But I will not resign from Parliament and remove my ability, even for a short time, to defend my community and country. The Tories criticised me for not using the word '*Conservative*' in my 2005 election materials; and also for my firm stand on Europe, immigration and crime, and my constant attacks on both Labour and previous Tory Governments for their wretched failure to provide properly for pensioners. But the people understand; they gave me an extra 8,000 majority at that election, which speaks volumes. They voted for me on

the basis of the promises I made and which I am keeping to the letter. Resigning as an MP would be as futile for me as it was for David, a waste of money and a betrayal of those who elected me.

It is the Tory and other MPs, who are breaking their election promises, for instance on the Lisbon Treaty, who should resign, starting with Cameron who said in his Harlow speech he will not be able to deliver a referendum on the transfer of sovereignty to Brussels because the damage would have been done before the next election. Like Brown and Clegg, Cameron is again trying to deceive. Parliament is supposed to be supreme, he could act if he wished; he is a closet Europhile.

By resigning I put my country before my career, like David Davis. I confess it is not easy being a lone voice in the Commons. There is pathetic public school-boy silliness from a few arrogant Tory MPs, jumping to the Whips' orders. But I was right to make a principled stand as the Tory deceit shows. Neither Cameron nor Brown is Prime Ministerial material, and David Davis knows that as well as I do, hence his resignation. I for one am delighted he is back.

European Union taxes account for 40 per cent of GDP

The EU's already relatively high overall tax burden increased in 2006, with figures released by the EU earlier this month showing that tax amounted to 39.9 per cent of the bloc's total gross domestic product (GDP).

Figures for two of the EU's major economic competitors - the US and Japan - are some 12 points lower.

The figure in the 15-member eurozone was 40.5%, up from 39.8% in 2005. The difference between the EU

and eurozone figures in part reflects the fact that all the countries with the lowest rates - Romania (28.6%), Slovakia (29.3%) and Lithuania (29.7%) - are not members of the eurozone. However, the most heavily taxed country - Denmark (49.1%) - also retains its own currency. (Second behind Denmark was Sweden, where taxes stand at 48.9%.)

Of the five largest European economies, France had the heaviest

taxes (44.2%) and Spain the lowest (36.5%). Sandwiched between them were the UK (37.4%), Germany (39.3%) and Italy (42.3%).

The figures also reveal that, despite EU states' new emphasis on the environment and growing public concern, environmental tax revenues in the EU27 have declined since 1999. The 2006 level of 2.6% of GDP is the lowest this decade.

LETTERS

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

Parliament Remains Supreme

Dear Sir,

In his letter of June 20th, Peter Howell claimed that Parliament will no longer exist if the Lisbon Treaty is ratified.

It makes no sense to throw away our credibility by crying wolf in this way. There is nothing in the Treaty that would shut down national parliaments. True, according to one Dutch parliamentarian they would "effectively become EU institutions, and as such they need to take responsibility and behave as part of the EU set up", but that is only his (federalist) view.

Nor does it make sense to voluntarily cede ground to our opponents, if they can be fought off.

Which is what the Tory MP Bill Cash achieved during the Commons debates on the Treaty, with his determination to press his New Clause 9 to affirm and protect the supremacy of Parliament.

Forced into speaking against that amendment on 27th February, Europe Minister Jim Murphy quoted the classic definition of parliamentary sovereignty given by Dicey, that Parliament has "**the right to make or unmake any law whatever**"; and emphasised that "**the UK Parliament is and remains sovereign**". He went on to say:

"That is not affected one millimetre or one inch by the Lisbon treaty. As our own courts have ruled, "the fundamental legal basis of the UK's relationship with the EU rests with the domestic not the European legal powers."

That came from Lord Justice Laws.

One must hope that in future cases judges will take that Ministerial statement into account, and will agree that when MPs voted to approve the Lisbon Treaty and its Declaration 17 on the primacy of EU law, having previously voted against New Clause 9, they were only obeying orders and did not really intend to relinquish the

supremacy of their own Parliament.

Dr D R COOPER

Berkshire

Flawed idea

Dear Sir,

eurofacts's support for David Owen's notion that Dr Bob Spink should follow the example of David Davis in causing and fighting a by-election (*eurofacts* 4th July) is misguided. Indeed, it is plain daft. The main reason for Davis's action was the decision to lock up people for 42 days without them being charged. Davis voted against this as did a number of Labour MPs who voted with him and promised support at the by-election. Spink voted for it. Would Spink be inviting them and the electorate to support his vote for detention without charge?

Really, *eurofacts!*

ROY ROEBUCK

London

Cause for Joy

Dear Sir,

What incredible blindness has afflicted Richard North in announcing that "euroscepticism is dead". (*eurofacts* 6th June.)

Economic crisis is developing rapidly in the EU. Spain, Italy and France are lining up against Germany over the possibility of interest rate rises by the ECB. There is speculation about countries quitting the single currency. This could undermine the entire EU project - possibly heralding its demise, an end that eurosceptics have long sought. That possibility should place upon eurosceptics a need to prepare for an event that will have arrived by an unexpected route. What would be the implications for Britain?

Labour is apparently in terminal decline. The Tories will follow Labour's programme. They are terrified of the EU, not knowing what to do about it, hoping it might

somehow go away and leave them in peace to enjoy the fruits of office. The Lib-Dems will plough on with their ancient mantra, blind to the real world. The real world is one in which a recession is developing, entailing lower living standards and higher unemployment. Eurosceptics may now appreciate a bigger picture in which they are obliged to think and operate.

One factor should give eurosceptics cause for joy. The British people are becoming increasingly eurosceptic. Euroscepticism now goes with the tide, with the flow, with the mainstream.

And what about the wonderful result from the Irish referendum. Surely it is time for euroscepticism to beef up, press on, do what must be done to enable our country to achieve on-going independence.

RALPH MADDERN

Warwickshire

Ghost Tobacco

Dear Sir,

Your issue of *eurofacts* 9th May contained news of the exposure of 900,000 tons of 'ghost tobacco' in Italy, on which EU subsidies had been claimed. That news is open to differing interpretations.

The *carabiniere* could be congratulated for exposing crooks making off with our money. Or the ingenuity of the scheme could be admired as a intelligent example of the EU burgeoning fraud industry. It was founded to expose unnecessary regulation. The real manufacturers of 'ghost tobacco' are the Council of Ministers, who replace law by detailed, dishonest and muddled regulation.

The discovery of one enterprise must not discourage further experiments nor participation by leading bodies, Italian and others, in a growth industry during times of depression. Indeed, *eurofacts* should encourage such examples with which the EU is riddled.

MALCOLM HILL

London

MEETINGS

United Kingdom Independence Party
Newcastle/Stoke Branch
01782 721102

Monday **8th September**, 7.15 pm

“The Climax of History? The Unknown Truth about the EU.”

Francis Codjoe

PUBLIC MEETING
Butchers Arms, Audley, Staffs
(Junction 16, M6)
Admission Free

LibDem Conference Fringe Meetings

The Freedom Association
0845 833 9626

Saturday-Monday
13th -15th September

“Would the United Kingdom be BETTER OFF OUT of the EU?”

MINI REFERENDUM
Pier Approach, Bournemouth

and

Tuesday **16th September**, 1.00 pm

“Better Off Out?”

Speakers to be announced

PUBLIC MEETING
Royal Exeter Hotel, Bournemouth,
Dorset BH2 5AG
Admission Free

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Tuesday **16th September**, 6.00 pm

“Is the party over? Sustainable hopes.”

Michael Mainelli, *Mercers’ School Memorial Professor of Commerce at Gresham College*

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

Conservative Conference Fringe Meetings

The Freedom Association
0845 833 9626

Monday-Tuesday **29-30th September**
8.00 am to 9.00 pm

“The Freedom Zone”

Speakers include;
Iain Dale
Rt. Hon David Davis MP
Matthew Elliott, *Chief Executive of the TaxPayers’ Alliance*
Simon Heffer
Roger Helmer MEP
Rt. Hon John Redwood MP

PUBLIC MEETING
Kingston Theatre and Free Trade Coffee Lounge, Austin Court, 80 Cambridge Street, Birmingham B1 2NP
Admission Free

Bruges Group
020 7287 4414

Monday **29th September**,
2.30 - 4.00 pm

“Will a Conservative Government Deliver on Europe?”

Nigel Farage MEP
Simon Heffer
Roger Helmer MEP

PUBLIC MEETING
The Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS
Admission Free

Bruges Group
020 7287 4414

Monday **20th October**, 7.00 pm

“The Creation of Anglo-American Grand Strategy 1941-45: Anglosphere Planning for the Liberation of Europe”

Andrew Roberts, *Author and historian*

PUBLIC MEETING
Foreign Press Association, 11 Carlton Terrace, London SW1Y 5AT
Admission £10

United Kingdom Independence Party
East Devon Branch
01395 276130

Friday **24th October**, 7.30 pm

Earl of Dartmouth
Nigel Farage MEP, *UKIP, Leader*
Laura Moralee, *UKIP Youth*

EUP Launch and
PUBLIC MEETING
West Hill Village Hall, near Ottery St Mary, Devon
Admission Free

Marlborough Group
01672 515275

Sunday **9th November**, 2.00 pm

Further details to follow

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

Bruges Group
020 7287 4414

Annual Conference

Saturday **22nd November**, 10.30 am

Speakers to be announced

PUBLIC MEETING
The Great Hall, King’s College, London
Admission (details to follow)

DIARY OF EVENTS

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

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

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

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

UK Parliamentary **6th October**
Recess Ends

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

by BMDF. **£27.50**
Detailed analysis and review together with the full text of the Treaty as signed in Lisbon in December 2007.

Scared To Death

by Christopher Booker & Richard North. **Hdbk £16.95**
This latest book by the famous duo explores the tricks used to extend EU power and control.

Gordon Is A Moron

by Vernon Coleman. **£9.99**
Analysis of Brown's Chancellorship.

The O.F.P.I.S. File

The Organisation for the Preservation of Individuality and Sovereignty
by Vernon Coleman. **£15.95**
Why citizens all across Europe are fed up with the EU.

A Tribute to Ralph Harris 1924-2006

by CRCE. **£9.95**
Lord Harris was one of the leading figures in the fight against the EU.

The Bumper Book of Government Waste

by Matthew Elliott and Lee Rotherham. **£9.99**
An exposé of the huge levels of waste in Britain and the EU.

The Costs Of Regulation And How the EU Makes them worse

by William Mason. **£4.00**
How by imposing EU regulations power is taken from national Governments.

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.

Are the British a Servile People? Idealism and the EU

by Kenneth Minogue. **£4.00**
Professor Minogue argues that successive British Governments have surrendered our democracy to layers of international bureaucracy which have acquired completely unaccountable powers.

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.

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?

Dead In The Water

by Tom Wise MEP. **£3.00**
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Global Vision	www.global-vision.net
Open Europe	0207 197 2333

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English Democrats	01277 896000
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