The Democrat

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Oppose all the Con-Dem cuts

Lib Dems exposed on EU poll

Record turnouts vote for referendum

The latest People’s Pledge referendums in the traditional Lib Dem constituencies of Cheadle and Hazel Grove in Manchester demanding a poll on Britain’s membership of the European Union have both produced huge majorities.

Report by Brian Denny

In record 35 per cent turnouts in both Cheadle and Hazel Grove constituencies, 87 per cent and 88.5 per cent voted respectively for a say on EU membership.

This follows the first People's Pledge poll in Thurrock earlier this year which saw a landslide victory for the campaign with 89.9 per cent of respondents agreeing that a referendum should be held.

These referendums are the largest sample of public opinion on voters’ attitudes towards an EU referendum for decades and they will cause consternation among all the main parties at Westminster who have all tried to ignore the issue.

In both Cheadle and Hazel Grove both Liberal Democrat MPs, Mark Hunter and Andrew Stunell, refused to even accept the invitation of the People’s Pledge to debate the referendum issue in front of their constituents.

During the campaign thousands of voters were informed that their local sitting MPs had voted against giving them a say on Britain's relationship with the EU when this was last debated in parliament last year, despite the Lib Dems having hypocritically proclaimed their commitment to what they called a 'real in/out referendum' (see attached Lib Dem leaflet).

In both marginal seats, which are both up for grabs at the next election, neither politician can now afford to ignore the 13,606 and 12,043 local voters respectively, which is greater than either politician's majority. Over 12,500 people have signed The People's Pledge locally, and the cross-party campaign will be keeping all of these supporters up to date with their MPs' views through to the next general election.

Campaign Director Chris Bruni-Lowe said that the result demonstrated a very high level of →

Late news

Germany wants a new EU treaty

Germany is pressing for negotiations by the end of the year on a new treaty to drive on European Union integration and to announce a date for the opening of a new European convention to debate its contents, according to *Der Spiegel* magazine.

For a new treaty to be drafted, a convention comprising representatives from national governments and parliaments, the European Parliament and the European Commission has to agree on a final text.

Merkel's push is in line with her demand for a true political union in return for debt being pooled in the eurozone and Germany's own constitution being changed to allow for more power transfers to Brussels.

This latest attempt to reopen European treaties has been met with a lukewarm response by Member States who feel it would reshape the EU in Germany's image. Ireland in particular is not enthusiastic about any treaty changes that would require ratification by referendum.

The issue of treaty change is likely to dominate the autumn agenda of the EU alongside concerns over Greece and hopes of new crisis measures from the European Central Bank (ECB).

support for an EU referendum among ordinary voters even within two traditionally Liberal Democrat seats. "In the current uncertain climate for the coalition government, if MPs such as Andrew Stunell and Mark Hunter continue to oppose the right of their constituents to have a vote on this issue, they must be prepared to accept the electoral consequences.

"Especially, as both MPs stood at the last general election on the Liberal Democrat manifesto supporting a referendum on EU membership.

"The political parties at Westminster are going to have to rethink their attitude to a national referendum on the EU," he said.

This referendum was taking place at a time when the EU issue is not even centre stage politically yet as Brussels has not finalised the next treaty that will centralise a new raft of powers in a bid to save the euro.

But this charter for permanent neo-liberal euro-austerity is already running into trouble.

The German Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe is due to rule on 12 September on the legal compatibility with German law of the European pact on budget discipline - the "fiscal compact" - and the eurozone's permanent bailout fund, the European Stability Mechanism.

In line with previous rulings, it is likely to ask for a bigger say for the German Parliament and points to the limits of the current German constitution as part of the eurozone architecture-in-the-making.

German foreign minister Guido Westerwelle this month (August 12) also became the latest German politician to call for a referendum on handing over more powers to Brussels as part of a new EU constitution.

Whatever the outcome, when the implications of this new drive to put in place 'European economic governance' are spelt out in Britain, then the popular demand for a referendum will become very hard for the party leaderships to resist.

Until then, the People's Pledge will continue holding local referendums in marginal seats around the country, giving voters a say who have been denied a voice by the political establishment.

With 125,000 supporters, the Pledge is now one of Britain's most successful and influential campaigns with significant support in Westminster and around the country. Add your voice to the growing demand to have a say on your future and visit:
www.peoplespledge.org

Watch out *says Ron Dorman*

Surveillance of people by the state considered "dangerous" is nothing new but was in the past confined to comparatively few people. However, with the explosion of technology in the last two decades the situation has changed dramatically. We now have such things as the internet, mobile phones and satellites. These inventions have brought about massive changes in communications and the way we live. But not all of this has been for our good.

The new techniques in communications have also made it possible to check what everyone does and says and providing a scapegoat can be found for doing so it will be done. Hence for example, the "reason" for making all Muslims into "baddies" - this is not to say some Muslims may be baddies just as in every other walk of life.

However, this new kind of surveillance started before the "Muslim problem" way back in 1985 with the Schengen agreement signed by Germany, France and the Benelux countries and aimed at mutual recognition of visas between these countries and strengthened police co-operation. Schengen has since been integrated into the EU Amsterdam Treaty.

Also, a system called Echelon has been developed, designed as much for non-military use as military – for governments, organisations and businesses throughout the world - with Britain as one of the main participants. Thomas Mathiesen, Professor of law, University of Oslo in "On Globalisation of Control: Towards an Integrated Surveillance System in Europe" quotes Steve Wight as follows: "The Echelon system works by indiscriminately intercepting very large quantities of communications and then siphoning out what is valuable using artificial intelligence aides like Menox to find key words. Five nations share the results....Each of the five centres supply "dictionaries" to the other four of key words. Phrases, people and places to "tag" and the tagged intercept is forwarded straight to the requesting country...".

Some people may say "If you have nothing to hide why worry?" The fact is all of us have private lives we wish no-one else to know about. But more importantly what may considered innocent today by the state may be considered a threat tomorrow – like a mass movement to get rid of our reactionary Con-Dem government – and Echelon should be opposed.

Editorial July August 2012

Demonising and deserting young people and others

What better example of the inhumanity of the Con-Dem government than the proposal to direct the under 25 age-group into providing free labour for employers. The deal is: " If you don't work under these conditions you lose your benefit". Not that there is work around. The unemployment rate amongst this age group is over 20% where one million are without a job.

In other words they will be forced into work with no pay. If young people do not accept what amounts to a labour camp scenario then you will starve or be homeless or suffer both. No doubt ruthless employers would welcome free labour and in return shed paid labour.

This scheme was launched by Employment Minister Chris Grayling MP whilst Parliament is in recess. It is just one aspect of an overall attack on the welfare state by a cabinet of millionaires who repeat such mantras as "it is fair", "we are in this together", "public sector cuts are necessary", "the private sector will provide plenty of jobs", and so on.

Exactly the same is being carried out in eurozone countries where unemployment amongst the young is even worse. Spain and Greece has every other young person without a job, benefits have been slashed or done away with altogether. The economies are in serious decline. Britain's economy is in dire straits despite all the "necessary cuts". Unless stopped this government will pile on yet more agony until the "pips squeak". Included is the fact that unemployment and loss of organised labour in factories, offices and other work places is weakening the labour and trade union movement. It is only the labour movement and anti-monopoly forces that will bring about change for the rational future of Britain.

It is clear that common approaches and policies are to do with particular arrangements across the European Union. The political circles in Brussels, Berlin, Paris and London are sorting out what best course to adopt, to resolve and use the crisis in their own respective interests. These circles are acting on behalf of those who hold capital including investments. They are more interested in profits, making more money and establishing the City of London as the financial service centre of the EU and the world than they are in the peoples of Britain. Our piece on pages 6-7 explains one view of this scenario.

What is the counter to this thrust by monopoly capital? Policies and action by the labour and trade union movement who have organisations which represent the overwhelming majority of people in Britain - even if they are not trade union members.

These main policies which must be adopted are to:

* **Put in place controls which ban the movement of capital out of Britain. For that to happen Britain must be independent of the policies which emanate from Brussels. This means leaving the EU and casting off the tentacles which impinge unfavourably on Britain's economy and life.**
* **Abandon the criteria for joining the euro with the severe restrictions on public sector borrowing and expenditure.**
* **Form a coalition of anti-monopoly forces in Britain with the labour movement playing the leading role. It is those who work to create the wealth not a pile of pound notes in a bank vault or banker's wallet.**
* **Encourage and invest in manufacturing with the accompanying apprenticeships and training. This should be green and include high tech industries. Without wealth making industries there can be no financial resources to fully fund the welfare state, NHS, education and other essential public services.**
* **Abandon the Social Partnership and Social Europe which are counter to interests of the labour and trade union movement and working people.**
* **Fully fund local and regional authorities.**
* **Renationalise the railways, water and energy industries.**
* **Institute policies and employment for young people including free further and higher education.**

Around the eurozone crisis

Discussions in Brussels are preparing for a meeting of eurozone finance ministers in October. One set is a bilateral working group between the German and French finance ministries. Another set is EU President Herman Van Rompuy and others preparing proposals to upgrade the eurozone with elements for a political and fiscal union. No doubt these are large sticking plasters to keep the eurozone going whatever the cost to the peoples involved. To write obituaries for the euro are premature but when it falls it will be sudden and very messy.

Ireland

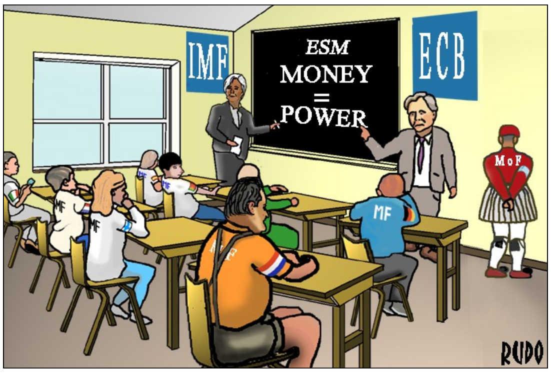
The Supreme Court in Ireland has asked the ECJ for opinions on three issues concerning the legality in EU law of changing the Lisbon Treaty regarding the ESM and bailout fund. This follows a request for an injunction to halt ratification of the ESM.

In the past campaigns in Ireland held up the Single European Act, and two referendums had to be held on both the Nice and Lisbon Treaties. However the referendum on the ESM was lost by No! Camp.

Germany

The German Chancellor voiced objections to licensing the ESM to grant bailouts as incompatible with EU treaties. This was after a meeting on 29 August with Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti. The ESM is the permanent bailout fund. However Monti said such an option should "be seen in the perspective of a broad mosaic". Meanwhile a challenge to ratification of the ESM and bailout fund has reached Germany's constitutional Court. If the challenge is accepted then matters will have to be referred to the ECJ which will delay ratification by several months. A poll for the German Council on Foreign Relations' house magazine *IP* has found that 33% of Germans want the EU to revert to its days as a purely economic community, 25% favour the status quo, 20% favour further integration while 15% want the EU to be abolished altogether, up from 10% in 2009.

"North Euro" is a concept which has until now been mainly supported by Hans-Olaf Henkel a former president of German Industries, the most important organisation of industrialists in Germany. His opinion is that Germany needs a currency with an area bigger than just her own country but Southern European countries can't be a member of the currency which Germany uses because their economies are too weak. He declares that a "North Euro" has to be established with Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Finland and probably Luxemburg. There is a growing number of capitalists declaring publicly that a "North Euro" would be a good thing. Even German MPs are speaking about it publicly. This is remarkable because it's not in line with Merkel's official policy. (source German Foreign Policy group)



Greek coalition government

Kathimerini reports that the leaders of the Greek coalition met on 29 August in an attempt to finalise the €11.5bn in cuts for 2013/14 demanded by the EU/IMF/ECB Troika. Although there was agreement on the broad scenario, details on how the savings will be made still need to be ironed out. In other words what and where yet more cuts are to be imposed and how what bits of the public sector are left are to be sold or given over to the privateers and interests outside Greece.

Portugal's Debt

The Portuguese Finance Ministry has informed the EU/IMF/ECB Troika that Portugal's deficit at the end of the year could be as high as 5.3% of GDP – with a target for 2012 of 4.5%. The latest eurozone limit has been set at 3%. Again this means more cuts on the public sector and further privatisation and an increase in job losses.

Finland

Helsinki: protest against the ESM.

There is a discussion going on in political circles in Finland about the possibility of leaving the eurozone. "It is not for the Finnish tax payer to pay for the mistakes of the fat cats of the banks and politicians from the south", said the leader of the Finns Party.

EU rail model rolled out

The latest rail fares rises of up to 11 per cent shows exactly what Europeans have in store as the EU privatisation model is rolled out across the continent.

The Con Dem government has given the green light for train operating companies to increase rail fares by three per cent more than RPI inflation, meaning large price hikes on most rush hour travel, season tickets and off-peak fares.

It also gives TOCs the power to increase some fares by even more, allowing operators to charge passengers up to 11 per cent more for train travel from January 2013.

The government's Rail Command Paper based on Sir Roy McNulty's Rail Value for Money Study has already set out proposals for TOCs to shed thousands of station staff, guards, catering staff and ticket offices to slash costs.

In a test case, train operator London Midland has submitted proposals for closures and reductions in operating hours of more than 80 ticket offices on its network, leaving many stations devoid of staff.

This EU business model for rail is remarkably similar to the McNulty report which demands even more fragmentation and more privatisation of the rail industry.

Brussels also recently unveiled similar plans for brutal market mechanisms to replace the concept of a publically-funded social railway for all with a 'single rail area' dominated by monopoly capitalism.

The Scottish government's transport agency Transport Scotland recently produced a consultation paper which refers to EU rules just as the European Commission is urging the further "unbundling" of railway companies across Europe.

"The European Union's First Rail Package requires a degree of separation between the organisation which operates the rail infrastructure and the organisation which operates the rail passenger services.

"It also requires that there is a level of separation between both these organisations and government," the consultation said.

The consultative European parliament has rubberstamped Commission proposals to impose the EU model for railways – fragmentation, separation and 'liberalisation' – across the continent.

To do this all EU rail directives have been 'recast' in order to 'establish a single European railway area'.

This EU privatisation model, first implemented in Britain, demands a split between train operations and infrastructure and 'open access' rules in order to fragment the industry to force market mechanisms into the industry.

Now the Commission is seeking to break up "holding companies" by which France and Germany have maintained a common parent company with separate accounts to avoid outright privatisation.

The new 'recast' EU rail package also demands further fragmentation with "more flexible" service facilities for train maintenance, cleaning, refuelling and shunting to boost outsourcing and subcontracting in rail services.

The directive also encourages private finance initiatives (PFI) for design, commission, development and operation of railways and repeals legislation on safety of staff, rolling stock, working conditions and social rights of workers and consumers, and imposes strike-breaking clauses in commercial rail contracts.

The EU's aim is to fragment national rail systems to ensure permanent private ownership and bumper profits for investors achieved on the backs of cuts to safety, jobs and services.

Transport Scotland admits fares will have to go up, and services could be more overcrowded on certain routes and there will be slower trains.

This move fits with the EU drive to break up national rail services in the interest of maximising opportunities for the rip off merchants from the private sector.

Banks & money

ECB President amongst friends!

The EU Ombudsman has launched an investigation into an alleged conflict of interest by European Central Bank President Mario Draghi due to his membership in a club of top bankers, the Group of Thirty (G30). Mr Draghi was a former governor of Bank of Italy. Established in 1978, the Group of Thirty is a private, non-profit, international body composed of very senior representatives of the private and public sectors and academia.

Amongst those who attended a recent G30 meeting were Christine Lagarde, IMF Managing Director and Jean-Claude Trichet, former ECB chief. Members of G30 include: Mervyn King, Governor of Bank of England; E Gerald Corrigan, Managing Director of Goldman Sachs; and Governors of the Banks of China, Brazil and Japan.

A G30 press statement said: *"The question of whether countries should remain in the eurozone has a clear answer: yes, they should remain. Costs of exit are too great.... It is clear that the eurozone is embarking on the right course with more fiscal responsibility and integration, but stronger solidarity is needed."*

We await the report from the Ombudsman as to what is the actual conflict of interests between this gaggle of bankers and former government ministers.

Incidentally the huge euro sign which is the icon of the eurozone and the EU outside the ECB in Frankfurt is to be sold off.

Dave Hawkins asks

Is this the end

Another week, another City banking scandal. Following the LIBOR rate and Mexican drugs laundering scams Business Secretary Vince Cable and the Bank of England's Paul Tucker branded the City a `cesspit`.

Tough talk but will anything change? No! The City's overwhelming power and influence has made it too big to regulate, too big to fail and too big to jail. The only question that really matters now is how does this end?

Our ruling elite cuts psychosis

Prior to the 2007 crash UK banks were leveraged up to 70 times their capital base, down now to 23 times according to the Bank of England – meaning a 5% decline in their corresponding `asset` values which would still bankrupt them. In reality the City is the epicentre of a $20trillion, unregulated, opaque highly leveraged tax haven. This is linked to a shadow banking system where the banks true leverage ratio and the quality of the corresponding assets are unknown. The consequent risk of huge losses threaten the UK's AAA credit rating and drive our ruling elite cuts psychosis. The £375bn cuts programme is a pledge to the markets to impose any burden. This pledge includes bankrupting Britain's health, education and welfare services, starving its productive economy of investment, impoverishing its population by permanent austerity and beyond – but never to default on the UK's bank debts. Unfortunately for great and greedy blagging an entire nation into indefinite acceptance of austerity is only the half of it.

The City's current supremacy depends upon London's lax financial regulatory regime and unimpeded access to the EU single market - source of 50% of its business. In turn it attracts around 250, predominantly US, foreign banks, making it the world's biggest centre for foreign-exchange trading and cross-border bank lending, and daily trades of $1.4 trillion of interest derivatives. Financial services has become the U.K.'s largest export and accounts for 12% of its tax receipts.

Rival Franco- German interests

Amid deepening recession this position is being increasing challenged not least by its Franco- German rivals determined to end its domination of the EU financial services markets . A spate of recent proposals to change EU banking rules in favour of Paris and Frankfurt have led to an unprecedented UK legal action against the European Central Bank. The eurozone's latest moves to form a banking union combined with extreme fiscal austerity, if successful, threaten severe negative consequences - austerity worsening Britain's trade deficits, further threatening its AAA credit rating, the new eurozone banking union `entente` bound to use its power to grab the City's European business.

game of the City?

Symptomatic of the City's weakness is the support Cam/borne has been publicly obliged to give to these moves. Why? Because all of the above not withstanding a eurozone failure could trigger huge Spanish and Italian sovereign debt and banking defaults to which the City is massively exposed.

UK Ruling Elite Wish-list

Politically this weakness translates into the Cam/borne `wait and see` strategy, obliquely attacked by Liam Fox in his "life outside the EU holds no fears" speech. Responding to Fox, *Financial Telegraph* diplomatic editor Gideon Rachman spells out the calculations behind it. Beginning by stating that "If necessary Britain could remain free and prosperous outside the EU" it reads like a UK ruling elite wish-list. Here the eurozone.'s banking union/fiscal diktat strategy fails, (which is a strong possibility), the Euro collapses and the EU breaks up. By default `free and prosperous` would equal continued City supremacy, the UK emerges from the rubble of this economic earthquake unscathed, regaining a leading role in Europe forming new alliances to counter German domination. Really? Mr Mcawber's last stand as in `wait and see` how long a small and shrinking productive economy can backstop a speculative financial empire looks more like the reality.

The labour movement in Britain must intervene, must refuse to be intimidated by accusations of `talking the City down` and fearlessly develop and popularise an alternative state controlled banking, savings and pensions system as the heart of a green advanced manufacturing investment strategy. And to achieve this it must place itself at the heart of an anti-monopoly alliance of all those whose futures depend upon a sustainable productive British economy.

What do you think and how best to convince the labour and trade union movement?

Other news

Britain

The Office of National Statistices (ONS) figures showed that the non UK-born population rose from 5.2 million in 2004 to 7.5 million in 2011, following the expansion of the EU to include former Soviet bloc states. The estimated UK population born in the eight states, including Poland and the Czech Republic, rose from 167,000 to 689,000 between 2004 and 2008. (*Times* 31.8.12)

In Britain there are 2.56 million out of work equivalent to a rate of 8% or nearly one in ten. The hardest hit are one million young people under 25 without a job (21.5%). This is equivalent to one in five young people.

The EU is not Working

According to figures released by eurostat (above) on 31 August the overall unemployment across the eurozone was 18 million This is a rate of 11.3% or over one in every ten workers without a job and the highest since these records began in 1995.

The worst hit eurozone Member State is Spain with 25.1% unemployment which is a staggering one in four without work. Amongst those in the under 25 age-group the jobless rate is over 50%, a staggering one in two young people.

Greece also has 50% unemployment amongst the under-25s age-group and 23.1% overall.

Austria has the lowest unemployment at 4.5%.

Social Europe is a con

Resolution adopted unanimously at 2012 CAEF AGM

European Central Bank (ECB) chief Mario Draghi recently told the Wall Street Journal that the so-called ‘European social model’ was dead.

“The European social model has already gone when we see the youth unemployment rates prevailing in some countries,” he said.

Some in labour movement circles across Europe have long claimed that the vague ‘European social model’ would bring full employment and decent public services in return for supporting European Union treaties and directives with little empirical evidence that this would happen.

The current economic crisis has starkly exposed the reality that EU structures do not protect workers or public services.

The escalating Eurozone crisis reveals the most powerful member states protecting their debt-laden banks by demanding vicious austerity measures in the eurozone states starting with Ireland, Greece and Portugal and spreading rapidly across the entire EU.

Jacques Delors evangelised for ‘Social Europe’ when he became president of the European Commission in 1985. He made a famous speech at the 1988 TUC, claiming that the completion of the Single European Market would deliver a social model compatible with trade union aspirations in Britain. Trade union leaders largely accepted this untested and unfounded mantra.

Yet under the ‘Social Europe’ model proposed by Delors, the post-war Keynesian Welfare State model focussed on full employment and stimulating demand was gradually dismantled and replaced with an alternative that prioritised price stability over jobs and focused on wage moderation and labour market ‘reform’ as the main route to maintain competiveness.

In some cases, such as in Italy and in Germany, this change in direction was pursued using the corporatist arrangements of ‘social partnership’. In other cases, most notably Britain, change came via direct confrontation between organised labour and the state. Yet, common to all was the use made of ‘Europe’ as the route via which the social bonds and obligations of the Keynesian consensus was given up.

The ‘Social Europe’ agenda in Germany and the Netherlands show exactly how these countries in reality used ‘anti-social growth models’. The German government used ‘social partnership’ to secure wage moderation from unions in its export industries, which was critical to the country’s economic success since the end of the downturn of the early 2000s. Similar policies were pursued in the Netherlands, the country with the lowest unemployment in Europe, but also with the highest proportion of workers on fixed (ie not permanent) term contracts.

This anti-social growth model has propped up the Eurozone’s average annual GDP figures but created conflicts between member states able to achieve such internal competitive devaluations and others, in the Eurozone’s periphery (eg Ireland), where credit-fuelled growth led to wage inflation.

The project of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) was a conscious extension of anti-social Europe, preventing countries from using currency devaluation to regain competiveness. All pressure for adaptation was transferred to labour market factors.

As EU austerity policies destroy whole economies and lead to mass unemployment, protests have exploded across Europe. At the same time policymaking at the EU level, isolated from the protests and complaints of national populations, has intensified.

Any evidence of ‘Social Europe’ is being rapidly replaced by a distinctly ‘anti-Social Europe’ characterised less by social partnership than by social dumping as EU rules and ECJ judgements drive a race to the bottom in terms of jobs, wages and conditions.

As even the pro-EU European TUC general secretary Bernadette Segol admitted in June 2011: “cuts in salaries, cuts in public services and weakening collective bargaining rights are all on the agenda”.

As a result resistance is appearing across Europe against the EU’s corporate agenda and there is a growing level of unease among working people about EU rules that shift the balance of power massively to the employer and big business and away from elected parliaments.

Millions of workers are finding the confidence to say no to social dumping and ‘yes’ to protecting national standards.

In order to protect jobs and our industrial base the labour movement must demand that the government invests in manufacturing, training, research and development.

Manufacturing could create the wealth required to finance and develop the welfare state including a public health service that is free at the point of use, education and decent pensions.

All governments must have the democratic powers to control the flow of capital, jobs and people even if it offends neo-liberal EU rules, laws and directives designed to favour corporate capital. These are the fundamental rights of any modern, democratic independent nation.

CAEF resolves to campaign to disseminate information about the realities of the EU’s bogus ‘Social Europe’ agenda and expose the anti-social, anti-people agenda that hides behind it.

[See details of pamphlet on page 10]

Reform of CFP stalls

The final stage of the 2012 reform of the common fisheries policy is approaching. The 2012 changes were supposed to usher in a new era and to succeed where the 1992 and 2002 ones had so obviously failed.

A green paper was published in 2009. The main proposals were "regionalising" the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which was supposed to allow for the adaptation of EU policy to suit the particular conditions of regional seas, and the introduction of transferable fishing concessions" throughout the EU's common pond," which was intended to rationalise fishing fleets throughout the EU.

Regionalisation was supposed to represent a loosening of the over-centralised system that is the CFP, while TFCs would address "overcapacity" in the industry, along market principles. But things did not work out as intended.

Regionalisation was ruled out on the legal grounds that it would challenge the EU's exclusive competence over conservation policy and would contravene the treaties that recognise only EU institutions and member-states as legal partners in decision-making.

The Europe wide system of TFCs was dropped early in the consultation process, following its hostile reception by a majority of member-states fearing the loss of fishing opportunities through cross-border trade in fishing rights.

There is little enthusiasm in Europe for what is rightly regarded as the privatisation of common property resources, with uncertain, but very probably negative, consequences for small-scale fisheries that help to underpin the sustainability of coastal communities.

It is not too late for the Irish and British Governments to waken up to the fact that it is quite clear that the CFP cannot be reformed and that the only basis on which the industry can be rebuilt and developed is for the Member States to take back from Brussels the power to license fishing vessels to fish within national waters, to exclude specified vessels or the vessels of specified countries from fishing within these waters, to negotiate common policies with other countries for preserving fishing stocks, and to override any provisions of the CFP or the EU that are in conflict with national interests.

This does not preclude states working together to develop a long-term ecosystem-based strategy for managing regional fisheries, co-ordinating scientific and stakeholder advice, and agreeing specific actions to be undertaken to improve fisheries management within their regional seas.

The alternative is to go along with a CFP "reform" that is more concerned with preserving the status quo of EU institutions than with the need to ensure sustainability for important fishery resources and viability for Europe's fishin industries and coastal communities.

Based on a report in ***People's News*** *journal of the* ***People's Movement*** *in Ireland.*

Arab spring!

Germany and the Arab Peninsular

The CDU-affiliated Konrad Adenauer Foundation is promoting the expansion of German and EU cooperation with the dictatorships of the Arabian Peninsular.

The foundation announced that its "Regional Program Gulf States" has initiated a project along with other organizations from Europe and the Peninsular, aimed at proposing a more comprehensive cooperation between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Adenauer Foundation is also continuing its lobbying in the Gulf dictatorships, even though it recently had been evicted from the United Arab Emirates, where it had a regional office.

As the Adenauer Foundation explains, its cooperation efforts contribute not only to the economic significance, but also to the rapidly growing significance of the GCC countries' "security policy." It is explicitly seeking to make "regionally relevant security policy" issues for discussion at the Gulf.

Several of the GCC member states, particularly Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have not only proven to be close partisans of the West in the conflict with Iran, they, in providing military support to the rebels in Libya and Syria, have also developed into useful allies for Germany the EU and USA for the overthrow of reprehensible regimes. Experts say they are "the driving force in the Arab World."

(German Foreign Policy group)

Readers pages

New CAEF leaflets

There are a couple of new CAEF leaflets. These can be found on the CAEF website and printed onto A4 paper then cut in half to A5. They are in PDF files

OR you can order these and they will be sent free for use at demonstrations and meetings or handed out.

The A5 leaflets are:

Cuts and fairness?
Privatisation of the NHS
Postal services privatisation

An A4 leaflet for trade unionists deals with Mode 4 and social dumping.

There is a flyer with a *pro forma* to order the pamphlet see below on right.

Renewals

Invitations to renew either membership ot CAEF or subscription to the *Democrat* are enclosed with this issue.

The rates can be found in the imprint on page 12. They are £15 per member or £10 for the unwaged.

Quiz No. 130

What are the following phrases?

1. NO NO
   CORRECT
2. *22 Ltd 33 Mob*
3. TENTGOODIONS
4. COLT JNR
5. ÷ CHESTNUT

Answers No. 129

1. Rock of Ages
2. Put your money where your mouth is
3. Wolf in sheep's clothing
4. Pride before a fall
5. Any questions

EUROS ARE CHEAP TODAY

Sung to tune of - ***La Donna E Mobile*** from ***Rigoletto*** Act II by ***Giuseppe Verdi***

Words by ***Tony Grace***

Euros are cheap today
Cheaper than yesterday
Small states sell second-hand
They'll leave the Euro Band
But if they accept the rule
Of the Central Banking School
They must accept their fate
Or Break up the Euro-State

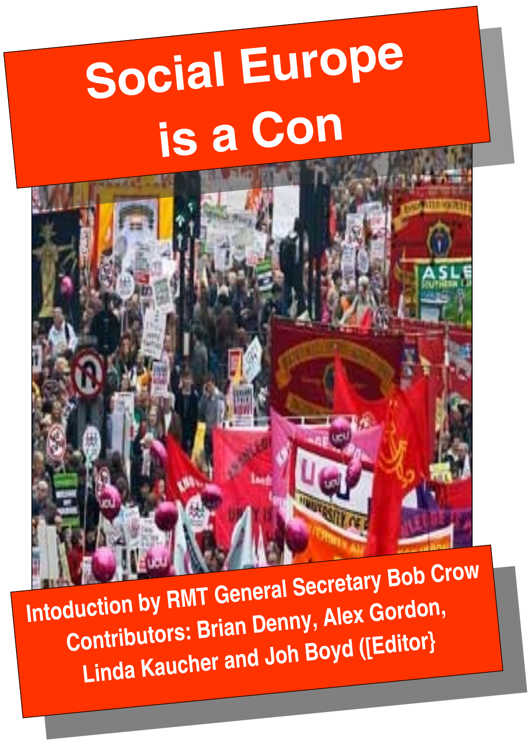
The politics are just unreal
Parliament is 'neath the heel
Of the German banking beast
Funding the Eurofeast
The German Sparkassen bank
And the regional Landesbank
All want their pound of flesh
Trap us in their fiscal mesh
So people of Europe now
Let's make a mighty row
Take up a fighting pose
Give them a bloody nose

Pamphlet sales

Sales of the pamphlet ***Social Europe is a Con*** are going well but needs further help from our readers. A *pro forma* leaflet is enclosed with this issue to enable readers to order their copy at £2.50 each post free. Five or more copies are £1.60 each post free.

Following the circulation of copies being sent to each of the 162 local Trades Councils in England and Wales some have ordered multiple copies. Other orders from trade unions have been received.

Further copies of the leaflet are available to help raise orders in labour movement organisations.



Communications

What kind of society?

Arthur Smelt is absolutely correct about the way the organisation of our society is making life increasingly difficult for ordinary people. We are cursed with a privileged elite, largely from the public schools and Oxbridge, for whom a prosperous career must be found, while for the rest of us the gains made in the post war years are being stripped away. This elite become incompetent bankers, vastly overpaid senior executives, arrogant bureaucrats or self serving politicians and nowhere is this more obvious in the EU gravy train upon which they now ride. Breaking away from the undemocratic and economically declining European project must be only the first step in creating a society based on merit and equal opportunity, whose institutions are run for the benefit of all, not a small selfish minority.

Colin Bullen, Kent

Donations and Appeal

Finding ways and means to get across the many different ways our lives and future of Britain are affected by the EU is hard to say the least. A campaign such as ours has to have a paper, nowadays a website and financial resources. Most aspects of our campaign costs money including high priced postage, paper and running a printer.

Please help with a donation if you can.

We thank all those who have made donations however small or large:

Campaign against Euro-federalism

To join the *Campaign* I enclose £15 membership fee (£10 for unwaged)

Please make cheques or POs to ***CAEF***

Name . . . . *Date* / / 2012

Address . . . . *email address*

. . . .

. . . . *Postcode* . . . .

I agree to abide by the rules of the ***Campaign*** . . . .

CAEF objectives, aims and rules can be found on the CAEF website or by request

As a member you will be sent copies of the Democrat

Return to CAEF, PO Box 46295, London W5 2UG *[d130]*

Useful Websites

CAEF does not necessarily agree with everything in these sites

Campaign against Euro-federalism with data from current and some back issues of the Democrat.
www.caef.org.uk

EUobserver reports daily on EU matters with links to other newspapers and sources. This is a very popular website:
www.euobserver.com

Scottish CAEF:
homepage.ntlworld.com/foster-prendergast/scaef/index.files

Trade unionists against the EU Constitution (TUAEUC):
tuaeuc.org

No2EU yes to democracy:
NO2EU.com

TEAM the European alliance of EU critical organisations. Lists links to other organisations across Europe:
www.teameurope.info

Democracy Movement, a broad movement with a large number of supporters:
www.democracymovement.org.uk

Campaign for an Independent Britain (CIB):
eurofaq.freeuk.com

Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign, for Labour Party members:
lesc.org.uk

Peoples' Movement Ireland:
people.ie

National Platform of Ireland:
nationalplatform.org

German foreign policy group of journalists:
german-foreign-policy.com

Open Europe—an influential think tank of leading business people:
openeurope.org.uk

Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO):
eulobbytours.org

Data on other sites welcome

Campaign against Euro-federalism

The *Campaign* opposes:-

- the EU Constitution which hands over more powers to unelected and unaccountable bodies and reduces further the influence of Britain in the EU;
- the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, part II of the Constitution, because it takes rights away;
- the introduction of a Common Foreign and Security Policy and an EU Foreign Secretary;
- the formation of a European Army and battle groups as part of rapid reaction forces would be a threat to peace.

The *Campaign* is a democratic organisation and primarily oriented to the labour and trade union movement and people whom these organisations normally represent, including democrats, socialists, trade unionists, students and pensioners.

The *Campaign* is for democracy and accountability, independence, jobs the pound and against racism.

The Democrat

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PO Box 46295
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Tel 0845 345 8902
caef@caef.org.uk

www.caef.org.uk

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Arthur Smelt asks is there to be

Co-operation or Chaos?

When Barack Obama was elected president of the US, many voters hoped he would steer a path away from Bushism. He promised to close Guantanamo and end the atrocities being committed there, together with talk of ending the Afghan conflict. These promises, and many others have gone unfulfilled leaving the electorate disillusioned.

Unfortunately this kind of behaviour by politicians is not confined to the US but is universal, not least in our own country where the democratic deficit widens by the day.

The idea that our representatives in Westminster or Brussels are elected to represent the interests of those who voted for them is absolute tommyrot. EU decisions are made by an appointed bureaucracy not by an elected parliament. We are witnessing neo-liberalism gone mad.

The mindless dogma of the 'free market' being forced upon us is contributing, not to economic recovery but to its further demise. The outsourcing of work, selling off public utilities to private companies here and abroad means that not only is public money being funneled into private pockets, but this contributes to more unemployment.

One example of this is that of ATOS a French corporation being paid millions of pounds by our government to assess people with disabilities and to declare fit for work, those who are patently unfit. This firm is also in line for a further contract of £1 billion to carry out the new personal independence payment assessments.

What kind of a society do we live in where billions are spent promoting the fit and able so they become rich, famous and honoured whilst those who are sick and disabled through no fault of their own, are persecuted and robbed to pay for their misfortunes?

Recently John Humphries of the BBC reported on a visit he made to Greece. Greece joined the Euro 12 years ago. At around that time Greece had a huge debt due to hosting the Olympics. In their desperation to join the Euro the Greeks cooked the books and the EU turned a blind eye. Now pensions have been cut by 30%. Unemployment now at 20% could reach 40% before long. Volunteer organisations are springing up to help the needy. With widespread unemployment, volunteer help is becoming a dire necessity. Families do not know how to feed their children. Some go to school without food and there is no free food in Greek schools. When children become ill there is not medicine to treat them. Even essential medication is missing. People are unable to sleep because of worry and suicides are at an all time high. There are schools without books and public coffers are empty whilst massive wealth exists in the hands of the very rich, where corruption and kick-backs proliferate. This is not only a Greek crisis but the severity of it is frightening.

Those responsible for the mess are still in power and cannot rescue Greece from this catastrophe.

As usually happens in such circumstances minority groups are being targeted by fascists. Imigrants are being blamed. People distrust conventional politics. One fifth of public sector workers have been laid off. The enemies as seen by the majority are the troika of the EU, IMF and ECB.

Among the plethora of accusations made is that Greek people do not pay their taxes, but the people who do not pay their taxes are the big money boys, the rich and powerful companies.

Unless we cooperate together to ameliorate this economic mess we are suffering here in Britain, we could end up in a the chaos that is Greece.