

Tory launch gambit to stay in the EU

Tory Prime Minister David Cameron has sought to dampen down growing popular opposition to EU membership by promising a referendum in about five years time after the Europhile party leadership has negotiated a 'new settlement'.

Report by Brian Denny

"And when we have negotiated that new settlement, we will give the British people a referendum with a very simple in or out choice," he said.

This manoeuvre is meant to garner EU-critical votes at the next election and allow the Tories to campaign alongside the Lib Dems and Labour leaderships to stay locked into the EU permanent austerity machine.

While euro fanatic Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg huffed that EU renegotiation "is not in the national interest" and Labour leader Ed Miliband confirmed that "we don't want an in-out referendum" both know Cameron's gambit is designed to maintain unity among the political elite.

The Conservative Party has always been a supporter of the creation of an undemocratic European superstate dominated by corporate capital. Cameron, John Major and even Margaret Thatcher all enthusiastically

signed the various treaties designed to bring this about.

When Thatcher belatedly tried to reverse this long-held policy and opposed Britain's membership of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism and the Euro, she was removed in 1990.

The reality today is that Cameron cannot make any meaningful changes to EU structures without the support of all 27 member states, a deliberately impossible task.

Miliband's craven support for the EU will also further alienate working class voters as Labour is losing votes to UKIP as much as the Tories are and it is not good the labour movement sticking its head in the sand.

Utopian dreams about the EU and the cargo cult known as social Europe will not prevent the damage done by EU treaties that remove real democracy from voters and hands power to rapacious corporate capitalism.

It's time the TUC stopped hiding behind Tory Europhiles like Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine in support of the EU and realised that EU rules only inflict permanent austerity at home and continual imperialist war abroad.



US rattles UK's EU chains p5

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**Lisbon Treaty
(EU Constitution)
Article 50**

"Any Member State may decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements".

Germany in Latin America

Prior to the German Chancellor's visit to Latin America at the end of January, government advisors in Berlin were predicting that the continent faces a "historical turning point". According to an analysis by the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), it can be expected that the "resignation" of the seriously ill Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez would provoke serious upheavals - not only in Venezuela. Cuba also could be seriously affected, due to its dependence upon Caracas.

Without Chávez, Alba, the international alliance that is resisting US-American and European hegemony on the continent, would be lacking a leadership, capable of achieving its objectives, says the SWP which sees a window of opportunity for Berlin. It can be expected that in a reshuffle, Brazil would be able to reinforce its standing in South America.

In Berlin, this is seen as advantageous, because Brazil is one of Germany's most important Latin American allies. In addition the SWP ways this would open up new opportunities for Berlin in the "promotion of democracy" and political "counselling" in Latin America. (*German Foreign Policy* 17.1.13)

More can be found at:
<http://www.german-foreign-policy.com/en/fulltext/58503>

CAEF Press statement 23.1.13

Cameron's statement on EU membership does not address the acute problems which the peoples of Britain face. To dangle the carrot of the prospect of a referendum sometime maybe in the future is simply talk for his: diminishing numbers of supporters to win the next General Election; and to appease US objections to Britain opting out of the EU.

The major objectives of those opposed to disastrous EU membership must be to re-establish the right to self-determination, national independence and democracy. This must include controls on the movement of capital, services, goods and labour.

The labour movement must be won to re-adopt the policy of Britain's withdrawal from the EU instead of holding onto the

apron strings of the financial sector which includes the banks that caused the economic mess Britain faces. Cameron and Osborne have repeatedly stated they want to protect the City of London as the financial centre of the EU from which austerity policies stem.

That requires the election of a government to stand up to the financial sector and transnational corporations by exercising sovereign powers and legislation on behalf of the vast majority of people in Britain. This to include polices to trade across the world, including the continent of Europe, with an economy based on manufacturing to guarantee jobs and prosperity for the future of Britain.

Getting to know you

**Prum Treaty
DNA and DVLA**

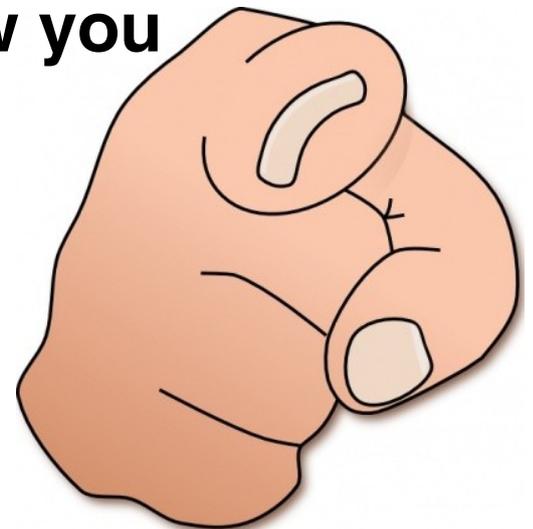
The objective of the Prum Treaty is for each EU Member State to grant each other access rights to their automated DNA analysis files, automated fingerprint identification systems and vehicle registration data which includes owners of vehicles.

This little known treaty was originally signed by Schengen Member States back in 2005. The European Commission turned this into EU wide legislation in 2008 with agreement of the New Labour Government. This legislation is supposed to be in place by 2014 and Britain has been threatened with £millions fines by the European Justice Court for none implementation.

A Commission report admits "A considerable number of member states consider that the matching rules, in particular for DNA data, are not fully satisfactory and should be designed...so as to avoid matches that are ...false...".

The thought of police forces across 26 other Member States having access to DVLA data is mind boggling where one wrong digit could result in the use of the European Arrest Warrant and a knock at the door and transportation to somewhere else in the EU.

This is EU legislation that must be stopped and Parliament needs to do just that.



EU-Passenger Name Record (PNR)

On 9 January the Commission published a call for proposals for projects that at the very least see the "establishment of a unit in the Member State which will be responsible for the collection, processing and retention of PNR data," and preferably also the actual ability to collect, store, process and share the data.

This data would be collected at air and seaports.

This has been described by Green MEP Jan Philipp Albrecht last year as part of the "ever-creeping drive for more pervasive retention and analysis of private data and big brother-style surveillance."

The scheme will be financed by the EU and planned to commence in 2014.. It is another piece of EU legislation that parliament can stop.

(*Statewatch* January 2013)

Lessons from 40 years in the Common Market

It is 40 years since Britain, Denmark and Ireland joined the Common Market under the premiership of Tory Edward Heath in 1973. This was the time when a small number of Labour MPs voted against Labour's policy of opposition to EEC membership. The date marks the time when the ruling class turned its back on the nation-state of Britain.

This followed a period when direct imperialism of the British Empire was changed to neo-colonialism. Britain joined five other broken empires in a temporary alliance of the EEC. The US had taken over the military machine that guarded vested interests around the world in place of Britain. Since then Britain has relied on the US military-industrial-complex.

US foreign policy was to encourage all concerned, especially France, for Britain to become a member of the EEC in an economic and military bloc in the 'cold war' against the USSR and prevent the spread of socialism. Today, as shown on page 5, the US policy over Britain in the EU has not changed.

Labour Party and TUC policy was for withdrawal from the European Community at the 1975 referendum when the promise was "jobs for the boys". This policy position was held until Commission President Jacques Delors sold the Social Charter to un-mandated delegates at the 1988 TUC Congress as well as the Danish and Irish TUCs. The 'bargain' struck was the 'Social Charter' in exchange for support of European Union and the 1992

Maastricht Treaty which included strict criteria for the single currency and single market.

The criteria for the single currency included severe limits on public sector spending and government borrowing. Although Britain did not join the euro, successive governments have applied these criteria so that we are in the penultimate stage of adopting this disastrous currency. Stemming from the practical side of these criteria were the PFI and PPP schemes which now blight and burden the NHS with paying out vast sums of money. That is the 'excuse' behind the closure of hospitals and their blatant transfer to the private sector.

The single market is a truly free market defined by the 'free movement of capital, services, goods and labour'. These are the conditions that the TNCs and banks strive for. This is why they want an end to the powers of the governments of nation states to legislate in these areas that provide for cheap labour to be moved around within the EU, for capital to seek out and move jobs, factories and whole industries to maximise profit.

Arising out of the Social Charter tucked in the back of the Maastricht Treaty, Social Europe has been exposed as a bad bargain and a con, made clear by appalling and deteriorating conditions faced by workers in the eurozone member states of Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

The major battle for the foreseeable future is to focus on and stop the



Two industries and jobs gone since 1975



relentless attack on nation-states by transnational corporations and banks represented by the millionaire Cameron cabinet. An end has to be brought to the current situation where Britain is dictated to by the financial sector and TNCs and banks. It is they who press for all the privatisation and destruction of the NHS, state education system. That is done in line with countless EU policies, directives and legislation that over-rides parliament at Westminster and democratic accountability at national, regional and local levels.

The call to work harder and tighten belts in order to compete and win the race in the global market must be spurned. This is simply an invitation for workers to compete in the latest form of imperialism which is covert and called 'globalisation' to distract the unwary.

Whether or not there is to be a referendum in five years time the labour movement must be won to readopt the policy of Britain's withdrawal from the EU instead of holding onto the apron strings of the financial sector, banks and Tories which represent them, which caused the economic mess Britain faces.

Demands labour must make page 5

European Council

The current President of the European Council is Herman von Rompuy. If he is unable to attend then Ireland chairs the Council denoted as the Presidency of the European Council. In January Ireland took over this rotating position from Cyprus. In July Ireland will hand over to Lithuania followed by Greece and then Italy in 2014.

Insurers to cash in on kidnapping

Insurers predict recession and social unrest triggered by the euro crisis will drive more abductions in southern Europe. There is no evidence yet of an increase in kidnapping in crisis-struck Greece, Italy and Spain, but insurers are betting on an upturn which they think will increase sales of kidnap insurance to reimburse ransom payments. (Reuters 18.1.13)

Date for your diary CAEF AGM

This will take place in Birmingham on Saturday 27 April.

Social Europe is a Con



Introduction by RMT General Secretary Bob Crow
Contributors: Brian Denny, Alex Gordon, Linda Kaucher and Joh Boyd ([Editor]

Democrat Press pamphlet

Readers can order copies at £2.50 each post free. Five or more copies are £1.60 each post free.

The cost to Ireland of eurozone membership

25 per cent of Ireland's GDP wiped out as 42 per cent of the cost of EU's banking crisis is paid out to eurozone.

According to Eurostat, Ireland has paid 42% of the total cost of the EU banking crisis, at a cost of close to €9,000 per person! The crisis cost Germany €40 billion—but Ireland, according to Eurostat, is liable for €41 billion. By way of comparison, the crisis has cost Ireland 25 per cent of GDP and Germany just 1½ per cent.



The average banking crisis debt throughout the EU is €192 per person; yet the figure of €9,000 for each Irish person does not take into account the €18 billion put into the banks from the National Pension Reserve Fund.

The German people, at €491 per person, have shouldered the next-biggest cost of bailing out their big regional banks, which invested heavily in hedge funds.

Commissioner rebuffs IMF criticism of austerity measures

Blanket criticism of austerity policy misses the positive effect it has on market confidence, EU economic affairs commissioner has said in the face of negative statements by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Referring to a report out last week in which IMF economists said the growth-dampening effects of spending cuts had been underestimated, Olli Rehn at a think-tank event in Brussels on Friday (11 January) said "one cannot draw, on the basis of this study, strong policy conclusions.

"In the political debate, what has often been forgotten is that we have not only the quantifiable effect - which is something that the economist like to emphasize - we also have the confidence effect," he added.

Taking Italy as an example, he asked "what would have happened" if Rome had decided to loosen fiscal policy in November 2011, when technocrat Prime Minister Mario Monti took the reins and started introduced spending cuts?

"From November onwards, we have seen more consistent and prudent fiscal consolidation by Italy and we are seeing much lower bond yield for Italy, which brings savings to Italian tax payers and facilitates return to economic recovery," Rehn said.

He noted that the European Commission, the IMF and European Central Bank - the so-called troika, which oversees bailout programmes in Greece, Ireland and Portugal - are in the middle of an "ongoing dialogue" to find "common ground" on the effects of spending cuts on growth.

Rehn's spoke out amid increasing IMF disagreement on EU-imposed austerity on crisis-hit member states - a policy which puts heavy emphasis on slashing spending and increasing privatisation.

An IMF official last spring criticised the pace and depth of the budget cuts demanded from Greece, while Christine Lagarde, who heads the Washington-based institution, late last year said Athens needs more time to get its house in order.

Rehn refused to accept the criticism on austerity, but he acknowledged that "the coming months will see tough times and social tensions," because EU citizens will see improvements in their day-to-day lives "only with some delay."

He urged EU countries not to "lapse into complacency."

He also highlighted his native Finland and France as registering "worrying losses" in their shares in global markets.

(EUObserver 18.1.13)



US tugs Britain's euro-chains and skittles eurosceptic right

Alarmed at the rising tide of euroscepticism and fearing Cameron's renegotiation and referendum ploy may backfire, the US assistant secretary of state for Europe, Philip Gordon, bluntly intervened stating: "America regards Britain's membership of the EU as essential and critical to the United States"(10.1.13), triggering an immediate establishment pro-EU backlash.



Mutant right-wing Euroscepticism

The EU is a conditional alliance of rival capitalist states unified by the imperative of imposing a single market for finance capital, unhindered by national parliaments won for the interests of working people and local producers.

The Euro and the dollar are rival currencies. New York, Frankfurt, Paris and the City rival financial centres. The price of the UK's US special relationship are the terms exacted for EU membership by its 'european partners' politically expressed by forty years of Thatcherite euroscepticism. Thatcher campaigned for a Yes! vote in the 1975 referendum—she never called for EU withdrawal.

Recession and austerity

Post 2007 crash and a hotchpotch of right-wing eurosceptic 'globalists', libertarian cranks and closet racists peddle a ragbag of 'Hong Kong options', 'supply side shocks' and regulation 'bonfires'. Its 'populists' fulminate equally against immigrants, bank and big company sharp practice, bureaucracy and political correctness on behalf of the 'squeezed middle'.

In Britain after privatisation and abolition of health, education, welfare services, pensions it is proposed to end taxation. A rampant City bestrides a hire and fire economy of

the largest possible casualised workforce, 'free' to work unlimited hours in unregulated workplaces and outcompetes China. A benign US welcomes the UK into NAFTA.

A link between EU exit and a new direction for Britain is made but all the prescriptions lead deeper into the neo-liberal swamp. Its advocates are *de facto* in pawn to the ideology driving the US-City-EU nexus.

Among the eurosceptic camp however are people of integrity rightly concerned for Britain's future. Hopefully the pro-EU establishment backlash unleashed by the US assistant secretary's intervention will give food for thought.

What Next?

Reality bites!

Social Europe was and is a con - ask workers in Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain (PIIGS).

Big EU does not offer little UK protection in a hostile world - the US-City-EU nexus **IS** globalisation consisting of de-industrialisation, financialisation of the economy where

nation-states are hostage to a financial mafia of a piece.

Confusion and disillusion are compounded by the labour movement's failure to offer a progressive alternative around an EU exit, not least among the small to medium proprietors, farmers and self employed of the Tory grass roots.

Cameron's renegotiation and referendum ploy to continue the Thatcherite eurosceptic game is proportionately more difficult to sustain.

This is the basis for an anti-monopoly alliance for the right to self-determination and the democratisation of economic and political power. Seize the time!!

Report by Dave Hawkins

Several years earlier Zbigniew Brzezinski US National Security Advisor 1977-1981 was more specific.

"Europe is America's essential geopolitical bridgehead in Eurasia.... Unlike America's links with Japan, NATO entrenches American political influence and military power on the Eurasian mainland. With the allied European nations still highly dependent on US protection, any expansion of Europe's political scope is automatically an expansion of US influence. Conversely, the United States' ability to project influence and power in Eurasia relies on close transatlantic ties". (*A Geostrategy for Eurasia* 1997)

The UK is the US-EU bridgehead providing direct access to the single market. Britain is home to 20% of ALL US foreign investment, ten times more than Germany, France or Japan. US banks dominate the City of London.

Key to Britain's subservience is the financialisation of its economy. UK company holdings of overseas shares and bonds rose from the equivalent of 29% of GDP in 1981 to 435% by 2006. Growth heavily dependent on the US dominated IMF, World Bank and WTO's globalisation project, in turn dependent on US military power. The UK is its most consistent NATO ally.



Demands the labour movement must make

What they said

Hugh Gaitskill
(9.4.1906—18.1.1963)

Labour Party and the Common Market

“... We must be clear about this: it does mean, if this is the idea, the end of Britain as an independent European state. I make no apology for repeating it. It means the end of a thousand years of history. You may say 'Let it end' but, my goodness, it is a decision that needs a little care and thought. And it does mean the end of the Commonwealth. How can one really seriously suppose that if the mother country, the centre of the Commonwealth, is a province of Europe (which is what federation means) it could continue to exist as the mother country of a series of independent nations? It is sheer nonsense...”

Hugh Gaitskill Leader of Labour Party - extract from speech addressing Labour Party conference 3 October 1962 opposing accession to EEC.

Stay away!

France says it does not want any direct help in Mali. This is code for other EU Member States saying keep your hands off. We are going to reimpose French imperialism and empire.

Catalonia

The Spanish region of Catalonia has moved closer to a referendum on secession after its parliament backed a declaration of independence. Although only symbolic, the declaration, which was passed by an 85 to 41 majority, puts further pressure on the centre-right government in Madrid to allow a public vote.

Whilst Britain is in the EU it has common policies and legislation imposed which have:

- Taken away the sovereign powers from Britain and the right to self-determination and national democracy
- Reduced national, regional and local democracy and accountability which includes all forms of practical, formal and informal democracy
- Provided for the free movement of capital, goods, services and labour where national controls are not permitted
- Has created mass unemployment across the EU including Britain and especially amongst young people

The EU and its institutions are based on legislation and policies to remove all the controls which have been put on capitalism and to let it rip. The EU seeks to destroy all social safeguards and rights that in some cases have taken centuries to build.

An important part of this deliberate destruction is the austerity policies being carried out which are common across all EU Member States including Britain and blatantly applied in the eurozone. The objectives of these policies are to:

- Provide a pretext to reduce public debt which was largely produced by the financial sector
- Increase exploitation and therefore profits by pressing down incomes and wages and hours worked
- Privatise what is left of the public sector including the NHS and state education
- Provide a massive transfer of wealth to

the rich from the middle and working class sections of society.

There is an alternative to the austerity, and mass unemployment: and attacks on the public sector:

- Cease making £ billions payments to the EU Budget
- Place controls on the movement of private capital
- End over-dependence on the financial sector
- Encourage investment in manufacturing, hi-tech industries and the infrastructure to include
- Investment in the existing and expanded railway system with a high speed rail network all under public ownership and accountability
- Create a public national water network
- Return to public ownership and accountability the gas and electricity industries
- Conversion of defence industry into socially useful production
- Trade with the world and not primarily with the EU

The key to achieving the alternative is to make it clear in the labour and trade union movement and growing young people's protest movement:

- The necessity to elect a government with policies to leave the EU
- To fully understand the class struggle which includes re-establishing full national independence and democracy and the right to self-determination to enable a rational development for Britain.

View of Britain from Germany

By Horst Teubert of
German Foreign Policy Group

The German elites reacted quite angrily when British Prime Minister David Cameron announced that there would be a referendum in the UK on EU membership.

The government as well as foreign



policy experts in Germany are fully aware that conditions in the EU have become more and more unfavourable for London in the course of the euro crisis. Today, many important decisions are being made by the eurozone countries alone, even decisions which affect Britain strongly. As an article in the influential German magazine "Internationale Politik" admits Britain is further losing influence on issues vital for the country.

But in spite of this, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle declared that Britain should stay in the EU. London can't "cherry pick", he said.

Germany has a strong interest in Britain remaining in the EU. One reason is that the German government is trying to impose a fully neoliberal economic policy on the EU, despite strong opposition from France and some southern European countries. Politicians in Berlin argue that now and then London has played an important role in breaking up French resistance against neoliberalism. Referring to this, one of the most important German dailies wrote after Cameron's referendum announcement, "we don't want to be left alone with the French".

Another reason is that Germany wants to create a European Army with the aim to be able to compete even militarily with the United States as a world power. Just a few weeks ago, Wolfgang Ischinger, a former top diplomat and today's Chairman of the Munich Secu-

rity Conference, confirmed that a strong EU military "would be unthinkable without the strong involvement of the United Kingdom". Expressing his opinion that Britain should stay in the EU he added, "we

will either act largely together or be largely irrelevant".

So, in spite of the many angry reactions, the German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she was "of course prepared to talk about Britain's wishes". What this might mean is shown in a short analysis which was published in January by the European Council on Foreign Relations. The author recalls the 1975 referendum on British membership in the then "Common Market". He reminds that at first "most voters wanted to leave", but then "polling suggested that if the terms of membership were renegotiated with the prime minister recommending the new deal, opinion would swing in favour of British membership".

The British government handled the situation in this way. According to the analysis, "Wilson did talk to his European partners, claimed a great victory" and "won a 2-1 majority for staying 'in Europe'". This happened despite the fact that, as the analysis says, "dispassionate observers could find" no "great victory" but only "little change in Britain's membership terms". Obviously, all that was to be done to get a Yes! was putting on a show.

An analysis by *YouGov* in July 2012 concludes that, "polling (from *YouGov* in July 2012) suggests a similar outcome, should a referendum be held after the euro crisis fades", with Cameron being able "to say that he has negotiated a deal to protect British interests" - just like Wilson in his "great victory" of 1975.

EU News

Czech Republic

The President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus has come to the end of his term of office. Mr Klaus delayed as long as legally possible before he signed the Lisbon Treaty another name for the European Constitution. He hinted that if the movement in Britain had put up a bigger fight to stop Westminster ratifying this Treaty he would have held out longer.

This will not be the end of euroscepticism in the Republic as it is the government which deals with foreign policy. The current government has declined to sign the European Fiscal Pact.

New Treaty

Germany and France will table joint proposals for deeper eurozone integration by May and are "working closely" to get a deal on EU's seven-year budget next month. The two leaders agreed this on 22 January during Franco-German festivities.

They were celebrating 50 years of the Franco-German Elysee peace treaty. The Bundestag made room for double its normal capacity to host a joint session of French and German parliaments.

In whose interests?

Italy's outgoing Prime Minister Mario Monti on Wednesday 23 January criticised fellow EU leaders for the way they dealt with the euro crisis and said corporations are blocking reforms in order to promote "vested interests" in Europe.

Leaflets for meetings and distribution are on the CAEF website. They can also be sent on request.

The State of the World Atlas*

A bank of information which portrays current events and global trends are easy to comprehend. Copious diagrams make comparisons simple to appreciate. These double-page spread portrayals range from the nation-states of the world and populations through to energy use and climate change. There are around 200 nation-states in the world and this is the basis of all the diagrams.

Included is obesity data which indicates that 1.5 billion adults are overweight, a figure that has doubled since 1980. Two thirds of the world's population live in countries where there are more deaths from excess weight than undernourishment. An obvious common sense fact given is that poor diets of those on low incomes fuel obesity.

The diagram titled 'war-lords, gang-lords and militias' show that most of these are active in the former European colonies, or, where the US has interfered on the pretext of tackling the drug trade.

Facts about transnational corporations reveal that Walmart is by far the world's largest TNC at \$422 billion being over four times bigger than Nestle at \$105 billion. These diagrams also compare the gross national income (GNI) of each State with either Walmart, Nestle or

McDonalds. Only 27 countries have a GNI larger than Walmart's revenue.

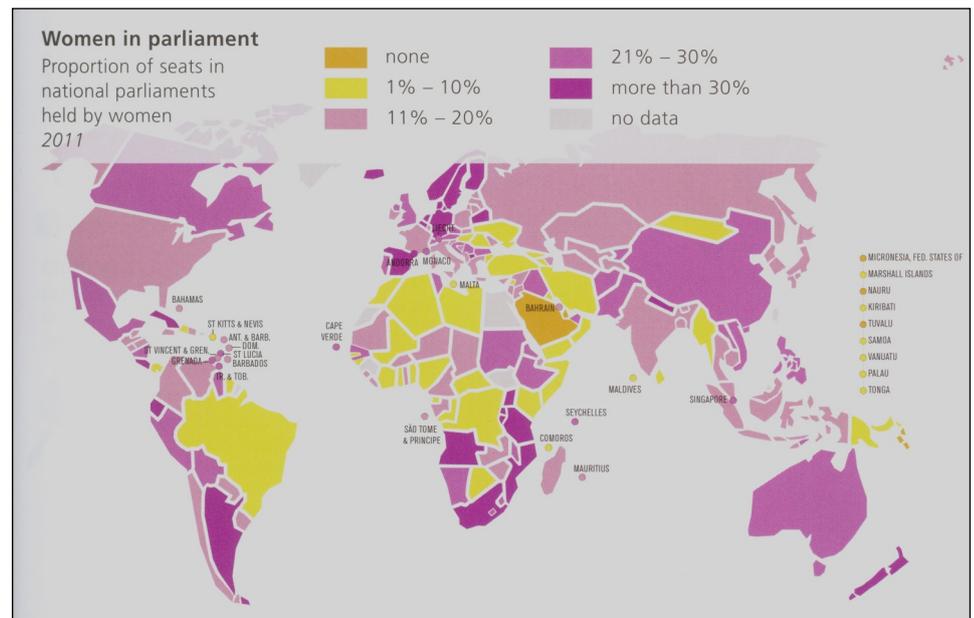
It is interesting to know that of the 500 largest corporations in the 2011 *Fortune* magazine's list, 20 European TNCs have dropped out.

This innovative atlas is a large valuable source of facts and data for students and journalists alike and those interested in the world for digestion, analysis or just browsing, and, it beats the internet!

* *Dan Smith: New Internationalist: 144pp paperback 19x25cm: £14.99: ISBN 978-1-78026-121-8*



Two small diagrams from the Atlas



Germany into Arabia

The German Bundeswehr is intensifying its combat exercises with dictatorships on the Arabian Peninsular. The German Air Force just concluded, at the end of the year, two major training manoeuvres in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), each exercising joint combat operations. Participating alongside Emirati troops were also troops from Saudi

Arabia, Qatar and NATO countries. One of these manoeuvres was organised around an explicitly "fictitious Gulf region crisis scenario" in which Germany must rush to the "aid of a friendly state." The only plausible concretisation of this scenario would be a war against Iran, where NATO and the dictatorships at the Gulf would be fighting on the same side. The exercises were not only aimed at training for multinational combat. They also aided in training Emirati troops, which even though equipped with the most

modern combat material, have little practical capabilities.

The German Air Force casually introduced their Emirati hosts to the Eurofighter, which Berlin seeks to export to that country. Berlin has been exporting arms worth billions to the dictatorships on the Arabian Peninsular, for the hegemonic struggle against Iran. This military cooperation began during the Schröder/Fischer government.

More at www.german-foreign-policy.com/en/fulltext/58501

The Socialist Labour Party

by President Andrew Jordan

The Socialist Labour Party is totally committed to complete withdrawal from the European Union - withdrawal is the only way Britain can begin to regain control of its economy, sovereignty and its political powers.

The European Union is a Capitalist Club that makes it easy for multinational companies to exploit workers throughout its member states, while the sovereignty of those states is increasingly meaningless, and we are all at the mercy of a vast, faceless bureaucracy.

It is a costly business too for the people of Scotland, England and Wales; membership of the European Union means we suffer an annual net loss of at least £12 billion, simply because we are in the EU.

Under the Maastricht and Nice Treaties, things have got even worse; Maastricht has led to more public spending cuts dictated from Brussels, and thus even higher unemployment and deeper poverty. The so-called Social Chapter has not in fact helped Britain; it has not even restored the rights and benefits that workers enjoyed over a quarter of a century ago.

The true political nature of the European Union is now clear for all to see. The drive to establish a European army, the introduction of taxation policies such as VAT, laws which over-ride laws adopted by the British people, do not represent an advance in either economic or human rights. On the contrary, the laws now emanating from Europe mean that the British working class is infinitely worse off than it was in the 1970s. The 'free movement of capital and labour' has led to industry leaving Britain on a huge scale and at the same time has meant that Britain has lost all migration controls for people coming here from within the EU.

Our Party is committed to Britain's complete withdrawal from the European Union. Only by coming out of the European Union can we begin to put things right economically and socially; everything from the Health Service to



SLP President, Andrew Jordan, calls for Britain's withdrawal from the EU

Photo by Kai Andersen

child care depends on it.

We are opposed to joining the euro and committed to fighting to regain not only independence from a capitalist European super state or a United States of Europe, but we are committed to campaign for true internationalism so that we can have fair and reasonable trading links with the rest of the world.

Opposing the European Union is part of the Socialist Labour Party's internationalist outlook. We want Britain to come out of Europe and into the world, developing and expanding links with nations in Asia, Africa, the South Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, including countries like Cuba which has endured over 50 years of economic blockade and sanctions because the United States fears Socialism. There would be an immediate net gain of at least £12 billion if Britain left the European Union, with billions more income from international trade.

This is the message that we have consistently taken to elections at all levels since our formation in 1996.

The viscous 'cuts' that the people of Britain are facing owe themselves to the Capitalist agenda of the EU as followed by all the Coalition and Labour Party. This makes our immediate need for withdrawal from EU all the more pressing.

The SLP has agreed to affiliate to CAEF so that the trade union and labour movement can build a united platform from which to campaign for this most pressing of needs.

Joint Statement

SLP affiliation to CAEF

Commenting SLP President Andrew Jordan said "The SLP is totally committed to Britain's complete withdrawal from the European Union - withdrawal is the only way Britain can begin to regain control of its economy, sovereignty and political powers." Jordan re-iterated that it is SLP policy to work with like-minded organisations, such as CAEF, to achieve common goals and called upon all other labour movement organisations to affiliate to the Campaign.

Warmly thanking the SLP for their affiliation and call for all labour movement organisations to do likewise, CAEF Secretary John Boyd urged the entire movement to immediately prioritise the reversal of the 1988 Jack Delors/Trade Union Congress 'social europe' contract, that has confused and entangled the movement for a generation into this wholly disastrous EU neo-liberal project.

SLP website address:
socialist-labour-party.org.uk

Watch your language *Efficiency*

The government through the mouths of minister after minister shout "we must have more efficiency", "cost effectiveness" and "value for money". This is most often followed by an announcement that tens of thousands of jobs must go to improve efficiency.

What is really meant by this process is simply more exploitation, longer hours for less wages and incomes. It includes longer working life putting off pensionable age.

Quiz No. 133

What are the following phrases?

1. just
2. **ecnalg**
3. **NOWIOU**
4. Trans
it
5. **TALLOW**

Answers No. 132

1. A splitting headache
2. See eye to eye
3. Short notice
4. Grave mistake
5. Make a monkey out of him

Song number 5
Tune: *Dad's Army* theme

Words by *Tony Grace*

Who do you think you are kidding Mrs Merkel
our sovereignty won't go away
We are the folk who will stop your little game
We are the folk who will make you think again
Wait till our referendum Mrs Merkel
our British state is here to stay
Your monetary catastrophe has got you on the run
So keep your eurocracy, it isn't any fun
So who do you think you are kidding Mrs Merkel
the British state is here to stay
The workers of Europe don't want your fiscal mess
They want their services and fight for nothing less
So who do you think you are kidding Euro Bankers
Liberty is here to stay



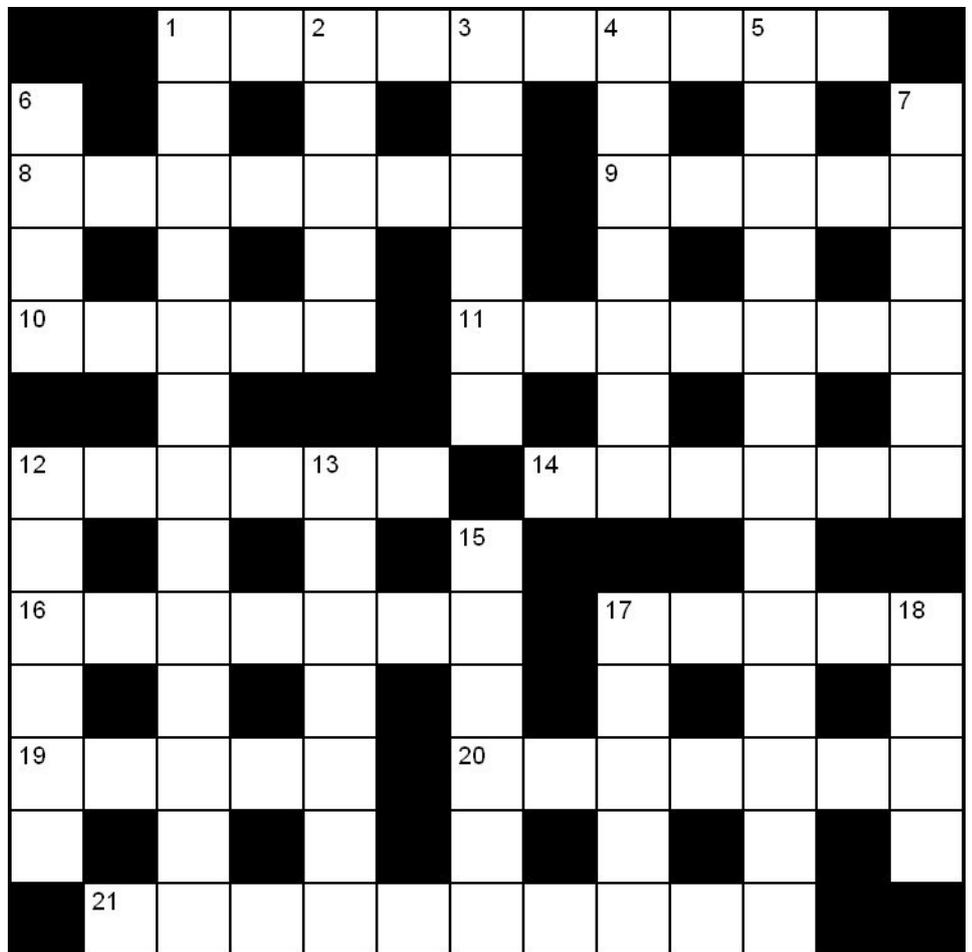
ACROSS

- 1 How the EU rules. (10)
- 8 Not vote. (7)
- 9 Radio pulses. (5)
- 10 Malicious fire. (5)
- 11 Stalemate. (7)
- 12 Curve. (6)
- 14 Liveliness. (6)
- 16 Tactile writing system. (7)
- 17 Cast. (5)
- 19 What Eurocrats are good at. (5)
- 20 First. (7)
- 21 Unclear. (10)

DOWN

- 1 Political murder. (13)
- 2 Great US writer. (5)
- 3 Honest. (6)
- 4 Concerning. (7)
- 5 One who has huge influence over EU policies. (13)
- 6 Funny ditch. (2,2)
- 7 East. (6)
- 12 Nuanced. (6)
- 13 Lively music. (7)
- 15 French diet. (6)
- 17 Paris river. (5)
- 18 Vote. (4)

Crossword No. 133



Communications



Useful Websites

It is obvious that the EU is the ultimate creation of the selfish and corrupt political elites which now dominate the nations of Europe. As we look round we can see that there is, as ever, no morality to be found in business enterprises while local and national government, plus many of the public services, have been undermined by self serving, incompetent managers. This state of affairs obtains even within councils run by supposed Labour administrations.

What we need is not merely a massive return to public ownership, an end to outsourcing and off-shoring and deliberate reindustrialisation but the restoration of that sense of morality and public duty that motivated the great Labour government elected in 1945. Whether we can find men and women who still possess such idealism is open to question, as we assuredly will not find them in the ranks of New Labour, but if we do not, then we will face a future in which we are indeed run by spivs and crooks.

Colin Bullen Kent

CUTS

Wealthy leaders and business men in the past must have dreamed up the idea that Tax Evasion was lawful for them, whilst tax avoidance for the common man should be the opposite!

Today, if the unpaid taxes of the rich were properly collected, it would raise more than £100 billion PER YEAR!

Today our local Councils enact many of the cuts on behalf of the ConDem government, which incidentally has a front bench of millionaires! Surely it is now time for action by the people (and Councillors who have been elected locally by the people), to rally against these cuts and give hope to the unemployed, the disabled and low paid workers!

PAYE seems totally unfair whilst companies and the rich use lawyers to evade their tax, by depositing their money or ill-gotten gains—off-shore!

Josie Herbert Solihull

Letters are welcome sent by email or through the post. Maximum 250 words

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 (TUAUC):

tuauc.org

No2EU yes to democracy:

NO2EU.com

Socialist Labour Party

socialist-labour-party.org.uk

TEAM the European alliance of EU critical organisations. Lists links to organisations across continent of Europe:

www.teameurope.info

Democracy Movement, a broad movement:

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 business people: openeurope.org.uk

Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO):

eulobbytours.org

Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO):

eulobbytours.org

Data on other sites welcome

Appeal

As material in this issue makes clear we must take every opportunity to put our point of view across, especially to the labour movement, with leaflets, extra *Democrats* and on the internet. All this takes money so we ask please if you can make a donation, however small, it would be a very welcome and valuable contribution to our Campaign.

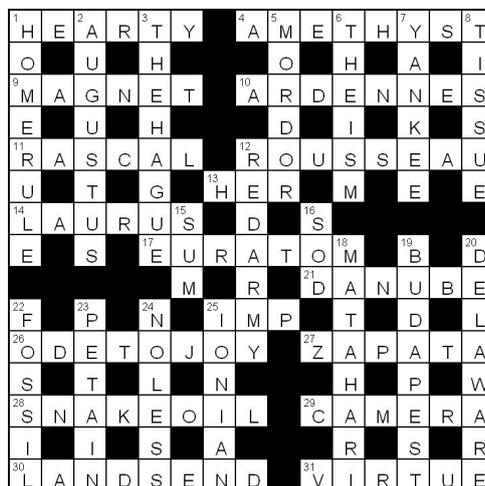
Crossword 132 Answers

Apologies

The answer to 12 across should have been ICURUS not LAURA

The clue to 24 down was plain wrong

The crossword setter has been suitably chastised.



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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Arthur Smelt questions Jam tomorrow

Whenever there is talk of a referendum on EU issues, the same old tactics are adopted every time. First we have the politics of fear which tell us of the adverse consequences of voting against the machinations of EU. Then we are told of the wonderful benefits we can expect or are already receiving from EU membership. The latest promise is that we can have a referendum if a Tory government is re-elected.

Jose Manuel Borosa head of the European Commission claims the Euro is now out of danger and no longer at risk. The threat has been overcome he told a conference in his native Portugal where, in earlier years he was said to have been a left wing progressive. The Portuguese people are in a mess and must think Borosa is talking absolute nonsense. Recent reports indicate that 20 million people in the Eurozone are without work. Up two million on last year. This tells its own story.

Then we have the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy reported as saying that the crisis in the Eurozone is over and the worst is behind us. Independent experts in Europe and elsewhere are at variance with Boroso and Rompuy. Angela Merkel has also said in a New Year message that the crisis is far from over. The facts are that the severity of the crisis is creeping Northwards from Southern Europe. Germany and France are beginning to experience growing destabilisation. Boroso, Rompuy *et al* choose to ignore the abject failure of the political and economic systems they give their servile support to.

There has also been interference from US sources. Reports indicate that the US assistant secretary for EU affairs, Phillip Gordon has said Britain should not leave the EU or play a diminished role in Brussels. The US has tremendous domestic problems of its own and those in responsible positions would do well to

deal with these horrific problems instead of interfering in the affairs of others.

On the home front we are witnessing the closure of multiples like Comet, Jessop, HMV, Blockbuster and others resulting in thousands being made unemployed. According to some in government these workless people will be able to join the ranks of skivers and benefit cheats.



Recent reports state that half the world's food production is wasted. Reasons given are marketing techniques, over-buying by consumers and harvesting difficulties in developing countries. What has not been mentioned

are EU regulations emanating from the CAP which over the years have arranged for hundreds of thousands of tons of edible food to be destroyed to keep prices up. There have been butter mountains and wine lakes. At one stage sugar surpluses in the EU were dumped in Kenya which had an adverse effect on the Kenyan sugar industry. There has also been a policy of paying farmers not to grow food along with subsidy scandals. In addition EU fishing policies have resulted in tons of fish being thrown back into the sea and many fishermen have lost their livelihoods. There have also been EU factory ships fishing off the African coast thus robbing the native population of their main food source. This has resulted in piracy and holding people to ransom to replace income formerly made by fishing.

Oswald Spengler (1880-1936) of Blankenberg, Germany, was a philosopher, schoolmaster and author of a book entitled 'The Decline of the West' (2 volumes). Spengler contended that civilizations pass through a life cycle, blossoming and decaying like natural organisms and that Western culture is past its creative best and headed into eclipse. The question arises as to how true this is and what readjustments must be made. The EU is certainly not the answer.