

Germany plans banking union without a vote

German officials have drawn up controversial plans to force through a eurozone banking union without requiring new laws or referendums in any of the member states.

Report by Brian Denny

Germany had previously insisted that a system of control in order to shut or take over struggling banks would require a change in the Lisbon treaty, requiring approval from the EU's 28 member states.

However, officials in Berlin are now drawing up plans to force through a union without a treaty change to speed the process up and bypass democratic pressures, according to Reuters.

According to reports, high-level German officials are working on the plans with eurozone officials and could unveil a solution after German elections in late September in order to avoid any public discussions about the proposals.

The matter hinges on the use of article 114 of the EU Treaty, which allows certain industries to be harmonised across the eurozone.

The head of the EU's finance ministers, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, said that work would pick up after Germany's elections to set up the agency that could order the restructuring or closure of any euro zone bank.

This 'legal' base had been suggested as sufficient by legal services of the European Commission, the European

Central Bank and the EU Council, but has not been endorsed by Germany until now.

However, in exchange the agency would only get to decide over the fate of the 130 euro zone banking groups that will be directly supervised by the ECB from the second half of 2014.

This would remove the smaller German savings banks, Sparkassen, often closely linked to local German politicians, from the remit of a European - rather than national - agency, officials said.

According to Reuters, one source said ideally a new, independent institution would be created to resolve banks but in the meantime the permanent rescue fund European Stability Mechanism (ESM) could take on that role.

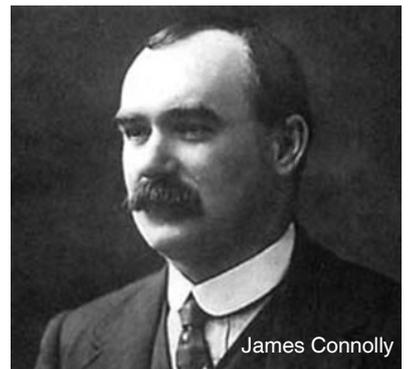
This would require a change of a separate Treaty between euro zone governments, on which the ESM is based. That would be much easier than changing fundamental EU law because it would not require the consent of non-euro zone members, especially Britain.

The official said a solution could be found for the ESM to accommodate non-euro zone members if they decided to join the banking union later.

The resolution fund is to be financed by banks themselves, but until enough money is accrued through their contributions, the ESM could lend to the fund to be repaid later, ECB board member Joerg Asmussen said.



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Wage rises slow down to four year low in EU

Labour costs in the EU rose at their slowest pace in four years, by 0.9 percent in the second quarter of 2013. Wages increased in Estonia (+7.7%), Lithuania (+6.5%) and Romania (+6.0%). Decreases were recorded in Slovenia (-5.9%), Cyprus (-4.6%), Croatia (-0.6%) and Spain (-0.3%).(EUROSTAT)

eurocrisis continues

The Finnish government has announced that it expects to breach EU debt rules next year, exceeding the threshold of 60% of GDP enshrined in the EU's Stability and Growth Pact for the first time.

Portuguese Deputy Prime Minister Paulo Portas said Portugal wants to "end the period of being a protectorate", and suggested his country could negotiate "precautionary" assistance to exit its current bailout programme.

France's public debt will near €2 trillion (95.1% of GDP) at the end of 2014, according to information gathered by Le Figaro. (Le Figaro 15.9.13)

Spain's public deficit stood at 5.27% of GDP at the end of July. The figure is provisional and does not include the deficit of municipalities. The overall public deficit target agreed with the European Commission for this year is 6.5% of GDP. EU rules are that this should be 3%.

The Dutch government's economic advisory body CPB expects the Dutch public deficit to reach 3.3% of GDP in 2014, meaning that the Netherlands would overshoot the deficit target agreed with the European Commission.

Corporate Tobacco Europe

British American Tobacco (BAT) says it paid out nearly €1 million on lobbying Brussels during 2012. This is more than twice that declared for 2011. Philip Morris spent up to €1.25 million for the same purpose in 2012. Japan Tobacco International spent up to €600,000. Imperial Tobacco, meanwhile, spent up to €250,000 between October 2011 and September 2012.

Tobacco industry umbrella groups include the European Community Cigarette Manufacture which used a lobbying war chest of €700,00 last year and the European Smoking Tobacco Association spent €400,000 in 2011.

Following a controversy, the EU's chief Health Officer was dismissed. A

revised "tobacco products" law was tabled last December where 30% of each packet could be used for branding. This has been postponed until October giving the cigarette industry time to weaken the draft law.

EU officials and tobacco lobbyists are taking part in meetings and a BAT conference to present it as "socially responsible".

The question is "why is the EU accommodating those who cause death of six million people each year?"

Based on review by David Cro- nin in EUObserver of Robert Proctor's book Golden Holocaust.



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Democracy and the national question

Importance of democracy, independence and nation-states. The alternative to EU.

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Editorial by John Boyd

The EU and benign globalisation



The real role of globalisation is to be a cover for crypto-imperialism. The EU is formed of six former broken empires in a temporary alliance. They are trying to resurrect those empires as part of revitalising capitalism.

As part of this process the EU is developing a European Army which currently includes rapid reaction forces to carry out the EU's foreign policy on behalf of the former empires.

The impression given of globalisation is of a global village, in which there is one large pool of money floating around for which we all have to politely compete and where nation-states are irrelevant. This is where in reality "workers of the world unite" has been replaced by "workers of the world compete". A classic example of this can be found in textiles where exploitation is rampant along with poor working conditions, child labour and unsafe buildings.

The next stage of arranging capitalism and globalisation is now with us and takes the form of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). These FTAs are to extend the principles of "free movement of capital, services, goods and labour" across the globe. On the table are the EU-India FTA, US-EU FTA and FTAs are being drafted for former European colonies.

The left has largely failed to unravel free movement of labour from racism, asylum and immigration. All

this has been mixed up with misunderstanding of real internationalism, solidarity and globalisation. Internationalism depends on respect for nation-states which require national independence and democracy.

In complete contrast the current objective of the EU and capitalism is for corporations and banks to have no further use for national independence, national democracy or nation states.

The answer to this dichotomy comes back to the principle importance of nation-states as the only way so far evolved to have in place controls over transnational corporations and banks.

As part of the alternative to the EU and capitalism and as a matter of dire urgency, different policies need to be developed and adopted in place of those in circulation today.

The labour and trade union movement must demand an increase in wages, a reduction in hours and a lowering of the retirement age to replace austerity policies. This would reduce unemployment and challenge the transnationals which are creaming off all the money and wealth they can get away with. Austerity policies are not temporary: they are intended to be permanent and are applied across the EU and now in other countries across the world.

The left has to develop a viable and acceptable alternative policy to EU membership and reject advice given by transnational corporations and

the US that Britain stay in the EU. There is a need to show there is life outside the EU and to develop a viable alternative with an economy based on manufacturing, the creation of wealth and trade across the world including EU Member States. Otherwise what is the working class going to do?

Nation-states must take control of their national borders and control the movement of capital, goods, services and labour. This requires a better understanding of the national question, nationalism and internationalism. This must be the focus of political action. In other words to overcome what has for too long been a serious blind spot and have a revolution against the EU and capitalism or suffer barbarity and even back to gun controlled feudalism.

The people are impoverished and the economy stalls or falters while privateers join in harvesting financial resources and capital.

Finally the left must shout loud and clear that to achieve the right to self determination, including socialism if the peoples of Britain so desire, a nation-state must have the prerequisite of national democracy and independence.

To achieve all the above requires a large measure of unity which currently does not exist on the left in Britain. The left should and must be in the leadership of an anti-monopoly alliance against the EU in which the labour and trade union movement plays the key role.

EU facts

Since 1973 when Britain joined the Common Market Britain has paid in over £100 billion nett. The current rate of 'contributions' has risen to £12.2 billion a year. Compare this to the £100s of millions this government has sliced off some benefits.

Italy's Europe Minister said, "We need to be more ambitious and increase the EU budget to 1.9% of its GDP [from the current 1%]."

In addition to annual EU Budget payments, Britain has had to pay into the EU as a contribution to the eurozone EIB bailout funds £1.4 billion.

What is the cost of MEPs?

The major cost of the European Parliament is the MEPs who can accumulate huge sums as a result of tax and pension privileges combined with expenses which they have never actually incurred.

Annual pre tax salary of an MEP is £80,244.

The fee received for signing in and attending is £255/day.

Allowance for office staff is £17,824/month. This is paid direct by EP to employees.

Allowance for office costs is £3545/month or £42,000/year.

An allowance of £3485 can be claimed for travel expenses outside the MEP's own country.

A typical claim for a MEPs expenses in 2012 was £35,212.

Over a five year period an MEP can have an income of £1 million.

The European Parliament maintains expensive legislatures in Brussels and Strasbourg but still has relatively few real powers, except over the EU budget where it has repeatedly voted for above-inflation increases.

What they say

The debate and battle over a referendum is here now



An example of what is being said took place on the BBC Radio 4 Any Questions programme on 19th July.

Paddy Ashdown sits in the House of Lords and is currently chairman and a former leader of the Liberal Democrats. They are part of the coalition government which has rammed through austerity policies and is the Party that keeps repeating that Britain must stay in the EU and is opposed to holding a referendum on EU membership.

On the BBC Radio 4 programme he stated several things:

"Britain is not big enough to be outside EU like China and USA."

He forgot to mention a conveniently ignored glaring fact that there are plenty of countries, in fact most, that are smaller than either China or the USA that survive without being inside the EU and do very well thank you.

"The USA wants Britain in the EU."

Former Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson talking on the same programme pointed out this position of the USA was for its own self interests. The USA as top dog in the 'special relationship' did everything possible and secretly to persuade France to agree to Britain's entry to the Common Market. Britain is seen as the Trojan horse to pursue USA interests in the EU. The EU has been seen as a wing of NATO which is dominated by the USA.

"We have to be in EU to influence it, not outside."

Conveniently forgotten is that Britain is in a permanent and weak position to influence matters because of the Qualified Majority Voting procedures. QMV is used in the various Councils of Minis-

ters including the EU Summits. Because of the European Constitution ministers are duty bound to take decisions in the interests of the EU and not their national governments. The EU is no longer an intergovernmental arrangement but has a centralised government base in Brussels.

"We need to trade with EU as three million jobs depend on the common market."

The claim for all these jobs started at one million and has grown to three million. Quite what these jobs consist of is never made clear nor why the number keeps getting bigger except for propaganda purposes and instilling fear into the workforce. Since joining the Common Market in 1973 when a prominent promise was to save jobs, Britain has been de-industrialised and the economy changed to one based on the financial sector and service industry.

"Norway may not be in the EU but 75% of trading laws are in Norwegian legislation."

Norway remains a sovereign nation state outside the EU, the Common Fisheries Policy and much else including EU legislation and the European Court of Justice. Britain meanwhile rubber stamps most of the EU's legislation and has to comply with all the common policies including the CFP, steel production and shipbuilding quotas. Norway has a large anti-EU movement (Nei til EU) and the labour and trade union movement is opposed to EU membership.

If you have a question or a quotation please forward this to caef@caef.org.uk

'Democratic interventionism' in Syria

View from Germany by Horst Teubert

In a rare move, a professor in criminal law and philosophy of law at the University of Hamburg has strongly criticised the Western meddling in the Syrian war. According to Reinhard Merkel* (who is not related to the German chancellor), "the West has incurred a heavy degree of guilt in Syria." As he voiced in an article in the well renowned Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, the reason for this is "not, as is often claimed" that "aid for the resistance" to the Assad regime "has been too cautious." "On the contrary," the West is to blame because it "has permitted, promoted, and managed the resistance into becoming a murderous civil war."

Merkel leaves no doubt that he sees the Assad regime "as a grim tyranny," even though "less bleak than some of those of the Gulf countries" which allegedly "have suddenly discovered their love for democratic change in Syria," supporting the insurgents against Assad. Despite this fact, he does "absolutely not" consider "the unleashing of a civil war, with a hundred thousand victims" to be legitimate in the case of Syria. Merkel expresses particularly sharp criticism of



Americans opposing intervention in Syria

Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey which clearly "not for moral" but for "strategic reasons involving Iran" are supplying the insurgents with weapons and thereby have rendered the civil war possible. Iran is the main rival of Saudi Arabia and Qatar in the Middle East; Assad is Iran's ally.

According to Merkel, the "sinister, camouflaged and yet obvious support" provided by Western countries "for this illegal policy" of the intervening powers Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey is to be criticised as well. Western countries indeed supply the insurgents, among other things, with arms, findings resulting from espionage and medical aid.

Merkel calls this "a version of the process named since the invasion of Iraq, ten years ago, 'democratic interventionism'" - "managing regime change by military means." The "interventionism" in Syria seems "milder" as it leaves the task to "overthrowing the government to the domestic opposition." As Merkel believes, this practice is not "milder" but in fact "the most reprehensible sort" of interventionism - not only because it leaves "the business of killing and the risk of being killed to others," but particularly because it helps "to unleash the most devastating form of warfare - civil war."

This is all the more "desolate", writes Merkel, when one considers the real prospects for success of "democratic interventionism" in Syria. Available studies concerning "external putsch attempts" show that success depends less on the "power of those intervening" or on the "amount of effort" but rather on

"certain prerequisites within the targeted country itself," for example a "relative homogeneity" of the population or "economic prosperity of the majority of the society." All those prerequisites are basically absent in Syria. In fact, as Merkel confirms, Syria would be a prime "model of a country where every form of democratic interventionism is doomed to fail." If an armed insurgency's "halfway reasonable prospect of success" is to be "a genuine requirement for its legitimacy," any legitimacy "is and has never been present in Syria." Merkel concludes: "I do not believe that future historians will acquit the West on charges of complicity."

* Reinhard Merkel's view is an absolute minority position among the German elites.

EU firm line on Israel urged

Fifteen former high-ranking EU officials and politicians have urged the EU not to bow to Israeli and US requests to alter new rules on settler funding. They said in a letter, (16 September) to EU foreign ministries and to EU foreign relations chief Catherine Ashton, that Israel's claims the rules will harm peace talks are not true. They noted that Palestinians resumed the talks, in part, because the EU rules gave them confidence.

"Their strict application serves to re-iterate that the EU does not recognise and will not support settlements and other illegal facts on the ground ... which threaten to make a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict impossible," the letter says.

"A delay or suspension of the guidelines ... would undermine the negotiations by alienating the Palestinians and by reinforcing Israel's intransigence," it notes. "It would [also] damage the EU's credibility and erode its vital foundations as a law-based community," it adds.

Signatories include four former EU foreign relations chiefs: Javier Solana, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Hans van den Broek and Frans Andriessen.

The EU in July published guidelines which force Israeli institutions and firms to sign contracts pledging not to use EU money to fund activity on Palestinian land.

Israel has given up on trying to get the rules deleted. But it says it will not join EU projects, such as the Horizon 2020 science scheme, unless the EU drafts agreements which do not force it to acknowledge EU-and-UN-recognised borders.

Based on report by Andrew Retten (EUObserver 16.9.13)

Barroso wants yet more money for guns

The European Commission says the EU needs to make better use of dwindling defence budgets if it is to properly take care of military problems in its own backyard as the US orients itself towards Asia.

In doing so the real imperialist intentions of the EU are laid bare.

In an ideas paper meant to feed into an EU leaders defence summit in December, the Commission noted that Washington is "rebalancing its strategic focus towards Asia" while the recent Libya war highlighted EU military 'shortfalls'.

"We will not have the weight we need in the world without a common defence policy. To support it, we need to strengthen our defence and security sector," said EU Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso.

"We need to be able to back up our positions of principle with security and civilian missions that can help stabilize the situation in crisis areas around the world," he added.

EU states between them have 1.6 million soldiers and spend €194 bil-

lion (£167 billion) annually on defence - but this strength is diluted by overlapping capacities and spending at a national level.

Spending is down from €251 billion (£216 billion) in 2001, while defence R&D spending declined by 14 percent between 2005 and 2010, to €9bn (£8 billion).

The Commission points out that the US spends seven times more on research and development than all 28 member states put together.

Russia and China, for their part, are expected to double their defence spending by 2015 when compared to 2011.

"We want to support the defence industry for economic reasons but also for defence reasons," said industry Commissioner Antonio Tajani.

But the Commission is almost entirely bound by member states' political will in this area, with governments often reluctant to share defence technology or pool resources.

This is exacerbated by a reluctance to let the EU Commission muscle in on an area where it has no legal pow-

ers.

Meanwhile the EU only has a few serious military powers - predominantly Britain and France - while most of its states also have commitments to Nato. On top of this, some countries, such as Ireland, are neutral.

Much of the Commission paper's suggestions reflect this complexity.

The focus is to ensure that defence-related legislation is being properly implemented, that member states do not abuse state aid rules to benefit national defence industries and that defence companies have better access to EU funding.

A key proposal, says the Commission, is standardisation. Its paper notes that most standards are civilian but when military standards are required, "they are developed nationally, hindering co-operation and increasing costs for the industry." Lack of common standardisation means armies cannot easily share equipment.

The Commission also says it plans to make armies more energy efficient.

The paper is due to be discussed by EU leaders at their traditional December summit. The Commission will then make a roadmap with "concrete actions and timelines."

Based on a report by Honor Mahoney, EUObserver 24.7.13

EU military spending: the "elephant in the room"

At a time of harsh cuts in social services, it is morally unjustifiable to spend money on weapons instead of investing it to create jobs and tackle poverty, argues a new report by the Transnational Institute. High levels of military spending by EU states have played an important part in the unfolding EU debt crisis, continuing to undermine efforts to resolve that crisis.

The Transnational Institute was established in 1974 as a group of researchers committed to providing intellectual support to movements struggling for a more democratic, equitable and environmentally sustainable world.

The report, *Guns, Debt and Corruption: Military Spending and the EU Cri-*

sis, demonstrates how military budgets throughout Europe have been largely protected, at a time of severe social cuts. Military expenditure totalled €194 billion in 2010, equivalent to the combined annual deficit of Greece, Italy, and Spain.

The latest data published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute suggests that there is little change in these trends. The report reveals how high levels of military spending in such countries as Greece, Cyprus and Spain, which are at the centre of the euro crisis, played a significant role in their debt crises. And much of the military spending was tied



to arms sales by creditor-countries, including Germany and France.

In Portugal and Greece, several major arms deals are being investigated for serious irregularities. Yet creditor-countries continue to hawk new arms deals to debtor-countries while demanding ever more stringent cuts in social services.

The report argues that resolving the debt crisis will require cancellation of the debt tied to corrupt arms deals and a redirection of military spending towards social needs. It shows that spending on education and public transport creates twice as many jobs as investment in defence.

Report from People's Movement Ireland

Meet the nEUROn



Have you heard about the nEUROn?

The nEUROn is an “experimental unmanned combat air vehicle,” or drone, being developed with international cooperation, led by the French company Dassault Aviation. It will be significantly larger and more advanced than other well-known drone systems, such as the American MQ1 “Predator,” with a range, payload and capability that approach those of manned fighter aircraft.

The nEUROn made its first flight on 1 December 2012 in France. Flights are to continue in France until 2014, when they will be moved to Sweden for operational trials, then to Italy for measuring stealth characteristics and for live-firing tests.

The 10-metre drone can remotely bomb targets with unprecedented accuracy and will eventually fire precision

missiles controlled by a remote operator. It is believed to be far more advanced than current American drone technology.

Meanwhile France and Germany have proposed that the European Union should strengthen the “operational effectiveness” of battle groups, co-ordinate border and maritime security, share more information on defence planning, and speed up the insertion of drones into European civilian air space. The joint paper comes before an EU defence summit in December.

So here is yet another killing machine operated from a games console thousands of miles from the “action.” Given recent demands for drones in civilian air space, who knows how near to home they might operate as a probable part of EU drone squadrons?

France and Germany beat the drum

France and Germany—the “motors of the EU”—have called for improved battle groups (clusters of 1,500 soldiers meant to be deployed rapidly) and the use of drones in civilian air space. Both countries say that amid “asymmetrical threats” the EU needs to “assume increased responsibility for international peace and security.” They say they are committed to making a planned EU defence summit in December a success, with “tangible results.” Among the results they are hoping for is agreement on the improved “operational effectiveness” of EU battle groups.

The paper, to be submitted to the meeting, also suggests “seizing the opportunities” arising from the creation of

a single European air traffic space. These include opportunities for military aircraft and the use of drones. Member states and EU institutions are urged to “progress towards the air traffic insertion of remotely piloted aircraft systems.”

The EU high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, Catherine Ashton, is also due to produce an interim paper on defence, to be followed later in the autumn by a fuller report. The Commission has also chipped in with ideas on making defence spending more efficient and on the importance of implementing defence-related legislation.

Emblems

Zones of Future Conflicts

German government advisors are warning against an arms race and possible military confrontations in East Asia. As a recent study by the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) explains, China's attempts to take control over its coastal waters and its maritime trade routes collide with the USA's attempts to uphold Washington's claims to maintain its “international leadership role.” The arms buildup of the Chinese Navy and the initial shift of US armed forces to the Pacific are colliding head-on and could - in the worst case - result in armed conflict. In effect, as a NATO partner of the United States, Germany would also be implicated in cases of conflict. German naval vessels are already being incorporated with growing frequency into the US Navy's combat units. Berlin is also contributing to the expansion of NATO military cooperation with the pro-western countries of east and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific regions through military policy measures and arms exports. German naval circles are also demanding that the German Navy soon be given an arms upgrade and an offensive posture. (*German Foreign Policy* 28.8.13)

Apologies for late publication of this issue. There will be a September-October issue



Iceland says No!

A recent election in Iceland that brought euro-critical parties to power has been interpreted by constitutional advisers as a signal to stop talks on EU accession.

The foreign ministry said it had received an opinion from its constitutional advisers that the government was not bound by a parliamentary vote in 2009 to launch the membership talks.

On a visit to Brussels the new prime minister of Iceland was told by EU Commission President, Barroso, to decide "without further delay" whether it wanted to continue accession negotiations or abandon joining the EU.

In the election the pro-EU Social Democrats suffered the biggest defeat any ruling party in Iceland has suffered since independence from Denmark in 1944. The Progressive Party draws most of its support from farmers and fishermen. In coalition with the Independence Party, it opposes EU membership.

In May the new government announced a halt to the country's EU accession talks until the people vote within the next four years.

The decision of Iceland to stop the accession talks can be seen as bad news in Brussels. Croatia's recent accession gave EU leaders the opportunity to boast about the attractiveness of membership, despite the economic and sovereign debt crises.

Global Warming?

A point of view by Jean Johnson for discussion

As a child, living in the centre of Liverpool after the war, I watched as timbers, taken from properties being demolished because of bomb damage, were burned in the streets. Almost every street, it seemed to me, had its own bonfire. And this disposal process was being repeated, not only in other British cities, but across Europe too as its population prepared for life after war.

The inevitable outpouring of carbon dioxide, which the wood burning would have produced, was combined with the CO2 from industry as Europe geared up to supply a world long starved of manufactured goods. This was augmented by the emissions resulting from the expansion of motorised traffic and the completion of the electrification programme started before the war. They did not cause global temperatures to rise, as today's global warming theory would have predicted. In fact, the period from the 1940s to the 1970s was particularly cold and included the two coldest winters of the 20th century – 1947 and 1963.

As the cold weather begun in the 1940s continued into the 70s, some scientists began to predict that the earth was entering into a new Little Ice Age, such as the one which produced the ice fairs of the 17th and 18th centuries – the last one being held in 1814. This long, cold period led to famine and revolution across Europe as crops failed. It also resulted in Napoleon's troops freezing on their way to Moscow. In order to ameliorate what was believed to be a repeat of this earlier cold period, it was proposed that the ice caps be covered in soot which would warm the planet by preventing heat from the sun being radiated back into space. Fortunately, a few years later, global temperatures began to rise again, the ice caps were saved from contamination by soot and some scientists slipped seamlessly from creating a panic about global cooling to creating a panic about global warming.

Towards the end of the 1970s, when it became clear that temperatures were rising, plans to promote the warming of the planet were aborted. But, when temperatures began to fall again at the be-

ginning of the 21st century, so many people were making so much money out of this, still unproven, theory that CO2 drives global temperatures that it had become a major industry. From books to films to conferences and research funding and, topping all the rest, the massive subsidies paid to producers of electricity from renewable sources (and paid for by consumers on their electricity bills), all constituted an enormous vested interest in "keeping the party going". Similarly, politicians who had invested political capital in global warming could not be expected to recant just because the weather was getting colder whilst CO2 emissions were increasing. Such politicians included those of the EU who, at the instigation of Tony Blair, (who appeared to have placed global warming in the space where Clause 4 used to be) produced a Renewables Directive* setting targets for all EU countries to reduce their CO2 emissions through the use of renewable energy.

Political pressure and vested interests form a powerful combination, particularly when joined by the support of the media whose English graduates apparently consider themselves appropriately qualified to pronounce on scientific theories such as global warming. Nevertheless, this coalition was not powerful enough to prevent temperatures falling, or to prevent the public from noticing that this was the case and, as a consequence, becoming sceptical of global warming. According to the last YouGov poll on the subject, only 39% of those polled still believed that the global warming theory was correct.

This year saw the winter period last until the end of May and the electricity regulator, Ofgen, issue a warning about future electricity supplies (that is power cuts) and the potential for a "colder than usual winter to tip the electricity supply into crisis".

What do you think? Contributions are welcome but limited to 650 words.

*EU Renewables Directive 2009/28/EC

Review by Tony Grace

The National Question - 1848 capitalism to the EU

The statement which more than any other seems to define the theme of these two works was that of James Connolly: "The principle of democracy must function nationally before it can function internationally."

At first sight, the differences between the ideas of socialism and nationalism would appear quite easy to understand. The author begins with quotes from the Communist Manifesto of 1848 which assert that the assault on sovereignty is a consequence of Capitalism and not caused by communism. The confusion in the minds of philosophers arose from the fact that the interests of the proletariat transcend all frontiers. This led to the notion that those interests were inimical to nationality and is best demonstrated through further extracts from the Manifesto: "Though not in substance, yet in form, the struggle with the bourgeoisie is at first a national struggle. The proletariat of each country must of course first settle matters with its own bourgeoisie."

Differences and antagonisms will disappear through the advances of the proletariat but nations will remain.

The wide ranging section on colonialism discusses the various tactics necessary to obtain national independence. Even Marx had to rethink his theories about Ireland, Britain's oldest colony. He argued that the Irish proletariat would have to take up the struggle which had been abandoned by the Irish bourgeoisie. The English working class, corrupted by the super profits of 19th

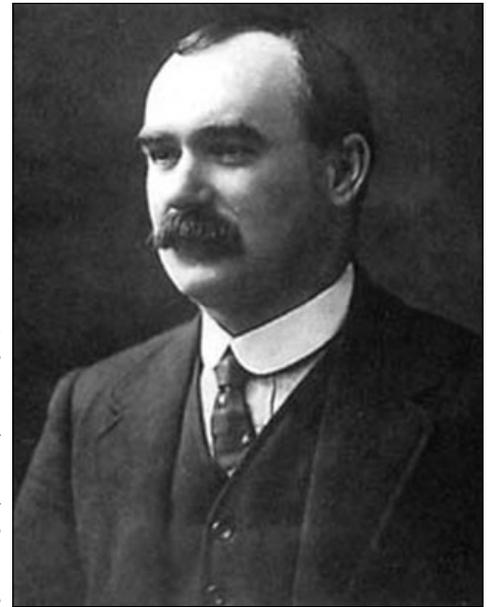
century imperial expansion could not be relied upon to overthrow the "Irish regime". Similarly, in Poland where the nobility had failed to gain liberty the Polish proletariat would take up the struggle. The campaign for national liberation could then be won by a socialist party.

It was in the many colonies of the imperial powers that the fight for national sovereignty had to take precedence over the long term goal of socialism. Even so, Lenin had proposed that not every single demand should be supported in every case especially where democratic rights might be compromised.

Tribute which is paid to James Connolly's intellectual and political contribution to the pursuit of national liberation is deftly juxtaposed to Joseph Stalin's all encompassing definition of what constitutes a nation as follows: "a historically evolved stable community of people formed on the basis of a common language, economic life and psychological make up in a community of culture."

The section on Neo-Colonialism, written at a time when socialist states could still support struggles for national liberation examines the way in which the Imperial powers continued to dominate the economic life of these former colonies as they do today.

The discussion paper on the Consultative Conference held in the Conway Hall on 30th November 1985 under the title of "National Sovereignty and the defence of the nation state" introduces the growing



James Connolly
1868 - Executed 1916

threat to democracy and national identity from the European Union. A brief history of Britain and Europe's imperial decline, the emergence of neo-colonialism and Churchill's failure to appreciate America's true intentions towards his beloved Empire is followed by a summary of the development of the EEC.

The quote from Norwegian writer, John Galtung, seems especially apposite: "Take five broken empires, add a sixth later, and make one big neo-colonial empire out of it all."

The piece concludes with comment on the decay of democracy due to the ravages of monopoly capitalism and the new EU superstate and also an examination of international propaganda by the mass media and other neo-liberal bodies.

All in all this is an impressive work on this vexed question of nationality and nation-states commemorating the centenary of birth of Desmond Greaves and 75th anniversary of the Connolly Association.



C Desmond Greaves
1913-1988

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Democrat Press, PO Box 46295,
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No nay never to 'Europe'

Quiz No. 136

What are the following phrases?

- SUCCESS GALAHAD**
- BIGBIG**
ignore ignore
- 4**
123 5678910
- AMB T ON**
- BLONDE** ■
- C104M4E**

Answers No. 135

- Stone age
- Boxer shorts *or* fighting spirit
- Mixed up kid
- Right side of the law
- Blind ambition

EU acronyms and abbreviations

- ECB** European Central Bank
 - EFP** European Fiscal Pact
 - EIB** European Investment Bank
 - EFSF** European Financial Stability Facility
 - EFSM** European Financial Stability Mechanism
 - EMU** Economic and Monetary Union
 - ESM** European Stability Mechanism
 - Renaming the Common Market
 - 1957 EEC** European Economic Community
 - 1986 EC** European Community
 - 1992 EU** European Union
- See full list at our website:
caef.org.uk/abbreviations

Tune : "The Wild Rover" Words by Tony Grace

Free movement of labour is hailed as a boon
except by those workers who'll lose their jobs soon

chorus:
So it's no nay never, never no more
shall we vote "yes" for 'Europe'
nay never no more

Betrayed by our leaders to the Federal State
we were given no chance of a real debate

chorus:
So people of 'Europe' please don't hesitate
to shout a loud no! to the Super State
nay never no more

They say we need 'Europe' to market our wares
yet we've traded the world for a thousand years

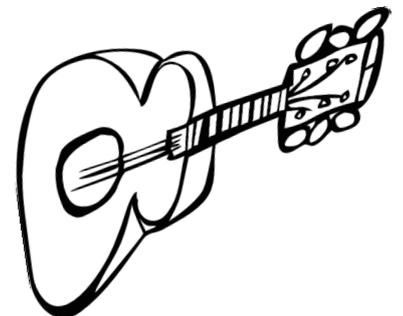
chorus :
So it's no nay never, never no more
do we care for the euro
nay never no more

They used public money to bail out the banks
Then cut our health service with no word of thanks.

chorus:
So it's no nay never, never no more
shall we hail eurobankers
nay never no more

ESM, ECB and fiscal policy
such terms cloak the drive towards austerity

chorus:
So it's no nay never, never no more
shall we ever agree to eurocracy
nay never no more

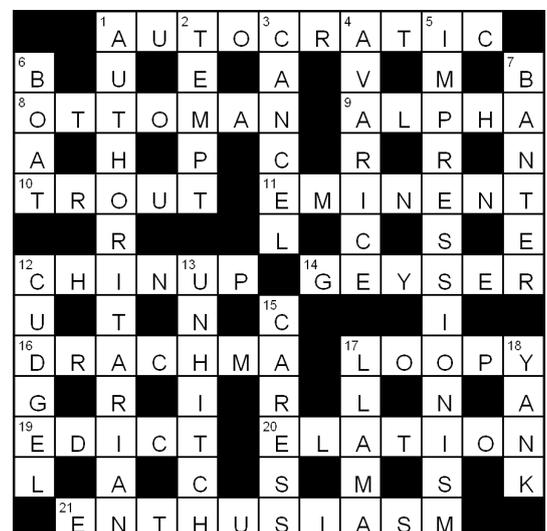


Crossword

No. 135

Answers

There will be another
crossword in the next
issue



Please join in

Readers are invited to participate in
Facebook -

facebook.com/groups/caef.official/

We are now on **Twitter -**

twitter.com/CAEFtweet

You can link via the CAEF website and
click on symbols to either Twitter or
Facebook pages



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 (TUAUEC):

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

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One prize of £50

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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.

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Arthur Smelt talks about Transparency

One of the many meanings of the word transparency is that it means candid, open or frank.

On the 3rd of July this year, the European Parliament meeting in Strasbourg was involved in a debate on US surveillance. The debate was long and protracted as one MEP after another rose to put their point of view. Concern was expressed with regard to the US National Security Agency tapping into EU embassies.

A Conservative MEP said he was happy in a democracy for surveillance to take place. Another point of view was that US obsession with mass surveillance was a left-over from the Cold War and now geared up to commercial and any other aspect of spying to give the US the edge.

Opinions continued fast and thick. The USA is the World Policeman and why was the EU not better prepared for this kind of thing. A German Christian Democrat MEP said this was not acceptable and the rights of EU citizens should be made clear. There was talk of fundamental freedoms, individual rights and transparency. A British Lib. Dem. MEP reminded us of the part played by Britain in what was termed rendition and was perturbed at the silence in Westminster. There was also the part played by British GCHQ. The US pays Britain's spy agency £100 million for a very special relationship. A French MEP was of the view that the EU was not going to react and questioned whether or not the EU would become a US puppet.

Over a period of something like 50 years, long before 9.11 happened, peo-

ple have been protesting against the existence of an American listening station at Menwith Hill, near Harrogate. This self contained piece of the US in the heart of Yorkshire has had and still has permission to tap into lines of communication here in the UK. The information put around is that it is not only whistle blowers or those at variance with the power wielders who are kept track of but commercial spying is also part of the game.

The politically aware ask what kind of government is it that allows a foreign power this kind of pernicious licence to carry out such treachery against its citizens. We have constantly been told that this kind of behaviour is that of fascist or communist administrations.

This has not just come to light with Assange, Manning and Snowden it has been around a long time. These whistle blowers are being made an example of as a warning to the rest of us.

On the question of transparency, the EU is far from democratic or transparent. Innumerable laws, rules and regulations have been incorporated into government statute without public knowledge. The Common Currency was imposed on the people of Europe. Billions of euros are unaccounted for because accounts are never finalised. Our public utilities are being decimated by privatisation following EU diktats causing inconvenience and chaos to the public. 'Europe' is in turmoil and unless these questions and many more are radically addressed in a transparent and democratic manner, then the future looks somewhat bleak.

