

Imperialist EU threatens Ukraine

The European Union has warned Ukraine that the International Monetary Fund funding would be cut off

Report by Brian Denny

after Kiev binned plans to sign an EU treaty. Behaving like an imperialist gauleiter, EU foreign relations chief Catherine Ashton said that the EU pact was a chance for Ukraine to show it was "becoming a predictable and reliable interlocutor for international markets". The former CND 'activist' and corporate pimp added: "It would have given momentum to negotiations on a new standby arrangement with the IMF".

The EU is also likely to withhold a European loan, worth €610 million.

The IMF has already suspended a credit line worth \$15 billion in 2011 because Ukraine refused to stop subsidising household gas bills.

The EU treaty would also allow European

energy monopolies to grab Ukraine's crucial energy markets.

It is likely that Ukraine turn to Russia to help with \$60 billion of looming debt repayments. It has just \$22 billion in foreign currency reserves and the same poor credit rating as EU 'bailout' countries Cyprus and Greece.

Without a hint of irony Swedish foreign minister Carl Bildt accused Russia of blackmailing Ukraine with gas prices and trade blockades.

"They are not going West. I don't think they are going East. I feel they are going down. That's roughly where we are because of the economic problems," he said.

An unnamed EU diplomat was more honest about the imperialist machinations at the heart of the matter.

"The EU should make a pause in relations, and six months down the line, when he is left alone to deal with Russian pressure, he will come to us on his knees".

German interference in Ukraine

The German government is encouraging the protest demonstrations being staged in the Ukraine by the "pro-European" alliance of conservative and ultra-rightwing parties. The "pro-Europe rallies" in Kiev and other cities of the country are transmitting "a very clear message", according to a government spokesperson in Berlin: "Hopefully" the Ukrainian president "will heed this message," meaning sign the EU's Association Agreement, which Kiev had refused to do last week, in spite of massive German pressure. To gain influence in the country, Germany has for

years been supporting the "pro-European" alliance in the Ukraine. The alliance includes not only conservative parties, but also forces from the extreme right - because of their strength, particularly in western Ukraine, where a cult around former Nazi collaborators is manifesting itself. The All-Ukrainian Union "Svoboda" party is particularly embedded in the national-chauvinist milieu, under the influence of this cult. Over the past few days, the party's leader has called for a "revolution" in Kiev.

German foreign policy group of reporters



Book review page 9



Page 5

The secret Trade Treaty p5



Editorial—Independence and Free Trade p3



So greed is good p12

Plans for the European Army and a European Air Force p4

How the social partnership operates in Germany p6-7

75% of millionaire bankers live in Britain p2

75% of millionaire bankers across EU are in Britain

Majority of Cabinet are millionaires

More than 75 percent of Europe's banking millionaires are based in Britain, according to a report by the EU's bank watchdog.

More than 2,700 UK-based bankers were paid over €1 million in 2012, compared to a further 794 across the rest of the EU. Germany was a distant second with 212, followed by France with 177. Ten EU countries had no banking millionaires.

The data, contained in the London-based European Banking Authority annual 'High Earners' report, reveal the extent of the UK's dominance of the banking rich-list.

The report indicates that 2,188 high earners worked in investment banking, with a mere 62 working in retail banking. A further 198 financiers worked in asset management and 266 in other business areas. The average top banker raked in a total of €1.95 million.

The figures include payments to staff working for subsidiaries or branches of any EU-parent institution based in another EU country, as well as staff in branches of third country institutions.

The report also revealed striking differences across countries in the proportion of pay made up of bonus payments. While most countries saw an average bonus payment of between one and two times salary, the average executive in France and the UK received a bonus four times larger than salary.

Since the 2008-9 financial crisis, lawmakers have made repeated steps to rein in bank pay, particularly by limiting bonus payments to financiers, on the grounds that a rampant bonus culture encouraged excessive risk-taking.

Earlier this year, MEPs and ministers agreed to cap bankers' bonuses to the equivalent of their salary.

Payments worth up to two times salary will also be permitted on basis of a vote by shareholders.

The rules are set to be introduced next year and will apply to over 8,000 banks across the EU.

However, they are currently subject to a legal challenge launched by the UK government in September.

The UK was alone in opposing the rules arguing that limits on pay would do nothing to make the financial sector safer and would encourage banks to increase basic salaries.

Most of the ConDem cabinet are millionaires, have awarded the rich tax cuts and still forge ahead with more austerity policies. Spin doctors have mouthed *fairness* and shed tears for *hard working people*. However the cabinet knows capitalism is based on rent, interest and profit.

(Based on report on 1.12.13 in EUObserver by Benjamin Fox)

Birmingham TUC

Crisis in the NHS

Conference on dangers of privatisation

Speakers include:
Lord Phillip Hunt
Terry Mandrell
Prof. Ann Davis
Peter Last
Dr John Lister
Lewisham hospital campaign

Saturday 22 February
 11 for 11.30am-4.30pm

Priory meeting rooms
 Bull Street
 City Centre
 Birmingham B4 6AF

Campaign material

Two important pamphlets at £2.00 each plus 50p postage
 Five copies of either or both pamphlets at £1.60each post free
 Ten copies £1.50 each post free -Democrat Press, PO Box 46295,

A selection of leaflets can be printed down from the CAEF website www.caef.org.uk
 Click on leaflets in menu on left hand side of site and then click on leaflet required.

Independence and free trade

Protestors in the Ukraine shout 'freedom' and support for EU membership. Although it is not for us to tell other nations what to do we can proffer advice. Any country joining the EU has to join the single currency and accept all the EU legislation and policies already put in place. That means giving up the national currency along with key controls over the economy. That is giving up independence, hard won and long held rights, all forms of democracy and freedom from repression.

The Ukraine fireworks have been lit by a combination of dubious and odious right and far right political characters including former Nazis and collaborators. Vested interests and leading politicians in Germany are behind the ructions in the Ukraine to carry out a century long objective to expand eastwards. It is these interests who are jumping up and down in protest at the Ukrainian Government for not signing an agreement with the EU. Instead the Government is joining in agreements with Russia which includes a customs union. In the longer term may come the proposal to partition Ukraine into east and west parts. No doubt part of that objective would be to consoli-

date and bring into action the European Army which Germany has been so keen upon for a long time. This would be hidden behind an EU Common Foreign and Security Policy being formulated right now especially at the December EU summit in Brussels.

Transatlantic trade and investment partnership

The fireworks in Eastern Europe are a distraction away from the secret negotiations over the US-EU Free Trade Agreement which is coming to a close. It is the transnational corporations who have engineered this and all the other free trade agreements (see page 5) across the world. It is politicians and especially government ministers who are both silent and sleepwalking into the dire situations these agreements will bring about. Apart from honourable but few exceptions it is most of the media which is keeping silent as well.

These partnerships, agreements and pacts completely undermine the sovereignty, independence and democracy of nation states. It may be called 'free trade' but it is the antithesis of 'freedom' except of course for the transnational corporations to do what is best for them and their in-built



quest for ever bigger profits. There is no room in these agreements for the health of people, the environment, resources for future generations or the very planet itself.

Conclusion

As with the implications of EU membership and getting out of the EU the same objectives and course has to be taken. To make clear that the only known way to control the avaricious transnational corporations and banks is by using the powers of the government of a sovereign nation state with the right to self determination, national independence and democracy. That means ridding the country of this ConDem government which largely consists of millionaires who act on behalf of the corporations. It also means winning the labour and trade union movement policies back to supporting those people who work for their living and their families and standing up to the transnationals by getting out of their EU with its single fee market and stopping the free trade agreements.

Barroso fails to tackle errors in spending of EU funds

For the nineteenth year in succession the European Court of Auditors has failed to give its complete approval to the accounts of EU expenditure, and for the fourth year in a row the proportion of errors has increased.

Most errors concerned subsidies for rural development, environmental schemes, fisheries, and health, where 8 per cent of the accounts—almost one in every twelve—were found to be faulty.

The European Union spends a total of €138.6 billion annually, and the proportion of errors has grown from 3.9 per cent in 2011 to 4.8 per cent in 2012 (of which a small proportion, 0.3 per cent, is due to a new accountability method). In 2010 the proportion was 3.7 per cent and in 2009 3.3 per cent.

The unlawful spending for the most part involves funds where the member-states are responsible for managing expenditure. Most errors are made by the funds for rural development, followed by regional policy, research, and agriculture.



Greek resistance

Greek public-sector workers held a 24-hour strike recently as disputes continued between the EU-IMF-ECB Troika and the Greek government, notably over the speed and scale of the privatisation programme and the level of social welfare contributions.

Separately, Greek riot police forcibly removed protesters who had occupied the premises of the former state broadcaster, ERT, since its closure earlier this year.

December CAEF Executive meeting

Decisions taken at this committee meeting include:

- * To hold the AGM on 5 April in Birmingham.
- * To publish an A4 sized pamphlet on 'How EU operates' based on diagrams already published and some to come.
- * To run a series in the *Democrat* drawing on parallels with First World War and current situation with EU.
- * To publish a biographical pamphlet based on a suffragette and anti war campaigner who worked with Sylvia Pankhurst and Keir Hardie
- * To publish new leaflets based on recent *Democrat* leading articles and editorials, ie *EU attacks workers' rights*, *Free movement of labour*. These will be available to download from CAEF website and to order.
- * To hold further one day CAEF schools.
- * To develop and encourage discussion on the CAEF facebook pages.

Essay competition



We invite entries for an essay of up to 2,000 words. The subject is 'Britain outside the EU with an economy based on manufacturing'.

Closing date
1st January 2014

EU's war plans for discussion at December summit

British warplanes and other military assets will be handed over to European Union countries under sweeping plans to create what Conservative MPs believe will become a "Euro Army".

David Cameron is under pressure to block the EU's growing military ambitions, which Tory MPs say pose a threat to Nato and could undermine Britain's "special relationship" with the US.

In what Conservatives fear could be an irreversible step, the Prime Minister is preparing to commit Britain to deeper military cooperation across the EU at a summit in Brussels later this month. The deal would pave the way for developing a new fleet of unmanned drones, promoting the deployment of EU rapid response battlegroups", and drawing up new cyber warfare and maritime security strategies next year.

Under the plans, the RAF's new Voyager refuelling aircraft is among the assets being earmarked for use by other EU countries under moves towards creating a European Air Force.

EU officials behind the policy argue that it is essential for the EU to develop its military capabilities in order to promote its status as a "global player".



A recent EU training mission to Mali, in which Britain took part, represent just "the beginning", they say.

According to a draft of the deal to be signed at the summit, the leaders of the EU's 28 member countries will declare that "cooperation in the area of military capability development is essential". The draft goes on to pledge and pursue a strategy of "pooling demand" for new military capacity and "harmonising" their defence requirements across the EU.

The document says Member States which agree to the policy will enjoy "guaranteed access to capabilities developed by others" and "...the European Council takes a strong commitment for the further development of a credible and effective Common Security and Defence Policy."

"It calls on Member States to deepen their defence cooperation ... in order to improve the availability of the required civilian and military capabilities."

(*Telegraph* 6.12.13)

Gap widens between Germany and France

The press in Germany has commented on the German chancellor's visit to Paris with derisive headlines. One journal bore the headline, "Radiant Victor meets Helpless Hollande," referring to the dramatic economic situation France finds itself in: The country is looking "into the Abyss."

Beyond this blatant smear campaign, experts are noting that there is a "disengagement" of the French economy from that of Germany. According to their analysis, Berlin has created significant advantages for the German industry with its "Hartz Reforms" - this includes wage waivers and cuts in social spending.

So far France has not been able to break popular resistance to these kinds of austerity programmes. The German-French dichotomy has become so large that "there are growing doubts" about "whether there remains a sufficient basis for German-French cooperation". This is according to a recent analysis of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP).

Observers interpret France's recent decision to repatriate an important detachment of the German-French Brigade from German territory, as further evidence of erosion in the ties between the two the two countries.

Based on German Foreign Policy group

Why the Secret Treaty?

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Negotiations around the “Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership,” or US-EU Free Trade Agreement are nearing conclusion. The purpose is to remove regulatory differences between the US and EU countries and allow a secretive panel of corporate lawyers to overrule the will of parliaments and destroy legal protections. Yet, Cameron, Clegg, Osborne and Cable, the press and Milliband—say nothing. Are they trying to keep us in the dark?

The mechanism through which legal protections are attacked is known as investor-state dispute settlement. It’s used in many parts of the world to kill regulations protecting people and the environment. Here are a few examples of the mechanism in action.

The Australian government after massive debates within and outside parliament, decided cigarettes should be sold in plain packets, marked with health warnings. The decision was validated by the Australian Supreme Court. But, using an Australia-Hong Kong trade agreement, the tobacco company Philip Morris asked an offshore tribunal to award it a vast sum in compensation for the loss of ‘intellectual property’.

During its financial crisis, and in response to public anger over rocketing charges, Argentina imposed a freeze on people’s energy and water bills; but the country was sued by the international utility companies whose vast bills prompted the government to act. For this and other such crimes it has been forced to pay out more than a \$billion compensation.

In El Salvador, local communities managed at great cost to persuade the government to refuse permission for a vast gold mine that threatened

to contaminate their water supplies. A victory for the people? Well, the Canadian company that sought to dig the mine is now suing El Salvador for \$315 million, for the loss of anticipated future profits.

In Canada, the courts revoked two patents owned by the American drugs firm Eli Lilly, on the grounds the company had not produced enough evidence that they had the beneficial effects it claimed. Eli Lilly is now suing the Canadian government for \$500 million—and demanding Canada’s patent laws be changed.

These corporations use investor-state dispute rules embedded in trade treaties signed by the countries they are suing. The rules are enforced



by panels that have none of the safeguards of national courts. Hearings are held in secret. The judges are

corporate lawyers, many of whom work for companies of the kind whose cases they hear. Citizens and communities affected by their decisions have no legal standing or right of appeal. Yet the sovereignty of parliaments and rulings of supreme courts can be overthrown.

One of the judges on these tribunals says about his work: “When I wake up at night and think about arbitration, it never ceases to amaze me that sovereign states have agreed to investment arbitration at all ... Three private individuals are entrusted with the power to review, without any restriction or appeal procedure, all actions of the government, all decisions of the courts, and all laws and regulations emanating from Parliament.”

There are no corresponding rights for citizens and these tribunals can’t



be used to demand better protection from corporate greed. This is “a privatised justice system for global corporations.”

Democracy, as a meaningful proposition, is impossible under these circumstances. This is the system to which we will be subject if the transatlantic treaty goes ahead. The US and EU Commission, both of which have been captured by the corporations they are supposed to regulate, are pressing for investor-state dispute resolution to be included in the agreement.

The Commission justifies this policy by claiming that national courts don’t offer corporations enough protection, because they “might be biased or lack independence.” But it fails to produce a single concrete example that demonstrates a need for a new, extrajudicial system. It is precisely because courts display some modicum of independence that the corporations want to bypass them. The EU Commission seeks to replace open accountable, sovereign courts with a closed, corrupt system riddled with conflicts of interest and arbitrary powers.

Investor-state rules could be used to smash any attempt to save the health system, including the NHS from complete corporate control, or to regulate the banks. These rules shut down democratic alternatives. Why has there been no attempt by the Con-Dem government or opposition to inform us about this monstrous assault on democracy, let alone consult us? It’s time to expose and oppose this monster treaty.

Collapse of the left in Germany in capitalist economic crisis

How the social partnership works

Part II of an edited paper by **Horst Teubert** at Desmond Greaves Summer School, Dublin - 15 September

Why did the German left not fight and prevent the austerity policy? Different factors need to be taken into account. One general aspect connected to Germany's political culture is that the German people have never won a revolution or toppled a dictator. The 1848 revolution failed. The German Reich was founded in 1871 by waging a war against France whilst German left leaders were in prison. Democracy was introduced in 1918 because the Kaiser lost the war. Germany was liberated from Nazi dictatorship by the Allies. Resistance inside Germany had been insufficient because resistance from the left was decimated in 1933 as they either had to flee or were imprisoned, many were in the first concentration camps. It's an illusion to believe this history wouldn't influence Germany today.

There are differences between the left in Germany and other European countries which are shown by studying minor events normally ignored. One example was a demonstration in Hannover on 23 April 2009. The tyre manufacturer Continental with headquarters in Hannover was planning to shut down a factory. Workers protested and took to the streets. Business as usual, one would believe. The unusual thing was that the factory was situated in Clairoux in France and the workers who staged the protest in Hannover were French. In Germany, it is known that French protesters are far more resolute and powerful than German protesters. The Hannover police printed leaflets in French - uncommon in Germany - telling French workers they had to behave decently and it was forbidden to burn tyres at demonstrations. Even German trade union officials were concerned and joined the protests asking French colleagues to keep quiet.

Of course, this story is only a detail, but is typical and gives an idea why it is easier for the German establishment to impose austerity than it is for French elites. This aspect is an important part of what the conservative "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" had in mind when, in March 2012, it pleaded for a "cultural revolution" in Europe. "The south" of



Europe, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Italy, and, France should adjust their "political-economic culture" to the German model.

To find out why there aren't sufficient protests against austerity in Germany, examine the system of "social partnership", the system of collaboration between trade unions and big business. It aims principally at reducing conflict to weaken workers' protests and give advantages to entrepreneurs and the state. In the case of the austerity policy which was closely connected with the so-called Hartz IV reforms, the trade unions didn't resist as determinedly as many had hoped. They acted in a way which led clear-sighted neoliberals to speak very highly of them. In 2010 the conservative "Die Welt" praised trade unions and works councils at the big chemical company Lanxess for having introduced "new forms of collaboration". A trade unionist said: "The crisis transformed us from members of the works councils into co-managers." In April 2012, the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" wrote: "Instead of ideologists eager to strike, there are even more co-managers in the leading circles of the trade union head offices and ... works councils."

It is clear that German trade unions are instrumental in imposing the German austerity policy on the EU. The "German Confederation of Trade Unions" has initiated some integrative measures which aim at preventing trade unions in crisis torn countries to protest against austerity

like the Continental workers in France. In December 2011, Michael Sommer, Chairman of the Confederation of Trade Unions, met with Chancellor Angela Merkel to talk about the euro crisis. Publicly they agreed the EU Fiscal Pact should be complemented by spending programmes to improve the social situation. The austerity policy was not called into question. Four months later, Michael Sommer invited trade union chairpersons from eight other European countries to two meetings in Berlin - one with Chancellor Merkel, the other one with a leading social democrat, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. After the meetings, Sommer declared that the EU Fiscal Pact should be complemented by spending programmes. Again, the austerity policy wasn't questioned. With the meetings in Berlin, the German Confederation of Trade Unions had integrated leading union officials from Belgium, Sweden, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Spain, Greece and Ireland.

In the last three years, the euro crisis has led to growing opposition to the euro in Germany. There is a left opposition against the euro, mainly in the party "The Left" but whose majority is pro-euro. One reason why the left opposition against the euro is relatively weak is that the German elites traditionally used a chauvinistic policy to become more powerful in the world; during the Nazi era, their policy was openly racist and anti-semitic. Many in the German left hope that a "European" policy will be history repeating. On the other hand, a right wing opposition to the euro has grown focussed on the party "Alternative for Germany". At its core the party is an instrument for those members of the German economic elites who have the opinion that saving the euro is too expensive and risky and will drag the economy down. Some of its leading figures are in touch with the far right and some belong

Disengagement of France

The boulevard press has commented the German chancellor's visit to Paris with derisive headlines. One of the Springer publisher's journals bore the headline, "Radiant Victor meets Helpless Hollande," referring to the dramatic economic situation France finds itself in: The country is looking "into the Abyss." Beyond this blatant smear campaign, experts are noting there is a "disengagement" of the French economy from that of Germany. According to their analysis, Berlin has created significant advantages for the German industry with its "Hartz Reforms" - wage waivers and cuts in social spending. France has not been able to break popular resistance to these kinds of austerity programs. The German-French dichotomy has become so large that "there are growing doubts" about "whether there remains a sufficient basis for German-French cooperation," according to a recent analysis of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). Observers interpret France's recent decision to repatriate an important detachment of the German-French Brigade from German territory, as further evidence of erosion in the ties between the two countries.

(13 November 2013) more:

www.german-foreign-policy.com/en/fulltext/58696

Collapse of the left in Britain in capitalist economic crisis

A further paper given at the Desmond Greaves Summer School by John Boyd will also be published.

to influential parts of the German elites who have voiced anti-democratic proposals. For example, one of them suggested denying the right to vote to the jobless. Another one spoke out in favour of introducing a monarchy, which, of course, in Germany has a completely different meaning compared to the meaning it has in the Netherlands or Britain.

Despite these concerns in parts of the German elite, a clear majority in the establishment defends the euro - not only because Germany profits the most from the euro currency but also because an abolition of the euro would be a severe blow to the whole EU. From the point of view of the German establishment, the EU is a very important instrument which affords them influence in the world, the fact being obvious that Germany alone is too small to compete politically or even militarily with the US or China. This is one reason why it was very important for Germany to have Nice and Lisbon Treaties ratified, which respectively pursue a "European" or a "Common Security and Defence Policy". The aim is to pursue a common foreign policy even with the help of the military, with all the strength of all EU member states together. This has far reaching consequences because it means that the national foreign policies of all EU member states have to be welded together into



one single "European" foreign policy - something which is impossible without a severe power struggle between the strongest European states.

Having been the most influential EU member state for a long time, Germany has emerged from the euro crisis as the undisputable EU leader. The magazine "Internationale Politik" stated plainly at the beginning of 2011: "A structural question of the European Union was clarified in 2010: ... Germany, with the largest national economy, has definitively emerged as the central player in the Union. To put it bluntly: Merkel is ... no longer just Germany's chancellor, but the European Union's as well." The "role of the vice chancellor" certainly fell to the French President "who has the leeway to take the initiative in a policy debate but could be roped in by the chancellor, Merkel, should they disagree". Economically, the French President has in the meantime been roped in several times when he tried to escape from the German austerity dictates. Currently, Germany is trying to dominate the Common Security and Defence Policy as well.

This can be seen in the disputes over the war against Libya, the war in Mali or a possible war against Syria. It can be seen in the attempts to build an EU army. Germany clearly wants an EU army, the reason being that the Bundeswehr is weaker than the British and French armies and doesn't have nuclear weapons; so Germany would benefit from common armed forces. If Berlin secures its dominant position in the EU, it will be able to form the "Common Security and Defence Policy" according to its own foreign policy goals. This explains why London and Paris signed a binational "Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation" in November 2010, agreeing on common armaments' projects and the building of a Combined Joint Expeditionary Force. Clearly France and the UK are not in favour of Germany's domination over every policy field. Of course, the German establishment is fully aware of that and is trying to discredit the pact between London and Paris. In August 2012, the "German Council on Foreign Relations" called it a "New Entente Cordiale" and warned it should be dealt with cautiously.

Two things seem to be clear. There will be no possibility for any EU member state to stay neutral in future wars; the building of an EU military bloc will comprise all of them. And: The German elites see the militarization of the EU as one of the main elements of the union. "The European project of a common security and defence policy will be an engine with which Europe can grow together", explained German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle at the Munich Security Conference in February 2010. Bismarck in 1871 forged a German state out of many smaller German kingdoms and principalities. He waged a war against France, welding all the principalities together and securing Prussian domination over the militarized German Reich.

No one is obliged to consent to the militarization of Europe. It would be a good idea for the German left, but also for the left in other European countries to fight against militarization. It is not a fight without hope, as can be seen by the "no" with which the British parliament prevented a war against Syria. It would also be a good idea to fight austerity in Germany as everywhere in Europe. It will be important to keep in mind that militarization and austerity are no accidental occurrence but part of the core strategy of Germany, the most powerful state in the EU.

Acronyms

EAHF European Alcohol and Health Forum
EBF European Banking Federation
ECPA European Centre for Public Affairs
EFPIA European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
EMU Economic and Monetary Union
EPC European Policy Centre
ERT European Roundtable of Industrialists
ESF European Services Forum
EuropeBio European Association for Bioindustries
EUROPIA European Petroleum Industry Association
Further acronyms can be found on the CAEF website



The debate and battle over a referendum

The debate about Britain's relationship with the EU is currently characterised by wishful thinking and a lack of clarity.

Some EU-critics claim that it will be possible to substantially renegotiate the terms of our membership and to return many powers to Westminster - but do not explain how securing the agreement of 27 other EU countries to significant UK opt-outs can be achieved.

The pro-EU lobby, on the other hand, calls for reform in Brussels - but does not spell out what will be the likely implications of the eurozone crisis and proposed 'fiscal union' for a Britain that remains an EU member but outside the single currency.

Contribution to discussion Global Warming and Climate change? By Stuart Delvin

I found Jean Johnson's article (*July-August*) refreshing. As a Geology graduate I am quite at ease with the notion that the environment, including climate, has changed over the eons, well before man industrialised.

The New York Times of 30 March 2009 contained a full page advert by the CATO Institute which featured a quote from Barack Obama saying, 'Few challenges facing America and the world are more urgent than combating climate change. The science is beyond dispute and the facts are clear.'

There then follows a quote which reads, 'With all due respect Mr. President, that is not true. We, the undersigned scientists, maintain that the case for alarm regarding climate change is grossly overstated. Surface temperature changes over the past century have been episodic and modest and there has been no net global warming for over a decade now. After adjusting for population growth and property values, there has been no increase in damages from severe weather related events. The computer models forecasting rapid temperature change abjectly fail to explain recent climate behaviour. Mr. President, your characterisation of the scientific facts regarding climate change and the degree of certainty informing the scientific debate is simply incorrect.'

Below that quote there are over a hundred names, most with Ph.D after. These include Richard Lindzen, Professor of Meteorology at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who in *The Sunday Telegraph* 29 October 2006 wrote an article along those lines.

Another signatory was Professor of Biology David Bellamy. On 22 January 2013 *The Daily Mail* published Jane Fryer's interview with him, which included, '...Until that is, we touch on climate change and the vicious backlash he suffered when, in 2004, and in the face of scientific convention and public opinion, he dismissed man made warming as "poppycock". "From that moment, I really wasn't welcome at the BBC. They froze me out, because I don't believe in global warming. My career dried up. I was thrown out of my own conservation groups For the last sixteen years, tem-

peratures have been going down and the carbon dioxide has been going up and the crops have got greener and grow quicker...."'.

A third signatory was eminent Australian geologist Professor Bob Carter. On the internet he has written, 'Climate change takes place over geological time scales of thousands through millions of years, yet unfortunately geological datasets do not provide direct measurements, least of all of global temperature. Instead, they comprise local or regional proxy records of climate change of varying quality. Nonetheless, numerous high quality palaeo-climate records, and especially those from ice cores and deep sea mud cores, demonstrate that no unusual or untoward changes in temperature occurred in the 20th and early 21st century.

Nor are carbon dioxide levels high compared with the geological past. Despite an estimated spend of more than \$100 billion since 1990 looking for a human global temperature signal, assessed against geological reality no compelling empirical evidence yet exists for a measurable, let alone worrisome, human impact on global temperatures. Meanwhile, the difficulties encountered around the world in implementing carbon dioxide trading or taxation partly reflects that such mechanisms are expensive, socially disruptive and ineffectual'

Some investigators claim that the United Kingdom contributes only about 2% of man made CO₂, which in its entirety constitutes about 3½% of all the CO₂ in the atmosphere, which in turn only contributes about 5% of the greenhouse gas effect.

It is perhaps no surprise to see the EU involved in all this scaremongering. Foreign wind turbine makers and rich landowners are paid large sums, whilst foreign owned energy companies make huge profits. This is all at the expense of the British taxpayer, some of whom are faced with a 'heat or eat' situation in mid-winter. Whilst the elite benefit there will always be 'a consensus' - at least until the next ice age sets in.

What do you think? Have you an opposite view? Contributions to this discussion of no more than 650 words are welcome.

Corporate Europe*

The hidden war in 'Europe' is between workers and corporate bosses

David Cronin draws on years of experience at the heart of the EU to expose the pro-corporate, anti-democratic agenda in Brussels. The revelations are chilling and paint in fine detail what anti-EU campaigners and euro-sceptics suspected all along because of all the clandestine cover-ups and weasel words.

One objective exposed is that corporate lobbyists in Brussels are out to hack, burn and turn to rubble the welfare state put in place after the second world war. Like the military bombing for 'humanitarian reasons' causing 'collateral damage' the corporate lobbyist says there has to be 'consolidation' and 'competitiveness'. They number up to 30,000, are blinkered, sit in glass edifices and their 'work' is to constrain national governments and turn them into vassals of corporate greed. Their ideology is neo-liberalism which would be better called vandalism.

There are lobbyists like Oxfam and Green Peace but there is no comparison with any one of the richest corporations in the world like E.ON, BP, Fiat, Shell, Siemens or Thyssen Krupp and all the other 45 members of the European Round Table of industrialists (ERT).

All the EU institutions are susceptible to the regiments of lobbyists. And, that includes the European Parliament where MEPs have been 'outed' for amending legislation in private to benefit corporations.

As columns in the *Democrat* have reported, and now confirmed by the author, it was the ERT in the 1980's that worked for a 'single market in goods and services' – the Single European Act. Currently the ERT is in effect pressing for a bonfire of EU legislation and policies which obstruct profit. Coincidentally, I think not, Cameron is making the same demand and will then declare the EU fit for Britain to stay a member.

In the late 1980's similar gangs in the form of the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe (AMUE) pressed for and wrote the basis for a single currency resulting in the Maastricht Treaty. The author describes in detail that one objective of the single currency is to act as a vehicle for austerity to cull the welfare state which is clearly evident in Greece and other Eurozone members.

A chapter headed 'Bombarded by bankers' shows that despite a public EU ambivalence Mrs Thatcher's one 'overriding positive goal' was to remove all restrictions on trade within the EU. His heroine's policy was adopted by Charlie McCreevy as EU Single Market Commissioner. In 2006 prior to the financial crisis a compatriot of McCreevy coordinated an 'expert group' on hedge fund regulation. This consisted of 16 members including Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, and Deutsche Bank who advocated a hands off approach. In particular the Cayman Islands which hosts three-quarters of the world's hedge funds was given a 100 year exemption from taxes.

War is good for business, dealt with in chapter 3, with the development of drones in the illegal wars on Serbia and Iraq manufactured by BAE, grants given to scientific research and development of arms. Part of the Lisbon Treaty was for all intents and purposes written by arms dealer lobbyists.

Peter Mandelson former MP, Blairite, EU Commissioner for Trade and now a multi-millionaire Lord has a chapter all to himself. As Commissioner for Trade under pressure from the European Services Forum (ESF) he worked like a modern day



Clive of India to open up this market for the transnationals. The ESF is a collective alliance of finance titans including: Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Bank; telecom giants BT and Vodafone; Veolia the waste, water and transport transnational; BusinessEurope and 30 other employer federations.

Key ESF recommendations found their way into the EU trade policy document *Global Europe*. This is nothing less than a manifesto for interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states. Laws which hampered maximising of profits would have to be rewritten. He worked with Commission President Barroso to: "...to develop a programme that reflected this priority rather than social and environmental policy areas?" 'So much for the 'social partnership'. There is much more in this chapter, 'The malign legacy of Peter Mandelson', which everybody in the labour and trade union movement should be aware of.

In the 'Conclusion: taking Europe back', there is a breath of fresh air where the voters alleged apathy is relabelled impotency when faced with all the dominant political parties committed to neo-liberalism. Finally the author makes clear that the elite assumes it can lord it over everybody else. "But the elite is not invincible. With enough determination, it can be defeated."

*David Cronin: Corporate Europe – How big business sets policies on food, climate and war: 216pp indx: £16 Pluto Press: ISBN 978-0-7453-3332-8

Quiz No. 138

What are the following phrases?

- 1. 1 2 339 40 LIFE
- 2. e y e s
- 3. iNto^xi_cA'eD
- 4. BLING NETHERLANDS
- 5. 111111TETHER
- 6. VIT_MIN

Answers No. 137

- 1. Car insurance
- 2. Not in my back yard
- 3. Ill at home
- 4. Back gammon
- 5. Fly in the ointment
- 6. On the right side of the law

Some people in Ukraine
 have raised a mighty clamour
 They think their future lies in the European order
 but nought have they to gain
 from the free movement of labour
 for when they give up their state
 they will also lose their border

Chorus (same tune)
 So workers of Ukraine
 support your nation's parliament
 The EU will bring you pain
 Not glamour but impoverishment

You think Europe will give you jobs
 enhance your trade
 that joining the EURO can give you wealth
 but the EU have a mission to degrade
 and destroy your sovereignty by stealth

Chorus
 So workers of Ukraine



Words by Tony Grace

Tune : *Waltz from La Belle Helene* by Jacques Offenbach

This can be found on the internet

We wish our readers a
 thoroughly enjoyable
 festive season and an
 active and peaceful
 New Year



Batman
makes a
point



Crossword
137
Answers

		1	R	E	2	A	C	T	3	I	V	A	5	T	E	
6	H		E		G		E			I		R			7	A
8	A	C	T	U	A	T	E			9	S	T	A	I	R	
	Z		R		P		P			I		N			G	
10	E	M	O	T	E			11	E	M	B	A	S	S	Y	
			G					E		L		L		L		
12	S	C	R	A	13	W	L			14	R	E	V	I	V	E
	M		E		R			15	R					T		
16	O	B	S	C	E	N	E			17	T	H	E	F	18	T
	O		S		A		H			H		R			Y	
19	T	W	I	S	T			20	E	A	R	M	A	R	K	
	H		V		H			A		O		T			E	
		21	R	E	P	E	A	T	A	B	L	E				

Campaign against Euro-federalism

To join the Campaign I enclose £15 membership fee (£10 for unwaged)
Please make cheques or POs to CAEF

Name Date / / 2013

Address email address

.....

..... Postcode

I agree to abide by the rules of the Campaign

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

As a member you will be sent copies of the Democrat

Return to CAEF, PO Box 46295, London W5 2UG

[d138]

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):

tuauec.org

No2EU yes to democracy:

NO2EU.com

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

www.teameurope.info

Democracy Movement, a broad movement with a large number of supporters:

www.democracymovement.org.uk

Campaign for an Independent Britain (CIB):

eurofaq.freeuk.com

Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign, for Labour Party members:

lesc.org.uk

Peoples' Movement Ireland:

people.ie

National Platform of Ireland:

nationalplatform.org

German foreign policy group of journalists:

german-foreign-policy.com

Open Europe—an influential think tank of leading business people:

openeurope.org.uk

Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO):

eulobbytours.org

Data on other sites welcome

Campaign against Euro-federalism

The Campaign opposes:-

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

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

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

The Democrat

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

www.caef.org.uk

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So Greed is good

Years ago an Italian joke came to the fore about a man who bought a super modern car. The car was so technologically advanced the car radio responded to verbal commands. One day the car driver came upon a cyclist who was riding erratic-

Arthur Smelt's point of view

ally in front of him. He shouted at the cyclist calling him a silly idiot. The radio responded by repeating, Berlusconi, Berlusconi, Berlusconi. Tempting though it is to use the name Borisconi, perhaps it would scarcely be appropriate.

However when Boris Johnson says "greed is good," who is it good for? Maybe he is trying to ingratiate himself with the big money boys.

Anyone with a modicum of nous cannot but realize the damage greed creates for wider society.

We have only to examine what is happening throughout the EU with all the issues surrounding economic failure with all the other, resulting in unemployment, poverty and so on. The economics of *laissez faire* are not working. What works best, a Blair motto, is not being applied.

Public utilities are being handed to the private sector at give away prices. The latest is Royal Mail where it is acknowledged it was sold at a give away price. The same can be said of the railways and the way in which PFI is being used to rob the NHS. Private loans are being paid back over 30 years costing many billions more than if direct public funding had been used. In addition simple maintenance charges are unbelievable. Drug companies and private contractors have been allowed to fleece the NHS for years and creeping privatisation is gathering pace.

Some time ago reports appeared ex-

posing the outrageous cost of simple hospital maintenance. The installation of a dishwasher at Hull and East Yorks Hospital Trust came to £8,450. At North Cumbria University Trust the replacement of a light fitting cost £466 and to install a bell in reception cost £184. The examples are endless.

Contracts have been given to one company to supervise tagging of criminals. According to reports the company itself has been guilty of cheating. Another company has been given a contract to determine whether handicapped people were fit for work. They have assessed people as fit when they were not. It seems that human welfare counts little where money is concerned.

Private prisons are another area where profiteering can jeopardise efficient functioning of service. In the USA it is not unknown for judges to be offered bribes to send people to jail unnecessarily.

The energy industry is another area handed over to the private sector. All the wheeling and dealing which goes on in this sector is difficult to follow. Again profit is far more important than human welfare. The fact that official figures state that 31,000 elderly people died of cold last winter is of little consequence to the profiteers.

We live in a world where natural disasters seem to be happening more and more often. Massive forest fires, floods, earthquakes and tornados. This has alerted people to the billion pound industry of charities.

There is little wonder people are becoming increasingly angry with their so called elected representatives many of whom are seen as self-seeking and not representing the electorate. Ordinary people feel they are under constant pressure, financially and in other ways. Their trust in banks, police, financial regulators is at rock bottom. Greed is a killer.

