



The Euro Realist Bulletin

An occasional bulletin campaigning
for an EU free Britain &
Parliamentary sovereignty.

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REDCAR HIGHLIGHTS GOVERNMENT IMPOTENCE



Lord Stoddart: Redcar strengthens case for leaving the EU.

Commenting on the closure of the Redcar Steelworks, the independent Labour Peer, Lord Stoddart of Swindon has highlighted the impotence of the Government in the face of strict EU rules on state aid and that being unable to help the steelworkers, who face losing their jobs, strengthens the case for leaving the EU.

Lord Stoddart said: "The Government openly admits that EU rules on state aid for industry constrains their ability to

provide financial support for the Redcar steel plant, to prevent its closure. This is yet another example of EU membership leading to loss of jobs for British workers and further loss of manufacturing industry. This must, surely, bolster support for leaving the EU, even among those in the Labour Party and some trade unions, who believe that the United Kingdom should remain in the EU, come what may.

"**Sadly, it is** a long established principle that our democratically elected Government must wade through a sea of EU red tape and go cap in hand to Brussels to beg for permission to help our own industries, from unelected bureaucrats at the European Commission. Once again, it is quite clear who really governs Britain."

THE NEXT EURO REALIST

There comes a time when ageing equipment comes to the end of its working life, which is, sadly, the case for the Euro Realist's old Mac computer. It is time to upgrade and as the old Apple programmes are not compatible with the new systems it may take a while before a new newsletter layout is ready. The ER will return as soon as possible.

THE REFERENDUM, TAKING SIDES

In 1975, the last time the UK had a referendum on membership of what was then called the 'Common Market', most large companies and leading politicians sided with the 'Yes' side to stay in. However, forty years on things look very different for our next referendum on what is now the European Union, which was something no one ever voted for as the people were explicitly informed in 1975 that the Common Market would not be what the EU has now become.

This time some big names in politics, industry, business and banking are pointing out the problems with the EU and that the UK would be better off out. Earlier in October 2015 Lord Blackwell, the Chairman of the Lloyds Banking Group and a former adviser to the pro-EU Prime Minister, John Major, stated there are no "compelling economic arguments" for Britain to remain in the European Union. He stated that he does not believe that remaining in the EU without a "significant change in the current arrangements is ultimately sustainable".

John Mills, who has been a long time substantial Labour Party donor, who runs the Labour Euro Safeguards Campaign, has also made his views known in the press. He has stated that no matter what reforms David Cameron manages to negotiate with the EU, the UK would still be better off out.

He warned the EU had "lost its way" and that the Government's present stance would not stop businesses from being strangled by red tape or reduce Britain's huge EU budget bill in a big way.

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A FARCE AND A TRAVESTY

BY COLIN BULLEN

The ongoing farce of the so called re-negotiations by our Europhile Prime Minister continues, despite the obvious crises now engulfing Europe, with even the exposure of the failure of the Euro by the Greek debacle being eclipsed by the catastrophic effects of the Schengen agreement. That these talks are effectively being held in secret, without it being made clear just what Cameron is asking his EU cronies to concede merely illustrates that this is yet another attempt by the political class to use smoke and mirrors to bamboozle the British people in supporting our participation in the disastrous European project.

That those who lead the EU will never make any meaningful concessions is made clear by the statements they have made concerning them. Martin Schulz, the speaker of the European parliament, says that British demands are motivated by lies about immigrants and national resentment. Guy Verhofstadt, a former PM of Belgium who has invited Cameron to speak to the European parliament, states "The reality is we still don't know what it is that the UK Government wants, let alone what is being renegotiated now behind closed doors. He has often accused the EU of a democratic deficit so it would therefore be very strange for him to refuse an opportunity to openly discuss his proposals". The most honest appraisal is given by Xavier Bettel, PM of Luxembourg, who said that Britain could not expect anything from the re-negotiations, ruling out any sort of opt-out on ever closer union, saying "What is best for the UK is always what is best for the EU. I am not in favour of a Europe a la carte". The arrogance of a leader of such an insignificant country will annoy Eurorealists but they cannot deny that this is the authentic voice of the EU in all its undemocratic glory.

As far as the referendum is concerned the polls seem to indicate that the electorate currently wishes to remain within a 'reformed' EU, a creature that has never, does not and will never exist. The utter failure by the Prime Minister to clarify just what he is asking for only confirms what any sensible person knows, that the changes which might actually make a real difference to our relationship to the EU are not even under discussion.

The issues upon which such changes should be made are not difficult to identify. An end to our excessive membership fees, the abolition of the insane Schengen agreement, which actively encourages massive economic migration into and across the EU, the removal of the CAP, created to keep French allotment holders in business, and of the CFP, the result of Heath's determination to join the European project at any cost, including the be-



Colin Bullen: no meaningful concessions from the EU.

Britain could not expect anything from the renegotiations, ruling out any sort of opt-out on ever closer union

trayal of the British fishermen. In addition the removal of the burden of legislation which is stifling business and the acceptance that the single currency has failed and must be abandoned. Above all that the fundamental aim of creating a single European state is contrary to the interests of all the peoples of Europe and must be discarded.

It is only necessary to read that list to know that here is not a hope in hell of it being agreed, as to do so would be to accept that the whole project was a mistake from the outset, something we know to be true but something the political class will never concede.

If it were remotely possible we could aim to negotiate a return to being a member of EFTA but with some sort of free trade agreement with the EU, thus leaving the CAP and CFP and escaping from the need to obey EU legislation, pay membership fees or be part of the insane move to political union. However, despite the fact that this outcome would allow the rest of the EU to continue their merry way on the road to perdition, they would never agree, knowing that other nations would soon want the same deal, while our self interested political class would squeal at the thought of losing all the perks they obtain from being passengers on the EU gravy train.

Unlike mystic Meg Eurorealists can, using their experience of the past, predict with complete accuracy just what Cameron's negotiations will present to the British people. It will be as Shakespeare has Macbeth describe Life "a poor player, That struts and frets his hour upon the stage, And then is heard no more: it is a tale, Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing." Brave declarations about streamlining the EU, restricting the movement of migrants and the importance of national sovereignty will be made and then ignored. The government only wishes to play a confidence trick on the British people and the other main parties are quite happy to help them. However as Lincoln said "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can not fool all of the people all of the time" and our best hope is that this time the people will see these pygmy politicians for what they really are.

The reality is, as it always has been, that the only answer is for the UK to leave the EU entirely and assume the same position towards that organisation as does any other free country in the rest of the world. That is why the position of UKIP is the only one capable of saving our nation and democracy. Cameron's pretend negotiations must be exposed and rejected as the travesty they are and every effort made to persuade the electorate to vote to leave the EU.

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A RENAISSANCE IN LEFT-OF-CENTRE EUROSCEPTICISM?

BY JOHN PETLEY

It was the appearance of an article by Owen Jones in the Guardian on 14th July which could be regarded as the seminal moment. You don't expect to see any criticism of the great European project in a newspaper boasting columnists like Polly Toynbee and Rafael Behr. Nevertheless, there it was in black and white: a left-of centre critique of the EU entitled "The left must put Britain's EU withdrawal on the agenda." Jones claimed that as a result of the humiliation of Greece's Alexis Tsipras "Britain's left is turning against the European Union, and fast." He and others were appalled that a democratically elected radical leftist government was being forced to renege on its manifesto and implement a savage austerity programme at the behest of the EU.

He went on to mention other prominent figures on the left who are now turning against the EU:- "Everything good about the EU is in retreat; everything bad is on the rampage," writes George Monbiot, explaining his about-turn. "All my life I've been pro-Europe," says Caitlin Moran, "but seeing

how Germany is treating Greece, I am finding it increasingly distasteful." Nick Cohen believes the EU is being portrayed "with some truth, as a cruel, fanatical and stupid institution". "How can the left support what is being done?" asks Suzanne Moore. "The European 'Union'. Not in my name." He then went on to claim that there are senior Labour figures in Westminster and Holyrood privately moving to an "out" position too.

Of course, opposition to the EU on the left has never died out. The late Tony Benn was a consistent Eurosceptic, as was Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby until this year's General Election. Bob Crow, the former leader of the RMT union and a self-confessed "communist/socialist" formed a party called No to EU - Yes to Democracy which campaigned on a withdrawalist ticket in the 2010 European Parliamentary elections.

In recent years, however, many of the most prominent withdrawalists have come from the centre right of politics - Dan Hannan, Nigel Farage and the Bruges Group for example. This was not always the case. In the 1970s, even the Thatcherite Freedom Association was moderately supportive of British membership. The most prominent and consistent Conservative opponent of the European Project, Enoch Powell, resigned from the party in 1974 and from the mid-1970s until Mrs Thatcher's celebrated Bruges speech in 1988, the Labour Party was far more Eurosceptic than the Tories.

Indeed, in 1983, it fought a general election on a manifesto pledging to withdraw Britain from the Common Market. The Labour candidate

for Sedgefield in Durham, a certain Anthony Blair, promised in his election address that "We'll negotiate for a withdrawal from the EEC, which has drained our natural resources and destroyed jobs." How things have changed!

It was Jacques Delors' "Social Europe" which swung the Labour Party and the trade union movement in favour of the European project. Twenty years later, however, the perception on the left is that the EU is now in hock to big business and cares little for the workers. In other words, Delors' Social Europe is dead. The Labour Party's official position - at least before the Corbyn era - of campaigning to stay in the EU come what may therefore makes little sense to people who believe that any government in a member state elected on a left wing ticket will be prevented from implementing its mandate.

Everything good about the EU is in retreat; everything bad is on the rampage,"

It would be wrong to suggest that all left-of-centre eurosceptics are hard line Marxists. Kate Hoey, one of the most consistent eurosceptic Labour MPs in

recent years, is anything but. Nor is the Labour donor John Mills, who heads up the Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign. Nonetheless, whatever the personal views of Labour's new leader, you are more likely to find withdrawalists among his enthusiastic band of supporters than in the ranks of the so-called "moderate" wing of the Labour Party.

What this means for the forthcoming referendum is hard to predict at this stage. Can there be any common ground between withdrawalist socialists and free marketeers? One group wants greater worker protection, the other seeks to cut regulation. Neither do concerns about immigration figure anything like as prominently among left-of-centre withdrawalists as among those on the right. One suggestion I have heard is the idea of mounting separate withdrawal campaigns - one to address the concerns of business, the other given a more left-wing slant to appeal to Labour voters. This approach has the obvious problem of potentially sending out contradictory messages. The existence of both left- and right-of centre opposition to the EU will, however, make the point that a desire to reclaim our sovereignty is perfectly natural and not confined to a minority on one end of the political spectrum.

Furthermore, there are some common concerns which can unite the vast majority of supporters of independence. First and foremost is the reaction against managerial politics - those professional politicians who are all style and no substance, who have never done anything else in their

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A renaissance in left-of-centre Euroscepticism continued:

life but think they know best. As such people can be found on both sides of the political spectrum, those of a more libertarian persuasion have common ground with Corbyn's supporters here. The ultimate British hate figure for both these groups is Tony Blair, but across the Channel, they will find that the EU is stuffed full of people like this. The current President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, epitomises the smug know-it-all tendency;- "If it's a Yes we will say 'on we go', and if it's a No we will say 'we continue'", he famously said.

In addition, eurosceptics of all hues intensely dislike the power exerted in Brussels by big business through the lobbying industry. Of course, it would be foolish to deny the existence of powerful interest groups in our domestic political scene, but in this country we are blessed with able thinkers prepared to address the challenge of how to return power back to the people, such as the Harrogate Agenda (<http://harrogateagenda.org.uk/>) Any idea of bringing in similar accountability to the EU would be a pipe dream. It is by its very nature a top-down project, pushing on with its agenda in utter disregard of the concerns of the voters in the member states.

So in conclusion, even those of us who would not identify ourselves with the political left should welcome this development. Uniting left and right against the EU is just one of many challenges faces by the future "leave" campaign. John Mills, a veteran of the 1975 referendum, said that in the end, the different factions supporting withdrawal actually managed to get on pretty well with each other by the end. It will greatly enhance our prospects if we are able to put aside our differences over domestic policy issues and unite around a viable exit strategy to reclaim our sovereignty. Indeed, only once we have done this, we can have a real debate about what sort of country we want. At the moment, EU control renders many of the left/right disagreements pretty meaningless.

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How the EU was created by global corporatism for global corporatism by David Barnby, £9.99. The real and startling story of Britain's entry into the Common Market in the early 1970s, including evidence about the way Edward Heath treated parliament and the public.

The Trouble with Europe Why the EU isn't working How it can be reformed What could take its place by Roger Bootle, £18.99. A well balanced and comprehensive account of the EU and the issues now facing it. It is written especially for all those people across Europe who, looking for material to help them come to a view, find only the ravings of extremists on both sides of the debate, wads of incomprehensible statistics or oodles of impenetrable euro-speak.

The Democratic Imperative by Robert Corfe, £12.99. The evolution of democracy as a system of government and way of life, and the problems to which the former gives rise to is broadly discussed by the author. He also argues that the left/right divide is now destroying the country and that democracy as an all-inclusive system of government is only workable within the nation state. This partly explains the crisis of the EU, and the shortcomings of the UN.

Top 10 Reasons to Leave the EU by John Petley, £9.99. This short and easy-to-read book sets out the main issues clearly and succinctly, spelling out the benefits of regaining our independence.

Brexit - The plan to leave the European Union by 2020 by Daniel C. Pycok, £5.00. IEA Brexit Prize - One of Six finalists.

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