



The Euro Realist Bulletin

An occasional bulleting

campaigning for an EU free Britain &

Parliamentary sovereignty

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MAY GOES FOR JUNE

Despite saying she would not call an early election, the Prime Minister, Theresa May, has called a general election for the 8th June. Apparently, this is not a U-turn but a change of mind done in order to ensure she gets Brexit pushed through.

This decision has certainly caught her political opponents off-guard, despite speculation since Christmas that she may call the general election before the agreed fixed term, which means the next election was not to be held until 2020.

There are several reasons for her to go early, one is the fact that under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn the Labour Party is falling apart, her lead in the polls is substantial. The Liberal Democrats under Tim Farron are floundering, few are taking notice of their pro-EU bleatings, and, sadly, UKIP have not had a good year so far with leadership changes and biased press.

Another good reason for her to go early is due to the number of Tory MPs facing prosecution over their alleged fiddling of their 2015 election expenses. This solves the double problems of the Conservative Party having to be mired in these court cases and a whole raft of by-elections after. This way she is shot of those embarrassing MPs and there will be no troublesome and distracting by-elections.

Although Mrs May was a campaigner for the anti-British 'Remain' side in the 2016 referendum, she has since come across as a strong advocate for Brexit since taking the Tory leadership. However, among many true Brexit supporters they are not sure of Mrs May's sincerity regarding leaving the EU.

The next few weeks are due to be full of surprises, at the end of it all the EU referendum must be respected.

The Campaign for an Independent Britain will be holding its annual rally on Saturday 29th April from 2-5PM in the Princess Alexandra Hall

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BREXIT AND THE NEED FOR A REAL OPPOSITION

BY JOHN PETLEY

Fear not! I'm not about to sing the praises of Tony Blair, Richard Branson or any other stubborn remainiac, but rather to discuss one of the fundamental principles of Parliamentary democracy – the need for an effective opposition to call the government to account. This will be essential in the forthcoming Brexit negotiations.

At the moment in the House of Commons, we have a Labour Party in disarray, a raucous SNP whose popularity is falling rapidly among its own countrymen, a thankfully irrelevant handful of Lib Dems and as from late March, not a single MP from UKIP - the party formed specifically to campaign for withdrawal from the European Union. The net result is that the Government has a virtual *carte blanche* when it comes to the complex Brexit negotiations which are about to begin. There are few effective, critical voices within the lower chamber to highlight any shortcomings in Government strategy and to ensure we end up with the best possible post-Brexit deal. This is a cause for concern given that some pronouncements about our future relationship with the EU are distinctly worrying.

On two issues in particular, the Government seems set to deliver a very unsatisfactory Brexit deal unless pressure is applied. The first is our relation to the EU's criminal justice system. When the Lisbon Treaty was signed, the UK secured an opt-out of the Criminal Justice measures, but Mrs May, as Home Secretary, led the opt-back-in to over 30 of the most worrying, including participation in the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) scheme.

Mrs May has insisted that "Brexit means Brexit". If she is serious about this, EU authorities must no longer be allowed to arrest and deport people from Britain at their whim – i.e., without showing any substantive evidence. The EAW legislation specifically states that the authority issuing an EAW should not provide any indication of evidence of a *prima facie* case and the country receiving a EAW is not allowed to ask for any evidence but has to trust the requesting country blindly. Past experience shows that we cannot do this as their systems of criminal justice are totally different from our own. They allow a suspect to be arrested and kept in prison for many months 'pending investigation', with no right to a public hearing nor obligation on the prosecution to exhibit any evidence during this time.

On March 15th, a number of us attended a meeting in Westminster at which Torquil Dick-Erikson reminded us that while criminal law may seem an



Torquil Dick-Erikson: criminal law very important

esoteric issue, given how few of us are likely to find ourselves being charged with an offence, it is actually very important. *"Criminal law is the basis of State power, and seizing control of the criminal law is essential if one is to take over an existing State, or to build a new State, as the EU seeks to do. Why? Because the essential distinguishing feature of any State is the ability to use violent coercion on the bodies of the citizens – legally... It is therefore in the criminal laws that the safeguards of our freedom to be found."*

These freedoms will be compromised if, with the support of many Chief police officers and the UK-born head of Europol, Rob Wainwright, we remain linked to the EU's justice system via the EAW. Torquil pointed out that well before the EAW, there were mechanisms available to deal with international extradition requests which were perfectly satisfactory. There are already plenty of horror stories concerning UK citizens who suffered appalling treatment in continental jails due to EAWs being issued for crimes they did not commit. Brexit must mean an end to this travesty of justice – in fact, we should seek to terminate our involvement with the EAW now rather than wait for Brexit.

The second area of concern is military cooperation. The development of an EU army has been a longstanding desire among a number of member states, particularly France and Germany. To their credit, successive British governments have thus far sought to resist this development, stressing instead the importance of the Transatlantic alliance. Since the Brexit vote, the EU has established its own military HQ and is pressing ahead with plans for a European defence action plan. While supporters of EU military integration are no doubt pleased that the foot-dragging Brits are heading for the exit door, the picture is not that simple.

Since last June's vote, Michael Fallon, the erstwhile Remain supporter who kept his post as defence secretary in Mrs May's purge, has been playing a dangerous double game. We are still members of the EU and therefore not yet independent, but in signing the UK up to the EU's latest integrationist moves, he is doing a lot more than showing that we won't be obstructive. He is making it a lot harder for us to extricate ourselves totally from military involvement with the EU on withdrawal. The Veterans For Britain organisation has highlighted the risks:- *"The UK's agreement is not merely permission*

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Brexit & need for opposition continued:

for the rest of the EU to proceed, it is permission for the UK to be involved. EU Council staff state that the UK approved as a full member, there are no exemptions or caveats and the UK has 'full rights and responsibilities' as a signatory. The UK now will be in a weaker state to resist the EU's 'rapidly-moving' Defence Union projects while it is still a member and will be obliged to cooperate. Veterans for Britain is concerned that two further years of defence integration will make extrication more difficult and lengthy after the UK leaves."

This is a big worry. Our foreign policy objectives will naturally diverge from that of the EU when we become independent. We have no strategic interest in the EU's empire building in the Balkans and the former Soviet republics nor do we want to be involved in any attempt to build up an EU military machine which might seek to rival that of the USA and thus weaken the North Atlantic alliance. Mr Putin will pose no threat to us if we deal graciously and politely with him – something that Brussels refuses to do.

Seeking to change Government policy on any aspect of Brexit may seem a tall order for ordinary activist groups, but given there is little effective opposition in Parliament, we have no choice. Thankfully, there is already some encouragement in another critical area – fishing. Initially, Mrs May's Great Repeal bill which was to have incorporated the EU *acquis* onto the UK statute books lock, stock and barrel, including the Common Fisheries Policy's Regulation 1380/2013. This would have committed us to sharing our waters with EU vessels after Brexit, along with the iniquitous quota system, which results in thousands of tons of perfectly saleable fish being discarded surreptitiously at sea.

John Ashworth, a long-standing fisheries campaigner, has recently noticed a shift in the government's position – not least thanks to his own tremendous efforts and the widespread coverage given to the fisheries issue, not least by organisations like the Campaign for an Independent Britain. It is incredible how many MPs are now aware of the excellent Faroese fisheries management, based on days at sea rather than quotas. Likewise, how many of us knew about the 1964 London Convention, by which fishing rights were given to a number of European countries? Thanks to a letter-writing campaign, plenty of MPs are now aware that it needs to be repealed if we are ever to gain total control of our fisheries.

One thing I have learnt as a result of campaigning during the referendum is that many MPs are not the founts of all knowledge which I had

hitherto believed them to be. It is easy to read about the EAW and the plans for an EU army and come to the conclusion that Brexit is being deliberately subverted by Parliament. The truth is that Brexit is a huge issue with which the Government is still getting to grips. Some MPs have closed minds on these issues and others do not wish to rock the boat, particularly if they

are seeing a ministerial career. For many others, however, lobbying and letter-writing campaigns from people in possession of the facts can influence their thinking. This may

sound incredible, but at the moment, a surprising number of them may not be aware either of the horror stories cause by the EAW or the EU's military ambitions at the moment. They need to be informed and if you can gain access to their research assistants, you will often find them very open-minded as long as you can present a well-argued case. This can lead to MPs asking questions in Parliament and holding the government to account.

But it's up to us to be the real opposition. We need to be polite and to avoid conspiracy theory claptrap, but we need to be active writing letters and lobbying our MPs. The campaigning is not over. We cannot afford to put our feet up and allow a half-baked Brexit in various key areas to occur simply by default. Brexit could be a fantastic opportunity to re-boot our entire country, but it can only be so if we stay involved.

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THE EYORES OF THE BBC

BY COLIN BULLEN

Despite the vote for Brexit, the BBC output remains massively opposed to withdrawal from the EU. It is required by law to be impartial, but it is not. I make no apology for returning to this scandal, particularly as, on the 20th March, it was highlighted by a group of seventy two MPs accusing it of being pessimistic and skewed in its coverage of Brexit, saying that it is unfairly representing leave voters by focusing on those who regret their decision. They pointed out that the BBC's inability to accept that *Project Fear* had been wrong and its failure to accept new facts was distorting its reporting. Good economic news was played down and any doubts were magnified. They stated that this bias can have a substantial effect on the national debate, and its coverage also shapes international perception of the UK, saying "We fear that, by misrepresenting our country either as xenophobic, or regretful of the Leave vote, the BBC will undermine our efforts to carve out a new, global role for this country." Unsurprisingly the BBC rejected the contents of the letter claiming, in the face of what everyone can see, that they regarded impartiality as their cornerstone.

In addition a report into the BBC's coverage has found the public broadcaster has been overwhelmingly negative about Britain's EU divorce. The research regarding BBC's Radio 4 *Today* programme found that of the 366 guest speakers who appeared in the Business News segment between June 24 and December 22 last year, 192 of them (52.2 per cent) were negative about it. According to the research only 60 (16.3 per cent) expressed opinions which were pro-Brexit, or saw the post-referendum economic outlook as positive. This research, which found there were three times more anti-Brexit speakers than pro-Brexit ones in the prestigious slots, is evidence the BBC had broke its charter requirement to be impartial.

Labour MP Kate Hoey said: "This report is further evidence that the BBC has not accepted the verdict of the British people to leave the EU. Their continuous negative coverage and their downgrading of positive stories with the



Colin Bullen: concerns about BBC bias.

phrase 'despite Brexit' must stop. It is clear that many of the BBC journalists have not been able to hide their personal bias in favour of staying in the EU. The public has the right to expect genuine impartiality and fair reporting." Peter Bone, the Conservative MP for Wellingborough says "the main problem is the broadcasters . . . There is a real problem with the BBC, everyone accepts Channel 4 is wholly biased in favour of the EU, and of course most of the people who work in the industry are actually Remainers. I think the BBC is institutionally biased - it is so

much part of the establishment, the idea we were going to come out of the European Union was absurd to it. Now the decision has been taken, BBC reporters are saying, 'Why hasn't the economy collapsed? Why is unemployment at a record low?'. They don't understand those things - even 'Countryfile' had a pro-EU story a few days ago. And when you ask them are they biased - you can produce reports showing it - they say no they are not, because they are institutionally biased."

None of this comes a surprise to those of us who have endured the smug, complacent and contemptibly biased attitude displayed by the BBC for decades, not only on the issue of the EU, but on many other matters, always on the side of the left liberal establishment. However, for those old enough to remember, and for those of us who have a knowledge of social history, stretching back before the Internet became King, this is a tragedy, both for the country, and for its democracy. The BBC's finest hour undoubtedly came within fifteen years of its founding, when it, along with Churchill, was the voice of the nation during the darkest days of the Second World War. When it wasn't rejecting German overtures, before even the government has a chance to do so, it was boosting the morale of the people with its output of comedy and light entertainment. For the forces there were such programmes as *Garrison Theatre*, *Hi Gang* and *Forces Favourites*. The morale of workers in the factories was raised by *Workers' Playtime* and the general listener was entertained by *Band Wagon* in the early years, *Much Binding in the*

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The eeyores of the BBC continued:

Marsh towards the end of the war, and of course *ITMA* and *Sincerely Yours* with Vera Lynn. For those who preferred a more cerebral programme there was *The Brains Trust*, in which serious people discussed serious matters. Above all the BBC raised the spirits of the people and never gave any support to those who doubted the final victory.

As a thought experiment one can imagine just how the modern BBC would have acted, if the government of the time would have permitted it. Despite not being subject to commercial pressures, due to the existence of the licence fee, the BBC now behaves as if it must publicise itself at all times. Rather than John Snagge announcing on the morning of 6th June 1944 "D-Day has come" the public would have been treated to something on the lines of "The BBC (or even "This programme") has learnt that D-Day has come". The terrible results of the Blitz and the death struggle in which we were involved was not glossed over, but these days the BBC reporters would, rather than uttering defiance, be doing their best to blame the British for not compromising with Hitler, while one dreads to think of the negative reporting, liberally laced with defeatist sentiment, which would have greeted every clash with the enemy. Unquestionably these people would have declared for surrender after Dunkirk. They could have lost us the war by their lack of patriotism and belief in victory.

Returning to the present the negative attitude of the BBC went into overdrive as Article 50 was triggered. Interviews with politicians were slanted, playing up every possible problem, while questioning the motives of Brexiteers. Reporters interviewed each other and felt free to spread doom and despondency, rather than offering any hope for the future. Decrepit old Europhiles were wheeled out to spout their usual nonsense to an admiring interviewer and the few pro Brexit speakers were subjected to the normal aggression and contempt. Supposedly balanced panels proved anything but, as some so called Leave supporters were equivocal, while the Remainers were as fanatical as usual. The BBC thinks that if it

interviews ten people, finds eight Leavers and two Remainers, that to broadcast two from each side is unbiased, thus distorting the real balance. The opinion pieces one finds on the BBC website are uniformly gloomy and, while one company questioning Brexit will be given vast amounts of space, good news and support from others will be relegated to a minor item. *Question Time* is a joke, the vast majority of the panellists taking the Europhile position, while the audience is regularly packed with Remainers, baying at every pro Brexit statement, should anyone dare utter such. Radio 4's *Broadcasting House* sneers at anyone who disagrees with the Europhiles, and most of the so called celebrities who review the papers can be relied upon to take the same attitude. In

addition their supposedly amusing pieces frequently deride those who advocate Brexit.

I see no reason to change the conclusion that I reached last time. The fact that we are informed that the BBC places advertisements for staff only in newspapers such as the *Guardian* and the *Independent* goes a long way to explaining why it takes the positions it does, but it is clear that, should we ever succeed in electing a Eurorealist government, a house cleaning of this organisation must be among its most important priorities. It has been undermining this country for far too long.

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SHOOT THE TRAITOR!

At the end of that classic mid 1960's film, 'The Ipcress File', Michael Caine who plays the part of the anti-hero spy, Harry Palmer, after being brainwashed to obey a command, faces a massive choice. Holding the gun aimed at two of his superiors, one of them says to him: "Listen to me, listen to me. Shoot the traitor". After wavering the gun between the two men, Caine shoots the man who gave him the instruction – he shot the real traitor much to the traitor's surprise.

There is something quite symbolic about this scene, which was filmed a few years before the UK joined the then Common Market, not only were the people of the UK brainwashed to believe the EU was a wonderful thing, they were told by the pro-EU brainwashers to vote in favour of remaining, but like Harry Palmer they had failed to be brainwashed and made the right choice by voting to Leave - they shot the traitors electorally.

Just like the anti-hero he played in that timeless film, Michael Caine failed to do as his brainwashed Liberal luvvie pals in the world of the arts and film, he too voted the right way by voting 'Leave', much to the horror and surprise of his theatrical counterparts – it was like real life imitating the character he played over 50 years ago.

Michael Caine's reason for voting 'leave' was partly due to the arrogance of the EU President, Jean Claude Juncker, he said he would rather be a "poor master" than a "rich servant". However, when Brexit is finalised and the UK is free and sovereign again, in fact as masters of our own destiny, we will become a rich free trading nation while the rest of the EU becomes increasingly poorer bogged down by bureaucracy and incompetence.



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