

# Resistance

## THE COMING BACKLASH...?



TELL MANDELSON WHERE TO STICK IT  
VOTE NO TO LISBON

The Irish 'No' vote is reported to be trailing by 8%, but is creeping up faster than the 'Yes' vote – could there be a shock on 12 June?

- ✚ June is 'shock month' in Europe – the Danes (1992), Dutch (2005) and Irish (2001) all voted No to the EU.
- ✚ The low turnout that gave a No to the Treaty of Nice could be repeated.
- ✚ Former EU Commissioner Peter Sutherland recently admitted public "treaty fatigue" after noting rehashed calls to sort out EU administration. Irish Commissioner McCreevy admitted that the Lisbon treaty was hard to sell because it did not bring people tangible benefits.

### USUAL EMOTIONAL BLACKMAIL

- ✚ The usual scare tactics happened - calling for a 'Yes' or 'letting down Europe'. As in Holland, the Yes campaigners were criticised for their images of Nazi gas chambers as a reason to vote 'Yes'.
- ✚ A leaked email let slip that the EU Commission's Margot Wallström, had promised to "tone down or delay unhelpful messages ", and that Rep. Ireland had decided to hold the vote before July and France's EU Presidency, to avoid "the risk of unhelpful developments", noting that President Sarkozy was "completely unpredictable".
- ✚ France will push for harmonising tax, threatening Ireland's competitive business tax rate. Commission President Barroso said Ireland would continue to have a tax veto, but treaty opponents Libertas point to how Lisbon would have a loophole over taxes seen to 'distort competition'.

- ✚ Decisions on EU budget reform have been delayed. Having been an aid recipient for years, Rep. Ireland is now becoming a net contributor.
  - ✚ The political establishment is pro-Lisbon, but the public smells a rat when the main parties all pull together. Also, the recent Irish PM ("Taoiseach") had to resign after a financial scandal.
  - ✚ Farmers particularly mistrust 'Lord Snooty' - Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson - over World Trade Organisation talks. In April, 10,000 angry Irish farmers protested in Dublin against beef and dairy concessions being made.
- Irish Farmers' Association President Padraig Walshe claimed Mandelson, was angling for a deal that would bring rural Ireland to its knees; at a stroke, it would wipe out 50,000 farmers and cost the economy €4bn (c.£3Bn).



The 'No' side warns of EU 'fat cats'

- ✚ Some big businessmen have come out for a 'No'. Despite the Small Firms Association's support, 75% of small business is reported to be 'anti'.
- ✚ At the time of writing, ballots in two of the biggest unions are set to say 'No', given the threat of privatisation of services, and the perceived corporatist bias of the European Court.
- ✚ Other linked issues that fire voters include workers' rights, fair trade, post offices, immigration control, abortion and Ireland's voting weight. As the EU has, in fact, made decisions quicker in recent years, touted 'efficiency changes' are seen as a red herring.



Anti-militarist groups see Lisbon as a creeping threat to Irish neutrality

Sources: Irish Independent, Irish Times, Irish Examiner, Evening Echo (Cork), Robert Schuman Foundation, Libertas, Voteno.ie, Observer (GB), EUObserver. The Sunday Business Post says that the vote is 'too close to call' (25.5.08)

BACKLASHED – Ken Livingstone, ex-Mayor, London in Europe's activist for the Euro, the European Constitution, etc.



- ✚ As a Telegraph journalist in 1997, Boris Johnson was so 'eurosceptic' that he felt that Sir James Goldsmith was a 'federalist'. Now London's Mayor, he says he will shut down the GLA Brussels 'embassy'.
- ✚ Labour's recent election drubbings were seen less as endorsement of David Cameron and more as a vote against PM Gordon Brown, and in particular the Budget with the '10p' tax rate fiasco and swingeing car taxes.
- ✚ Yet weeks before, despite the developing 'black hole' in finances, Labour whipped through a £7Bn rise in our EU contributions (2007-2013).
- ✚ Eagle-eyed commentators who read the Budget Report small print would have seen it was "a budget for Europe" – it set out the Government's tax and spend plans - "After approval for purposes of Section 5 of the European Communities (Amendment) Act 1993, these reports will form the basis of submission to the European Commission...".
- ✚ The media reported that the Government was going to ask the EU for permission to take even more punitive eco-measures.



- ✚ CASH COW? The Budget included funds for developing road pricing in spite of deep public opposition. In the Gtr. Manchester 'pilot' area, Roger Jones, the main councillor promoting it, lost his seat in a voter backlash.
- ✚ We discovered that there is an EU project, Curacao, set up to overcome public resistance. It recommends using psychological techniques, setting expectations of an 'experiment' that is intended to be permanent, low charges that then rapidly get raised. Referendums are to be avoided.
- ✚ The project's UK 'Core Cities' are Bristol (EU road-pricing triallist since 1996) and Edinburgh. Other interested localities include Belfast, Cambs, Cardiff, Derbys, Durham, Leics, London, Manchester, Tyne and Wear, Notts, Plymouth and Shropshire.



## The Battle for Britain

✚ Our interest in the Irish poll isn't just academic. Businessman Stuart Wheeler has obtained permission to submit the British Government's failure to keep its referendum promise to Judicial Review.

There should be a High Court hearing on 9/10 June – just before the Irish vote. If he's successful, we could have to fight our own battle, with whatever odds Brown wants to stack against us.

✚ One anti-EU activist with a legal background had dismissed Wheeler's chances, based on legal precedent. However, the judge found for Wheeler on 'legitimate expectation' grounds.

✚ The last issue of *Resistance* was well-received, although one reader criticised it for concentrating on the referendum issue. The battle is – and has **always** been – and **always** will be – to re-establish our independence through leaving the EU – see our comprehensive website.

The referendum issue is a very good means of **getting on board** a public that varies widely in other attitudes.

Whatever happens in the High Court or in Ireland, that battle will enter a new chapter in June.

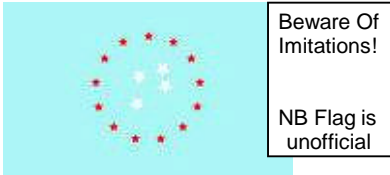
We have published for 14 years, in an age marked by public awakening, a sea of campaign groups and think tanks – some publishing, others more PR stunt or election-minded.

The last decade has been marked, not just by the growth of the Internet as a preferred medium, but by other trends such as increasing rejection of door to door leaflets as 'junk mail'.

Our side has won a *spiritual* battle – belief in European integration is collapsing, even on the continent. Few outside the political establishment will defend the EU at home, and polls show more feel that it has harmed rather than benefited us.

Even the 'establishment' SNP reject EU fisheries policy; Tory policy is (also contradictorily) to reject employment policy. Much of the public has turned a blind eye to EU metrication diktats.

New Labour – standard bearer for EU policies – is now widely despised.



✚ Just as Europe is rejecting the EU, 12 S.American leaders have agreed to form 'Unasur' – political and economic integration based on the EU!

✚ Pundits were surprised, given the same leaders' "growing mistrust and ideological divisions". Bloomberg News noted that the bloc, "for now at least, is likely to exist only on paper".

✚ Worse still, Colombia recently invaded Ecuadorian soil. The bloc is split over US relations, and 17 years of trying for a limited 'common market' showed slow progress.

✚ Raúl Zibechi, of the IRC Americas Program ([www.americaspolicy.org](http://www.americaspolicy.org)), sees it becoming multi-national- and Brazilian-dominated, doing irreversible social and environmental damage through construction projects, and weakening nation states' ability to deal with the resulting problems. He points a finger at IIRSA, [www.iirsa.org](http://www.iirsa.org), an institute pushing for integration.



✚ 'Road pricing working for Europe' - it's an EU-preferred means of funding the Galileo satellite. In Feb 2007, the government confirmed that other car taxes will not be reduced. Councils will also be banned from giving discounts to people such as nurses and shift workers who need their cars when there is little public transport.



✚ Brown is enabling unelected Integrated Transport Authorities who can impose local road pricing, and Joint Waste Authorities who can set pay-as-you-throw rubbish taxes.



➡ We feel that the way forward must be to target and convert opinion formers and key decision-makers – (e.g. media). How do **you** feel that the anti-EU side should best organise?

✚ In *Eurofacts*, Dr Denis Cooper noted of the Green Party: 'some of them are weird people with weird beliefs'.

✚ In 1994, Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) was anti-EU; however it was then conned into accepting the concept of a supra-national environmental EU, under the eye of an integrationist EU Court.

✚ It remains a broad church of views, though, and is still anti-Euro.

✚ Like Irish Green MPs, it would accept 'an EU Constitution', but which is alterable by an EU-wide vote.

✚ 'Democratically-controlled' (i.e. a national veto) does not apply in areas where it wants majority voting.



✚ In 2005, Caroline Lucas MEP asked the EU to make 'environment' "the next big idea". (Actually, the Maastricht Treaty did this in 1993).

✚ It wants to revamp the EU as a 'Confederation of the Regions' – including trans-national regions.

✚ Hard to see how its virtually unregulated immigration policy is compatible with 'sustainability' – cf. planned developments, such as in the 'East of England' region.

✚ It welcomes 'EU citizenship'.

✚ Many are far from convinced by the EU/UN stance on environment – e.g. Roger Helmer, Freedom Association, UKIP, Rodney Atkinson... Booker and North debunk 'climate change' and wind turbines. EU power generation policy could cost £3,000 per family and lead to electricity blackouts (2015)

The EU biofuels obsession is pushing food prices up. Unfortunately adding 'greener fuel' to diesel can often let bacteria in pumps form oily clots that jam engines, leading to big repair bills. Bad news is that the EU wants the compulsory level of 'Renewable Fuel' to double by 2010 (Auto Express).

✚ DEFRA has quietly shelved plans to bring in annual personal carbon allowances (read: quotas, rationing), saying that the idea was 'ahead of its time' (Independent, 10.5.08).

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References: We've run out of space, but please email us if any are needed.