

# Resistance

## 'ANOTHER PIECE OF EUROPE...'



One of the last acts of the disgraced Home Secretary Blunkett was to reveal plans for compulsory 'national' ID cards. We should be more concerned about fast-tracking the 'nanny Eurostate' than the nanny, though!

December's debate will intensify in the New Year as the government tries to progress the 'Identity Cards Bill'.

*Resistance* has warned of the threat of creeping ID cards since 2000 - well before the '9/11' disaster. Research group Statewatch noted early on that the 'smart cards' are in fact key to an all-pervasive surveillance system.

### HELP RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS

The case against is summarised on our punchy leaflets - if you don't have better, please ask for a supply to give out. (For contact details: see the panel overleaf).

### THE HIDDEN AGENDA

New Labour wants the EU to control<sup>1</sup> our 'justice and home affairs' (which includes ID cards) - read the 'Hague Programme' and the EU Constitution.

The '*E-Europe*' blueprint agreed in 2000 talked of 'smart' (microchipped) cards being used to access public services. Every use would be tracked. Blunkett ridiculed a story suggesting that ID cards could allow how we all shopped to be tracked.<sup>2</sup>

However the Home Office makes it clear that requiring an ID card to get (some) commercial services had been considered. It would only be possible to check the card if the reader was connected up to the 'National Identity Register' - which would track use!<sup>3</sup>

Even though individuals are to be charged for having an ID card, the card will remain the property of the issuer - noticeably, the Bill does not say this will be the 'British government' or any other accountable public body.<sup>4</sup> You will not 'own' your identity, and will have to surrender a card on demand.

Interestingly, on a recent photo-call with a giant 'sample' ID card, Blunkett was joined by 'citizenship minister' Des Browne<sup>5</sup>. In the EU context, 'citizenship' involves the key concepts of *identity* and *mobility*.

As many as four cards could be used for different 'entitlements':

- ♦ a national ID card, valid also as a passport for travel within the EU
- ♦ a driving licence,
- ♦ a 'biometric' passport (wider travel)
- ♦ a card to replace the E111 form for getting healthcare abroad.

In the long term, a single card could cover them all - creating a lot of dependence, and problems if it either didn't work, or someone programmed it not to!

Although the EU Constitution talks of 'fundamental rights' of 'citizens', it also gives the EU the power to take away those rights "*in the general interest*".<sup>6</sup>

The EU has been quick to remove the 'rights' of whistle-blowers like Marta Andreasen, who exposed corruption; and made it clear that only political parties backing European integration have the 'right' to its central funding.



'no2ID' protesters win national publicity on 17 Nov by burning mock ID cards outside a 'Blunkett' conference

### ID CARD = EU ID CARD?

The foundations are already in place - the current UK driving licence has the 'EU flag' and the front of a passport the words 'European Union'.

Whatever the purpose of the card, the intention is clear, as the Home Office confirms that "*The European standard to which the driving licence / identity card would need to conform does not allow for national symbols, only the European 'Circle of Stars'*".<sup>7</sup>

EU health commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou remarked in 2003: "*After the euro... the European health card is another piece of Europe in your pocket*".<sup>8</sup> Its purpose - of promoting a European identity - was pushed as far back as 1985.<sup>9</sup>

A group of Tory activists sends Michael Howard a message, feeling his support for ID cards is a betrayal of principles. (1952 saw the 'wartime' cards abolished)



It is amusing to see the pro-EU Lib Dems opposing ID cards, while the Tories 'officially' back ID cards 'in principle' so not to be seen as 'soft on crime' (which can't say much for their other policies?). Both Labour & Tory parties have dissidents; the Tory party chaotically reserves the right to drop support after hearing the arguments!

Labour's hyped '80% public support' for ID cards is more likely a longing for action against terrorism and crime - a discredited rumour of an al-Qa'ida attack coincided with the Queen's Speech to jolt the public!<sup>10</sup> Support is very dependent on the cards being voluntary, there being no cost (wrong) and due protection of our privacy.<sup>11,12</sup>

### 'SUPPORT FOR CARDS' SHALLOW

As with the EU, 'support' dries up with greater knowledge, so the government might seek to rush the Bill through in 2005. Much will depend on whether the Peers decide to be independent or under the cosh of the 'party machine'.

A broad non-party coalition - no2ID - became constituted in September and has rapidly recruited 2,000 members and 25+ affiliates. These include the Freedom Association, New Alliance, the original Liberal Party (anti-EU) and UKIP, as well as specialist 'technical' and 'civil liberties' interest groups.

No2ID is highly active and setting up local groups. It produces PR materials like T-shirts, badges & car stickers; and publishes good research online - you don't need to be an expert or technically minded to follow it.

Individual membership - £15/year from Box no. 412, 78 Marylebone High St, London W1U 5AP.

Website: [www.no2ID.net](http://www.no2ID.net)

In a year when New Labour will be trying to sell us the EU Constitution - as well as to hold onto its 'control freak' majority? - anything that awakes the public to its hype and its stealthy EU agenda is to be welcomed.