

Resistance

2008: LAST YEAR OF FREEDOM? (Or perhaps everything to play for?)

Editorial: In September, *Resistance* took a break from publication, being temporarily replaced by campaign bulletins. We are writing again, not as an exercise in creative publishing – but because we need your help in producing some **action** to stop the EU power grab for 2009.

In his Christmas 'blog' column, Daniel Hannan MEP asked if anyone cared enough about their country to kick up a fuss about the proposed handover of sovereignty to the EU via the 'Reform Treaty' a.k.a. 'Treaty of Lisbon'.

21 January is just announced as the *provisional* date for the Commons Second Reading of the blandly named **European Union (Amendment) Bill**. MPs will vote and probably consign it to a Committee Stage, where it is discussed in detail.



Above: The new 'Con' Treaty wants to make you an 'EU Citizen' with direct obligations to an EU that decides your identity and 'rights'.

It might seem difficult to stop the Treaty, but it is not impossible. The Danish rebellion against Maastricht in 1992 gave others heart and sparked the last 15 years of 'Euro scepticism', in which the public turned against "the project" in a big way. Public and media pressure in 2003/4 made Blair concede a referendum, and France and the Netherlands follow suit, derailing the original Constitution.

The situation at home is **not** lost; Gordon Brown's authority is damaged, many Labour MPs are looking at shattered majorities, especially if the economy has the expected problems. Ian Davidson MP expects to be able to motivate backbench rebels into voting for the promised **referendum**; several Labour MPs previously voted against tuition fees as this was in their election manifesto.

The Conservatives will use the vote as another opportunity to embarrass the Government. The SNP-dominated Scottish Parliament has voted for a referendum.

The key card could be the LibDem MPs. Some, like Mike Hancock, will keep their General Election pledge. New leader Nick Clegg (rightmost) wants to fob us off with a vote on wider EU membership that will not be on offer, while helping the Treaty get through. His leadership rival Chris Huhne also backslid on his 2005 manifesto.



- Youth For a Free Europe gave out provocative leaflets satirising Clegg's earlier speech referring to Labour and the Tories as 'political cross-dressers'. His 'Con' Treaty referendum stance is neither 'liberal' nor 'democratic'.

✚ Clegg is vulnerable, as in his recent leadership manifesto, *My Vision For Britain*, promises to 'give power to people' and that "we will... not jettison the British freedoms that previous generations fought so hard to win and to protect".

✚ He also wrote an article entitled "We need an EU referendum" (*Guardian*, 15.10.03), admitting that the EU Constitution was no mere "tidying up exercise"....

He warned against: "...haughtily dismissing all calls for a referendum...Nothing will do more damage to the pro-European movement than giving room to the suspicion that we have something to hide, that we do not have the "cojones" [guts] to carry our argument to the people..."

The real reason, of course, why the government does not want to hold a referendum is the fear that it may lose".

A CALL TO ARMS – A LITTLE PUBLICITY CAN SOON PRODUCE A CHAIN REACTION!

- ✚ If you have a LibDem MP, or live in a target seat like St. Albans, please put pressure on your LD MP (or hopeful) through the media - and if possible, in person - to ensure the largest possible embarrassment over their leader's stance.
- ✚ If you have a 'typical' Labour MP, similarly encourage him/her to keep their manifesto promise. The Treaty opens up public services like health to privatisation, which will not go down well with traditionalist/trade union supporters.
- ✚ If you have a 'rebel' Labour MP, similarly encourage him/her to help their colleagues to keep their manifesto promise.
- ✚ If you have a Conservative / SNP / PC / independent MP, get them to speak out so that LibDem and Labour MPs are not let off the hook . (It is not necessary to have particular faith in them – the aim is to get a result).

The effect may be multiplied if you get a letter – in your own words – into national or other 'interest' journals. You can also write to journalists or broadcasters urging them to speak out – and at **any stage of the Bill**. Ask others to help, too....

✳ For reference, the 'Con' Treaty clause on 'economic service' privatisation is 188c. Clause 176e also enables the EU to pass laws on public health.

✳ Labour is also very vulnerable because by the time you read this, the EU is likely to have been voted an approx **63%** pay rise (from the old budget period to the current). The **European Communities (Finance) Bill** was (deliberately) timetabled with only 5 days' notice on 10 Jan, giving us little time to react.

✳ Apart from public services cuts, Labour is insisting that public sector workers like the police (in England) settle for pay awards of under **2%** to control inflation.

✳ Mr Bean Counter (Brown) said he would "like to pay... more" to nurses and police but that this was not possible at the moment. (BBC Online 6.1.08)



• Many people, particularly on the left, will be disgusted at the prospect of 'champagne socialist' Tony Blair becoming EU President. He has just been nominated by French President Nicolas Sarkozy. One possible reason for even Europhiles to oppose the Treaty?

✳ The immediate 'Con' Treaty battle may go on in the UK until about May-June. Even if Commons round is not successful, **how much interest the public shows** and **how hard we are prepared to fight for our country** may be instrumental in influencing the Lords, particularly as there's the manifesto commitments. Remember that the public in virtually every other EU country is also being denied a referendum. The exception (so far) being the Republic of Ireland.



✳ The Irish may have benefited financially from the EU, but they have recently been displaced in the grants queue by the newcomers. East European drink-drivers have caused problems on the roads. Euro-joining inflation has hit property prices, and they have lost both their currency and measurements.

✳ They may not welcome being denied future EU referendums, or continental politicians interfering in domestic decisions. And some with a conscience might be aware that they will be voting for all of the peoples of Europe. So long as the 'No' side is not seen to be imported, a shock might just be possible.

• As well as Anthony Coughlan's National Platform, watch out for publicity-winners, The Libertas Institute. www.libertas.org.



January is the month of the two-faced god.....

While EU leaders conspire to deny their publics a vote on their future, the Portuguese EU 'Presidency' welcomed Venezuelans 'expressing their will' in their referendum (2.12.07). Ironically the latter rejected centralising constitutional reform proposals!

In having a dig at militant 'PES' European Socialists, Tory 'ally' Wilfried Martens – federalist EPP President - said that his 'party' opposed any type of activity that undermined democracy in Europe, and that the PES party cannot ignore any longer 'the will of the people' after a Turkish election (29.8.07)



Democracy is 'indispensable' for the EU's legitimacy – p5, EU publication 'Furthering Human Rights and Democracy across the Globe', ISBN-92-894-6081-4.

✳ 'Dave's hyped 'Movement for EU Reform' was supposed to unite the Tories, Czech ODS and Bulgarian UDF parties for "a Europe of nation states". Martens praised ODS leader Topolanek for "full support" and reinforcing Angela Merkel's efforts to agree the new Treaty (23.6.07)

✳ The UDF have quit MER, as incompatible with their continuing membership of the federalist EPP party. Martens urged his allies to refrain from undermining the unity of "the centre-right in Europe" (14.9.07)

✳ Conservative Group for Europe is an official group of the Conservative Party promoting EU membership. Patrons include William Hague and... Lady Thatcher! CGE want us to believe: "Nowadays, many of the EPP's member parties and leading personalities would not consider themselves to be "federalist"..... They should read the EPP's constitution!"



www.cge.org.uk/20.html

✳ Interesting... in response to questions from Bob Spink MP, both Europe Minister Jim Murphy (8.1.08) and Foreign Secretary David Miliband (11.12.07) refused to give an assurance that the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) would never be allowed to operate in the UK, just that it was 'unlikely'. The EGF's own website does not rule this out, as it talks of its relevance to creating an "area of freedom security and justice" i.e. EU-wide law enforcement.

✳ With interest in the UK constitution, Magna Carta Soc. research is now online: www.newalliance.org.uk/magnacarta.htm



Where there's a will, there's a way. **No surrender....**

We have been trying to do our bit in 2007, writing with the key ammunition to opinion formers and campaigners (including in Clegg and Huhne's areas).

One initiative has been regularly logging comments and links on the websites of key national and regional papers. Apart from being widely read, these 'outlive' the paper copies and get picked up by internet searches.

We have also been lobbying 'bloggers' – commentators who use the internet – some of whom enjoy a wide readership.

REMEMBER – if the Treaty is ratified in the UK, the silver lining will be that it will spur a lot of people to 'think the unthinkable' – EU withdrawal.

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