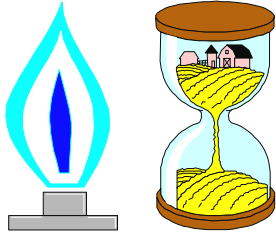


Resistance

DARK DAYS AHEAD IN EUROPE



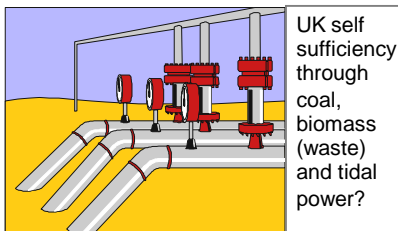
36% of UK electricity generated comes from gas, 37% from coal. We stand to lose 1/3 of our electricity generating capacity by 2015, and, on current trends, will need to import 80% of fuel by 2020 - UK Government, 2007.¹

✱ Our last issue's concern over UK electricity shortages was shared by head of National Grid, Steve Holliday. He said that we were on course to attract insufficient investment in new plant and would lack capacity to meet peak demand around 2015. He blamed the government.²

10% of the UK's power plants could be forced to close by 2013 - ahead of schedule, due to EU rules.³

✱ A reader asked if we could just import electricity from France. We already import 2% of our needs. However even if the current 'IFA' cross-channel link worked at full pelt, night and day, it would supply only about 4% of our annual consumption.⁴

Even so, that isn't guaranteed. In 2003, France considered electricity rationing after the summer heatwave threatened the safety of the country's 58 nuclear power reactors.⁵



✱ Brown and Sarkozy recently backed a plan for Sahara solar electricity. However, it would take many years (2050?) and be at great cost.⁶

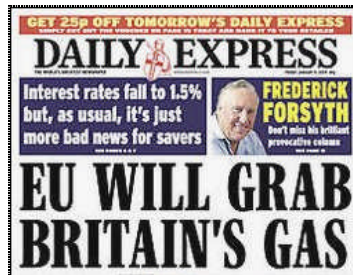
✱ EU Energy Commissioner Piebalgs' priority is for hyped CO2 reductions, with his '20:20:20' targets (by 2020, 20% of energy from renewables such as wind), Britain has committed to get 15% of its energy in this way.

✱ Researcher Luis de Sousa slated his '10% biofuels' target as "not an option" - the EU would need to reserve land the size of Germany!⁷

✱ John Constable, research director at the Renewable Energy Foundation, regretted that wind often provided very little firm, reliable generating capacity" - almost zero in cold weather at times of high demand.⁸ (Assume 'inland'?).

✱ The Russia-Ukraine dispute (rather regular!) proved a convenient excuse for the EU to advance its energy strategy' agreed in November.

It is seeking an "EU Energy Security and Solidarity Action Plan" (ESSAP), proposing further EU control over oil and gas stocks, infrastructure, energy efficiency and alternatives, crisis response (and foreign relations - which it already has by stealth).¹⁰



"Making the best use of the EU's indigenous energy resources." - sounds very much like grabbing Britain's North Sea oil and gas.

The current Treaty requires approval from any EU member for energy projects relating to its territory.¹¹

✱ In 2005 - before 'Lisbon' - the UK government signed up to 'a common EU energy policy'. It backs proposals to increase the powers of the EU regulators 'to the highest level'.¹

✱ Times correspondent Roger Boyes was very critical of the EU: "Years of talk about energy security have generated nothing but hot air... Brussels is in sympathy with Russia's Gazprom". He pointed out the way that Germany readily co-operates with the Gazprom gas company, highlighting how it actually helps to dilute the aim of 'energy security'.¹² (Remember how the old EEC kept prices high but helped Russia with cheap butter?)

✱ Russia may be after EU support for the planned Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany? There is opposition from neighbours like Poland and Sweden on military and ecological grounds.¹³

✱ Gazprom produces just enough gas to supply its own home market. It relies on cheap Asian imports to meet most of its other commitments to customers in Europe. It hasn't opened up a new field since 1991, and its fields are dwindling. Russia may be unable to service even its own gas needs by 2010. Prices may double.¹⁴



The need to comply with EU policy on CO2 reduction seems to be driving the UK's approach - making the views of former Environment Minister Michael Meacher of some interest:

"We are actually putting in place mechanisms which will ensure we do not reach even the modest targets, let alone the more stringent ones actually needed. The government has committed itself to trebling airport capacity in the UK by 2030 which, if it happens, will neutralise their entire carbon-cutting programme in every other sector".¹⁵ (So why the hype?)

✱ Ambitious Government plans for renewable energy, such as tide/wave power, are being delayed by official foot-dragging. (This policy shambles points to the UK being increasingly dependent on imports).¹⁶

London UKIP MEP Gerard Batten has a readable paper, 'Britain's Energy Crisis' (PDF) discussing ways out.

www.gerardbattenmep.co.uk.

✱ The EU (in its "Acting Now" plans for 2009) is considering "a tax on energy consumption".¹⁷

✱ Corus (aka British Steel) employs around 25,000 in the UK. It threatens to move operations to China unless rules on CO2 emissions/credits are overhauled. It would cost £200m to £300m to upgrade a 'one million ton' production plant.¹⁸

✱ Cheap energy days are over, says ex-Environment Agency boss Sir John Harman.¹⁹ The government has allowed consumer prices to stay high in spite of related oil price falls.



UK gas imports from Gazprom quadrupled to 16% in 2007.²⁰ Whose interests will the EU be securing?



The Battle for Britain

CAMPAIGN SUCCESSES

★ At present, individuals acquitted of a criminal charge in a Crown Court (England and Wales) are able to claim back out-of-pocket legal expenses. However the government has launched a consultation paper, CP28/08, *The Award of Costs from Central Funds in Criminal Cases*.

★ The proposals are detailed, but in a nutshell, it wants to cut costs by restricting this safeguard. This 'tax on innocence' is likely to deter people from defending themselves against some of the 3,600 or so offences the government has introduced since 1997; quite a few will be EU-related!

It may deter others from choosing a Crown Court – as many as 1 in 5 are found innocent by their peers (trial by jury is against the spirit of the 1997 EU Corpus Juris plans).

★ Anyway, we have already been published in a number of local papers, also reminding readers of the waste of billions to the EU – and the Derby Telegraph commissioned a 600 word article, which was printed on 9th Jan.

★ We have also chased up law bodies like Justice and The Law Society to respond.



★ You can respond until 29.1.09 – write to: *Annette Cowell*
Criminal Legal Aid Strategy Division
Ministry of Justice 5th Floor
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

★ Please do first read their paper, and our fact sheet - send SAE or see www.newalliance.org.uk/innocent.htm

★ In oil and gas producing Norway, 55% are now anti-EU entry, only 33% are 'for' (Aftenbladet 16.11.2008).

"It is extremely important that we target our resources effectively across Government, particularly in the current financial climate" – writes Lord Bach, a Justice Minister, in the consultation.

★ Nice of Gordon to drag down the value of the Pound just before year end. This means our EU contributions are due to rise by **£1Bn** a year – they had been projected at **£4Bn** for 2009/10, **£6.5Bn** for 2010/11 (both excluding **£1Bn** a year to the EU aid budget). Lib Dem MP Vince Cable described this as "utterly perverse".²¹



CONNECTED TO SARKOZY 'REFORMS'?

'Critics say that suspects will be forced to pay lawyers to mount their own defence investigation'

★ By coincidence, President Sarkozy is being accused of trying to put criminal cases under political control; prosecutors working for France's Ministry of Justice. A proposed new system would "give more weight to the presumption of innocence".²²

Mireille Delmas-Marty, who influenced Sarkozy, is the author of the Corpus Juris proposals, which slanted toward requiring persuasion of innocence! Watch out for the details to come...

★ The European Commission is interested in 'whether innocence is understood the same way throughout the EU', hinting at an EU definition.

That the Commission regards the EU Arrest Warrant – requiring no evidence of guilt - as "the most important example of progress" shows its contempt for our legal tradition.

The EU's court has already ruled that 'legal persons' (such as companies) have no 'right to silence'.²³

★ An EU 'roadmap'¹⁷ claims "citizens must have equal access to justice". Coincidentally, this was also a theme in Britain's consultation, which claimed that those who could afford their own defence should pay to conserve the legal aid budget for others... another possibility raised is capping defence costs at the legal aid rate. (Or might the EU just want 'harmonisation'?)

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD

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The EU wants revenue to pay for its Galileo military satellites, and road pricing (from 2013) is favoured.

★ A Directive allows property data to be shared with Brussels as part of moves to achieve 'greater co-ordination' on property taxes. Eric Pickles MP said: *"It is now clear that England's council tax inspectors are conspiring with EU officials to hike up taxes on family homes"*. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) denied ministers were planning a new property tax, but 22m homes have now been put on the database.²⁴

LABOUR'S DEMOCRACY BYPASS

★ Manchester's vote rejected EU-inspired road pricing by 79%:21%. Never mind, the government is planning to set up quangoes - appointed 'combined authorities', with powers to impose road pricing.²⁵

★ A Local Government Association group met with the European Commission in July, and expects that 'climate change and road pricing' will be key to work with the new European Parliament, to be elected next June.²⁶

The Commission wants legislation for 'ITS' technology,²⁷ as "voluntary approaches are not always sufficient".

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