

EU attacks workers' rights

EU courts have ruled that trade union collective agreements that are incorporated into the contracts of employees should not be protected during a transfer.

Report by Brian Denny

The contracts of Parkwood Leisure employees had stated that their wages should rise "from time to time" according to collective bargaining agreements, but the Court ruled that such "dynamic" agreements do not need to be adhered to after a transfer has taken place.

However, the collectively-agreed pay rate of workers at the time of their transfer continues to be protected under TUPE regulations.

The decision means the ECJ has shifted the traditional interpretation of TUPE as a set of legislation to protect workers, to concentrate on the Rights of Establishment (i.e. employers) instead.

In a statement, the Court said: "The transferee's contractual freedom is seriously reduced to the point that such a limitation is liable to adversely affect the very essence of its freedom to conduct a business".

RMT general secretary Bob Crow said that collective bargaining rights were being hollowed out by EU diktat and EU court rulings which encourage social dumping and severely weakens

trade union powers to defend workers.

"ECJ decisions in the Viking, Laval, Ruffert and Luxemburg ECJ cases take us back over 100 years to the Taff Vale judgment when any trade union activity was perceived by the bosses to be 'in restraint of trade'.

"Global companies operating in EU states are free under EU law to tender for procurement building and service contracts in Britain and hire cheaper labour from abroad," he said.

Trade union rights lawyer John Hendy QC also warned that the EU had launched a major attack on the concept of national collective bargaining agreements between trade unions and employers.

"Under EU treaties and EU court judgements, big business rights to make money override the human rights of working people to defend themselves," he said.

He said that EU structures were undermining workers' rights particularly in member states in the Eurozone suffering permanent austerity as part of 'bail-out' agreements such as Ireland, Portugal and Greece.

He described the moves as a 'gamechanger' as the myth of 'Social Europe' was being dropped completely in favour of the EU's 'fundamental four freedoms', the free movement of capital, goods, services and labour'.

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Immigration and "free" movement of labour p3



How the EU Operates 1

World Trade Organisation
United Nations [observer]
G20 etc

Pages
6-7

Commission

Portfolios issued by
Commission President to
26 other Commissioners

Commission President
Proposed by European
Council and elected by
European Parliament for
fixed renewable term.

European
Central Bank
President + Gov
of eurozone national
banks

Press Freedom p12



Iceland abandons application to join the EU p2

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Iceland formally abandons talks on joining the EU

The Icelandic government has dissolved its EU accession team after deciding to give up talks on joining the Union. Iceland launched its EU membership application after suffering a financial meltdown in 2009, but the country's economy later recovered, and public opinion turned against the idea.

For its part, the EU Commission had nurtured hopes that Iceland's new government might change its mind. In July the president of the Commission, José Manuel Barroso, said the door was still open but added that "the clock is ticking."

The main sticking-point in EU relations is fisheries. Iceland has insisted on keeping high mackerel quotas, amid EU threats to impose trade sanctions. Iceland has unilaterally issued a quota of 123,000 tonnes of mackerel for this year, and demands a 17per cent share of the EU



total catch. During a visit to Brussels in July the prime minister said the EU should try to replenish its fish stocks instead of pressing Iceland to catch fewer fish.

He offered "assistance" on replenishment and urged EU countries to base their arguments on "science," saying that more fish are migrating northwards because of warmer seas. On the broader front, there is a sense that Iceland is back from the economic brink. The country's outside banking system fell apart in the financial crisis in such dramatic style

that the country became synonymous with banking excess and economic collapse. Other countries experienced similar failures, but Iceland's size and position outside the euro zone meant it had less external help and allowed its banks to fail instead of bailing them out.

The state's inability to bail out investors led to sticky moments, with the British government of Gordon Brown using anti-terrorism legislation to take action against Icelandic-owned banks in Britain.

It looked like a disaster at the time, and was indeed a very painful recession—but in fact it meant that the Icelandic government was less encumbered with debts than those of Ireland, Greece, or even Britain; and it has been able to bounce back rapidly.

(People's Movement Ireland News)

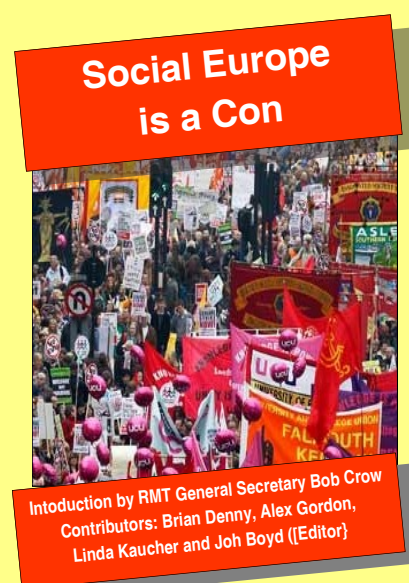
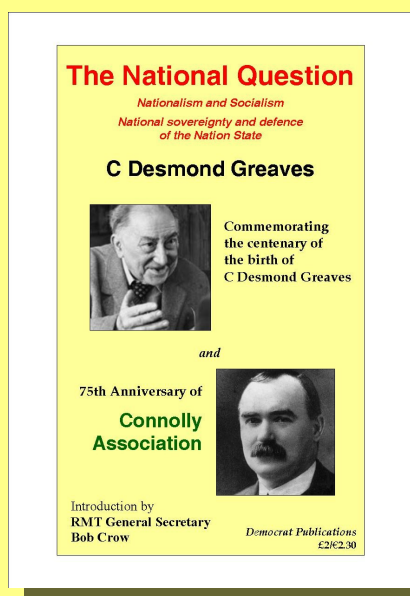
Rail workers demonstration

Campaigners from RMT, Action for Rail, the ETF and sister rail unions descended on the European Commission offices at the former Tory Party HQ in Smith Square on 9 October to ram home the message against EU privatisation through the Fourth Rail Package and in favour of public ownership.

The protest came just a day after the publicly owned East Coast service announced it was putting a billion pounds back into the treasury while the private operators soak up billions in profits and subsidies.

Campaign material

Two important pamphlets at £2.00 each plus 50p postage
Five copies of either or both pamphlets at £1.60 each post free
Ten copies £1.50 each post free -Democrat Press, PO Box 46295,



A selection of leaflets can be printed down from the CAEF website www.caef.org.uk
Click on leaflets in menu on left hand side of site and then click on leaflet required.

Editorial by John Boyd

Immigration and the “free” movement of labour

Immigration has raised all sorts of questions and irrational answers. The mass movement of people is used to promote racism and distorted inhuman policies including calls for all immigration into Britain to be stopped.

Currently there are two main movements of people. There are those within the EU who largely come from Eastern EU Member States. The other and not so large movement is by those from the African continent who are attempting to gain entry into the EU. This includes trafficking people in lorries and unsafe boats across the Mediterranean arranged by profiteers and gangsters.

The EU Constitution stipulates that within the European Single Market there will be “free movement of capital, services, goods and people [meaning labour]”. Those people coming from Eastern Europe can legally enter Britain as EU citizens. Incidentally we are all citizens of the EU as well as subjects in the monarchy of the UK. Those coming from outside the EU cannot enter without proper applications and papers. These non Europeans may enter if they are skilled or have a profession. The unskilled are not welcome.

The common factor for both European and non European immigrants is that they are migrating for economic reasons.

The Europeans are using the “free movement of labour” like a right within the EU. However, this is

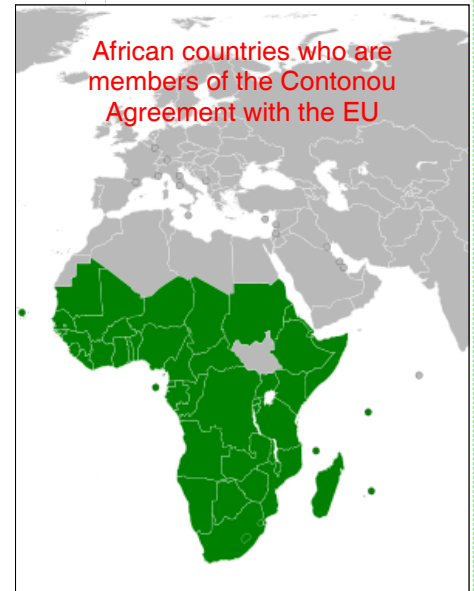
forced upon them because of the impoverishment in their own country. They are “forced” to move and are not “free” to migrate in the full meaning of the word. The distortion of their country’s economy within the EU is a large factor behind this migration. This arises largely out of EU policies, directives and regulations which place severe restrictions on public sector expenditure and borrowing. In particular this applies to the 18 EU Member States in the eurozone.

Employers, especially the transnational corporations represented in the European Round Table (ERT) of industrialists, are behind these policies and have encouraged the free movement of everything especially that of labour. They are very interested in bringing down the cost of wages in Britain and to rid themselves of the burden of social protection, pensions and hence of taxation.

It is well understood that the duty of trade unions is to protect the conditions, wages, pensions and social protection of all who work whether or not they are migrants – otherwise it accelerates the “race to the bottom”.

A full understanding of how the EU operates and objectives of the transnationals in this is important.

The non-Europeans are forced to seek some refuge from the economic, political and social conditions in their countries. These conditions, not all, are largely brought about by the subjugate economic situation imposed by the imperial-



ism which still exists. All the former colonies of European Empires are shackled to the EU in the unbalanced Cotonou Agreement between 79 countries mainly in Africa and the EU. In practice these ACP countries have had economic conditions imposed upon them similar to the policies in force in the EU including restrictions on public sector spending and borrowing. As part of the Agreement they have had to open up their economies and markets to competition and privatisation.

Lessons must be learnt about imperialism. The solution entails that each nation-state in the world attain the right to self-determination, national independence and democracy. Without the external military, economic or political interference the opportunity to create conditions and financial resources for far better lives would exist. With all this in place there would be no need for mass migration of people within or outside the EU.

Eurocrisis

IMF on Greece

The IMF has forecast that Greece will need to adopt a further €6.7bn (3.5% of GDP) in austerity measures from 2014 to 2016. Meanwhile, the State Budget Office of the Greek parliament issued a report calling for eurozone countries to allow a write down of the bailout loans they have given Greece.

CAP and Ireland

Reports that talks on completing the current round of changes to the common agricultural policy had hit a serious snag have raised again the question of who the major beneficiaries of the policy are. At issue is the much-heralded "paradigm shift" favouring younger and smaller farmers over big agri-businesses.

A look at the five biggest Irish beneficiaries shows just how well Irish agri-business has done:

Greencore Group PLC
€83,377,557

Commercial Mushroom PRS
Co-Op €19,725,567

The Irish Dairy Board Co-Op
€17,963,941

Bailie Foods Ltd €7,872,859
Glanbia Ingredients, Virginia
€7,280,667

Essay competition



We invite entries for an essay of up to 2,000 words. The subject is 'Britain outside the EU with an economy based on manufacturing'.

Closing date

1st January 2014

What they say

The debate and battle over a referendum



The Prime Minister and leader of the Tory party is in a bit of a bind. To pacify rebellious eurosceptics in his party and help win back the support of voters lost to anti-EU rivals ahead of a 2015 election, Cameron in May supported draft legislation promising a referendum on EU membership by the end of 2017.

However on the far right flank is UKIP barking at his heels and threatening to take votes from the Tories.

Cameron says he will seek radical changes to Britain's role in the European Union, which he says has become too bureaucratic and anti-competitive. This ploy is to win over voters who might be tempted to back the UKIP.

Currently the Commission has stated it is looking at cutting some red tape. This just conveniently plays along with Cameron to make out the EU can be reformed in some way.

So, what does Cameron propose happens to make Britain's membership more acceptable and head off a referendum? Well, so far there is nothing whatsoever of any substance that would alter the EU.

To radically change the EU would require changes to the EU Constitution (Lisbon Treaty) which in turn requires ratification by all EU Member States raising the spectre of referendums all round. Cameron is certainly in a bind!

Banks or people and unemployment in the eurozone

As the euro zone faces record unemployment rates, and as it continues to focus on austerity measures as a way out of the economic crisis, the EU Commission has proposed the establishment of a "scoreboard to keep track of unemployment and social data in member states."

What will it confirm? The latest figures show that 19.2 million people are without jobs in the euro zone. Of these, 3½ million (24 per cent) are young people. The figures are starkest in Greece, where 63per cent of young people have no work.

So what is this initiative about? The official line is that it would be integrated in the EU's budgetary cycle—the European semester—so that Brussels policy recommendations for national governments would take this data into account. It is claimed that this would help "detect trends" in unemployment, people at risk of poverty, young people in neither training or education, inequality and



household income at an early stage.

While member-states would not be forced to change the policies in these areas, if the scoreboard—due to be established in November—shows up failings it would help policy-makers to "focus better."

So the purpose is twofold: soften the EU's austerity image and, secondly, make further inroads to "redress the limitation" of EU treaties and encroach further on the decreasing powers of national parliaments.

(People's Movement News Ireland)

Some notes on the diagrams on pages 6-7

How the EU operates and the eurozone money circuit

Two diagrams on the next page indicate how the EU operates from two quite different aspects.

The top diagram portrays the official version which gives the impression that the EU is democratic with the electorate at the base influencing all the EU institutions in the top portion of diagram. A factor put forward by those who support and encourage the EU puts the European Parliament at the centre of things. Much will be made of this once again during the run up to the European Parliament poll next May.

The bottom diagram shows who really has the powers in the EU, who takes decisions and how they take them.

The Commission is the executive and legislature of the EU. The Commission is unelected and unaccountable, votes in secret and by simple majority. By any standard this is an affront to democracy.

The Council of Ministers, including the 'EU summits', takes decisions in secret by a complicated qualified majority voting (QMV) system. The Commission proposes policies and directives. Coreper, a permanent committee of civil servants or ambassadors, discusses and either comes to an agreement, which the Council rubber stamps, or does not agree and passes these items to the Council for further discussion. If the Council cannot agree upon an item it is then passed to the summit meeting where 'horsetrading' takes place.

Since the Lisbon Treaty the EU functions as a superstate in place of an inter-governmental arrangement. Now the Council of Ministers is responsible to and running the EU rather than being responsible to their own national parliaments.

The European Court of Justice ensures that EU policies and legislation is carried out and put in force by national governments.

The European Parliament cannot: legislate except in a minor way; raise taxes; or raise an army.

The European Economic and Social

Committee (ESC) in which trade unions and employers sit has an advisory role only. The ESC is used as a conduit to pass down EU policies to national TUCs and trade unions.

A body not shown on these diagrams because it is unofficial, is the powerful European Round Table of Industrialists. This 'lobby' consists of the largest transnational corporations and they have had a big say in drafting treaties and policies. Further diagrams will be published in the *Democrat* indicating where trade unions and the ERT fit into the overall picture.

The eurozone

The top diagram 3 shows the recently formed European Stability Mechanism Institute and is the overall controlling body in the eurozone. This is more appropriately known as the 'Permanent Austerity Treaty'.

The European Central Bank (ECB) decides the level of interest and exchange rates within the eurozone.

The bottom diagram 4 clearly indicates that the 'troika' of the IMF, Commission and ECB decides the austerity policies of eurozone members in debt and how much bail-out loans and interest on these should be.

A study of the bottom diagram traces out the money circuit where loans are made, money is taken from those who work through taxation, sale of national assets for privatisation and austerity policies. The trick is repeated in another circuit using a further bail-out loan reaping more money which again goes back to the banks. Most of the money loaned as bail-outs do not go to the governments but straight to the banks.

These diagrams are a simplified portrayal of the state of affairs in the EU and eurozone. They are for use in meetings, schools and further discussion. These diagrams can be found on the www.caef.org.uk website and are available in printed form from CAEF by request.

Understanding

CAEF Day school in Birmingham



Those who attended the school were leading and active members in the labour and trade union movement. They took part in a running discussion. The first sessions were based on the diagrams on pages 6-7.

Further sessions discussed the eurozone and role of the transnational corporations and trade unions within the EU.

A searching question discussed was on the vexed question of immigration and "free" movement of labour. This helped to clarify a practical and rational approach to this subject and is reflected in the editorial on page 3.

Questions and interventions were part of the intense but valuable discussion.

Out of the discussion came several suggestions as to how to improve the diagrams used. These will be incorporated soon along with valid criticisms made. It was also suggested that CAEF set up a GOOGLE Group in addition to facebook and twitter.

All told this was an enjoyable event and based on this experience further schools will be organised with more material developed and available.

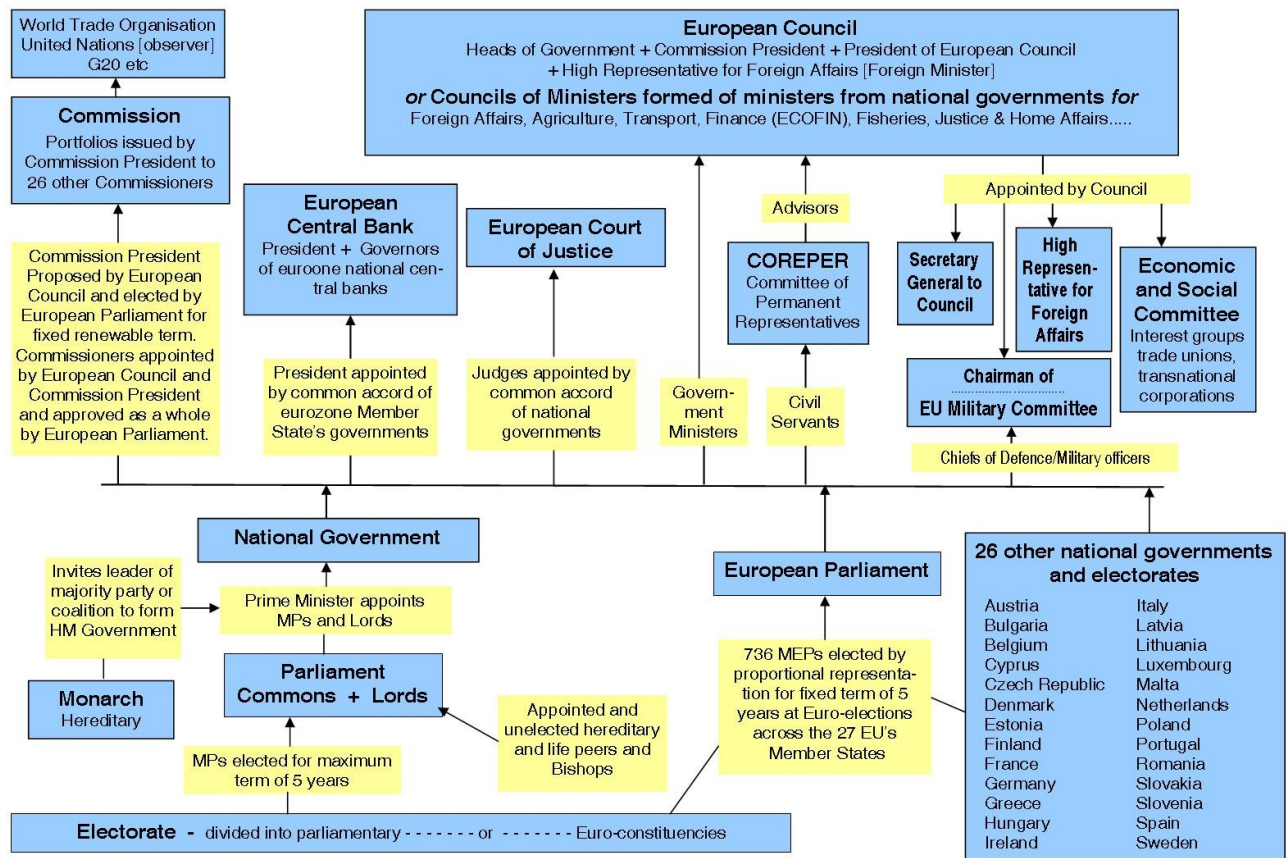
If you are interested in setting up a day school let CAEF know and we will help and provide tutors and material.

Democrat

There will be a November-December issue of our paper

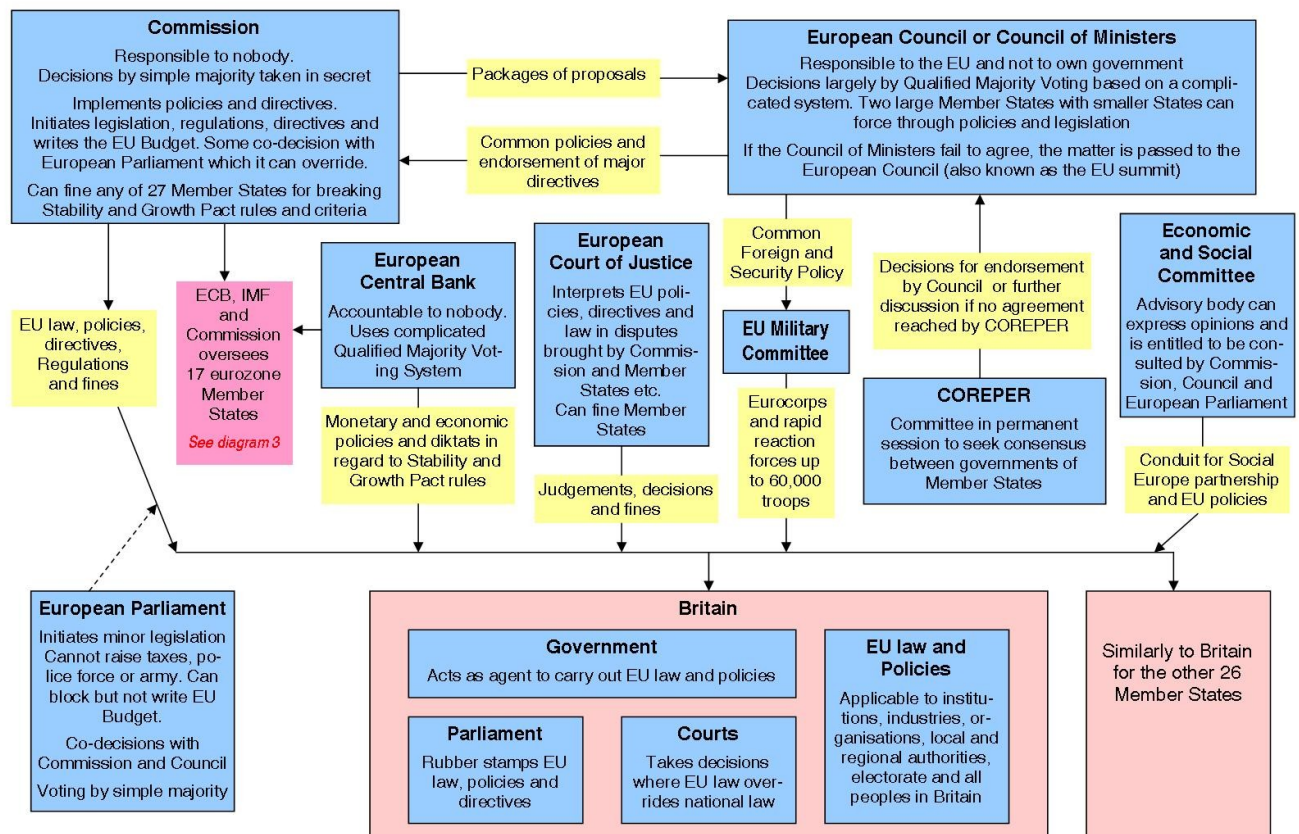
How the EU Operates 1

Who elects or appoints whom?

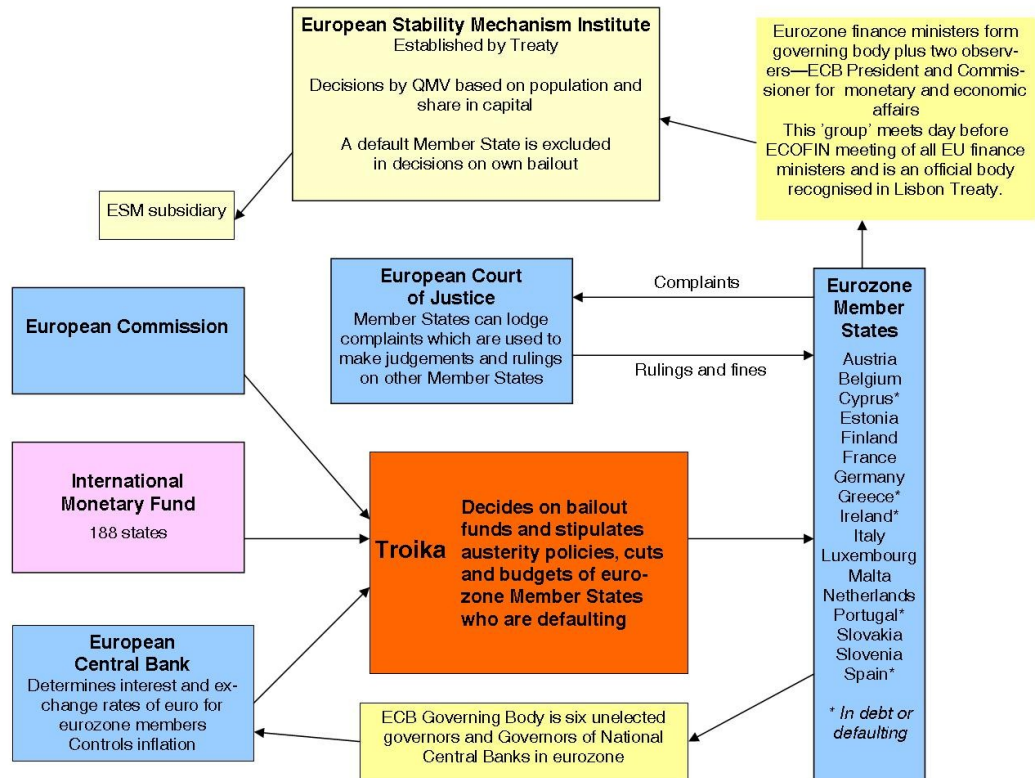


How the EU Operates 2

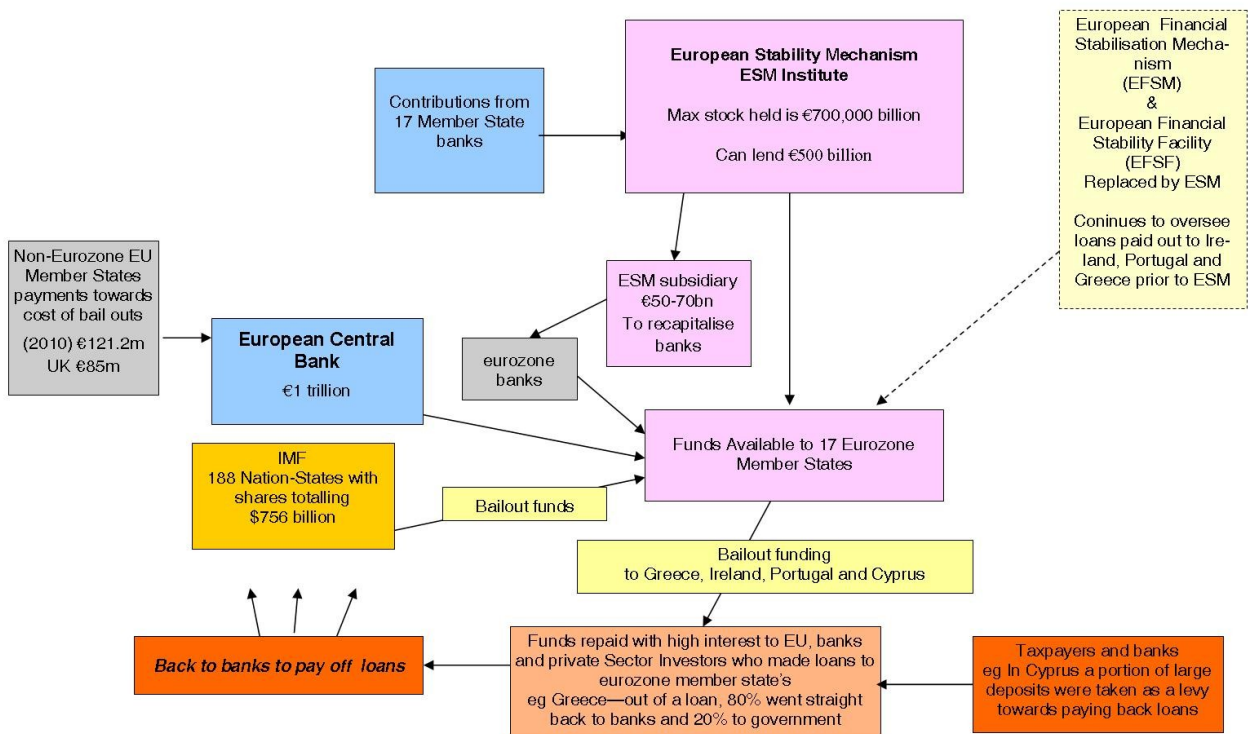
Who has powers, who decides and how?



Who controls the Eurozone?



Eurozone money circuit?



Collapse of the left in Germany in capitalist economic crisis

Part I of a paper by
Horst Teubert
at Desmond Greaves
Summer School,
Dublin - 15 September

From a critical German point of view, the euro crisis has a lot to do with the weakness of the left, especially the German left. German governments over two decades have imposed a severe austerity policy, at first on Germany then with far reaching consequences for the whole EU. Before looking at those consequences, it's important to ascertain why German governments imposed austerity which was well thought out.

For the German establishment, austerity policy is of strategic importance. Low wages and poor social benefits are always in the interest of entrepreneurs and ruling elites in any country. They increase profits of big business and reduce social obligations of the state, making the ruling elites richer and giving them bigger political levers.

For the German establishment it is more than that as revenue and wealth come mainly from exports. In the second half of the 1980s and again from 2003-2008, Germany was the world champion in exports, only losing this position in 2009 - to China. From the point of view of the German establishment, China, whose exports continue to rise rapidly, has become one of the main economic rivals in the fight for shares in the world market. If you want to compete with China, one thing is sure: the lower wages paid, the better the chances to win. So, for Germany an austerity policy is a very important means to compete with China and to maintain the traditional German path to wealth.

Moreover, there is an aspect which derives directly from the special situation of Germany after the Second World War. After 1945, Germany had lost its former military power. It was allowed to rebuild an army, the Bundeswehr, in 1955, but the Bundeswehr was not strong

enough to compete with the French and British armies, not to mention US Forces. The Allies of the Second World War would clearly not have allowed Germany to adhere further to its traditional military power policy. For this reason, the German elites had to find other ways to realise their wish to become more powerful in the world, and very soon, they took up an idea they had stuck to after losing the First World War: to wield power by means of a strong economy. For this reason, strengthening the German economy has been, for the establishment, not just a matter of wealth; it has also been a matter of power, far more than any other big western state.

The austerity policy imposed on Germany with the aim to compete on the world market has had, at first, **s e v e r e** consequences for Germany itself. Real wages were cut, social welfare was reduced drastically, especially during the chancellorship of the social democrat Gerhard Schröder. According to a study published by the OECD, between 2000-2005, poverty in Germany rose faster than in any other western country. When the Schröder government was voted out of office in 2005, poverty in Germany lay for the first time above the OECD average. But beyond this Germany's austerity policy has also had severe consequences for the EU, especially the eurozone. Due to shrinking wages and social cuts, German companies were able to produce cheaper goods and sell more of them not only on the world

market generally but, especially, to other European countries like, for example, France, Italy, Spain and Greece. This was possible because, in the years before the euro crisis, these countries did not follow the German austerity model for reasons given in part II of this article.

Take, for example, France. In April 2010, when the euro crisis escalated, Jacques-Pierre Gougeon, an expert with the Paris based "Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques", stated in the influential newspaper *Le Monde* that in France, the cost of labour had risen from 2000-2009 by about 17 percent. Obviously, not only French companies but also French workers took profit from economic growth. Gougeon compared this with Germany and stated that, during the same decade, the



cost of labour in Germany had shrunk by 1.3 percent. Obviously, German workers were denied a proper share of the economic growth of the rise in profits. As he realised further, France had had an export surplus of 39 billion euro in 1999. Ten years later, things had changed decisively. Now, the country bought much more than it sold and had an export deficit of 43 billion euro. One main reason was that Germany, pushed by its austerity, had increased its exports not only generally on the world market - to the damage of competing French exporters - but also its exports to France. The latter meant France was paying more to buy German products and fell deeper into ➔

Swedish trade unions oppose social dumping

Swedish unions held protests in Stockholm recently against the Swedish Laval law that backs European Union rulings which allow widespread social dumping.

The Swedish Building Workers union and the Swedish Electrical Workers Union referred to the International Labour Organisation which rejected the EU Court of Justice verdict in the Laval case and the subsequent Swedish Laval law.

The law triggered by the EU ruling allows companies to bring in cheap labour and pay hugely reduced wages.

The two unions signed the signed the Tarragons appeal which states the ILO backs them against the Vaxholm/Laval ruling which has great importance for basic trade union rights across the EU.

Swedish Building Workers Union president Johan Lindholm asked: "Should foreign companies which perform work duties in Sweden pay lower wages and provide more worse working conditions than for Swedish workers?"

"Yes said the Swedish government and instituted the Swedish Laval law, cheered on by the Swedish Business Association.

"As a result the Swedish collective agreement model was discarded, and wage levels in Sweden started to be undermined by this competition," he said.



Swedish Electrical Workers Union president Jonas Wallin said that employers were using foreign labour in a "shameful way", creating chaos in the construction sector.

In the protest hundreds of workers gathered outside Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt's official building Rosenbad and presented him with an invoice for the three million Swedish Crowns (£250,000) that the two unions were ordered to pay in times following the ECJ verdict.

"We request our money back and an apology but above all we want the Swedish government to stand up for the Swedish collective bargaining model and that the Laval law is abolished," said Johan Lindholm and Jonas Wallin. (RMT News October 2013)

→ debt. This has continued until today. In 2012, German exports to France rose to 104.5 billion euro, whereas French exports to Germany only reached 64.8 billion euro. France had to pay about 40 billion euro net to Germany in 2012 alone.

Economies of different countries develop differently. Generally, states have the means to react if another national economy becomes too strong, they devalue their currency. Since the euro was introduced, the eurozone countries no longer had this power. They can't protect themselves against an ever stronger German economy and thus run deeper into debt. This is why the euro crisis is not only linked with the introduction of the euro, but also with the weakness of the German left.

The left has been unable to prevent German governments from imposing a severe austerity policy on the country, increasing the state of imbalance between the national economies of the eurozone countries and driving other eurozone countries heavily into debt. Of course, the German elites tell the world that the opposite is true, that their austerity policy is the best line of action that must be followed in all eurozone countries, and then all will be well. This is exactly how the eurozone countries have been steered under German domination in the last three years. This is a path leading to poverty all over Europe.

It is clear that instead there must be a change to the current course based on austerity.

Continued in part II in next issue

Military matters

Trade unions in Germany and the military

The leadership of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) is promoting the adoption of the German government's military doctrine by the trade unions. The most recent expression of this development is the DGB's scheduled "Peace and Security Policy Workshop," to be held in Berlin next week. Invited speakers will almost exclusively be supporters of the German government's military policy, including a representative of the "Military Technology and Jobs Working Group," functioning under the auspices of the presidium of the Industrial Union of Metalworkers (IG Metall). In the past, this caucus has repeatedly issued calls for the reorientation of the Bundeswehr into a global intervention army and supported the expansion of German arms exports. Employees of official military policy advisory bodies are also on the list of speakers. Strong protest against the event has developed. Critics are openly calling this a "slap in the face of the peace and anti-war movement."

More can be found at
www.german-foreign-policy.com/en/fulltext/58690

Collapse of the left in Britain in capitalist economic crisis

A further paper given at the Desmond Greaves Summer School by John Boyd will also be published.

Quiz No. 137

What are the following phrases?

1. **Surbmwance**
2. **my bowline dray**
3. **villa**
4. **MAH**
5. **batsetselm**
6. **LAW ON**

Answers No. 136

1. Overnight success
2. Too big to ignore
3. For hire
4. Blind ambition
5. Fair and square
6. Gross income

Words by Tony Grace

Sung to the music of La Belle Helene- Act 2 No14 "Orestes " song. [This can be found on YouTube]

Title : *What they Say about Europe*

They say we're too small to be outside the EU - unlike the US and China- not true

The US wants Britain on the EU floor - Yes! to enter by the back door

We can change it from within but we are too weak we are too weak

They oppose a referendum and tell us: stay in- keep stum

chorus: **La la la la la La la la La la la**

Singers can make up there own words! If you do let us know how you get on.

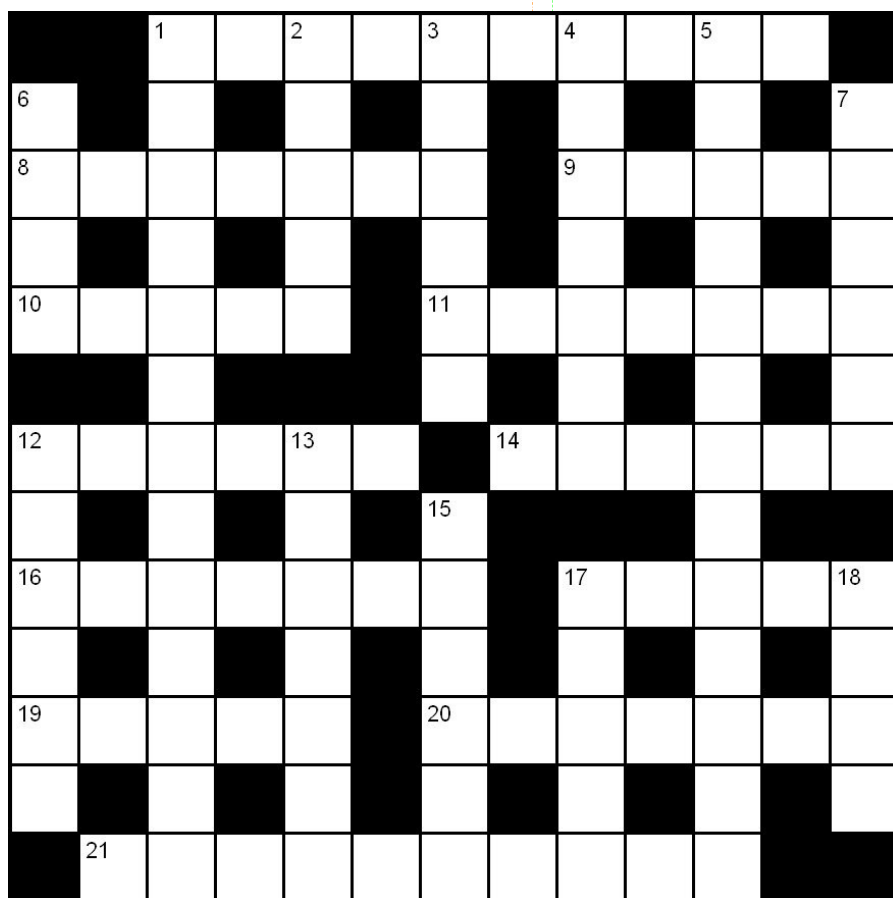


ACROSS

- 1 Trigger again (10)
- 8 Put in motion (7)
- 9 Step (5)
- 10 Express (5)
- 11 Diplomatic building (7)
- 12 Scribble (6)
- 14 Revitalise (6)
- 16 Offensive (7)
- 17 .Stealing (5)
- 19 Contort (5)
- 20 Tag (7)
- 21 Replicable (10).

DOWN

- 1 From better to worse (13)
- 2 Wide open (5)
- 3 Native American tent (6)
- 4 In sight (7)
- 5 Rewrite (13)
- 6 Smog (4)
- 7 Plymouth (6)
- 12 Even (6)
- 13 Surround (7)
- 15 Warm again (6)
- 17 Pulsate (5)
- 18 Cheeky child (4)



Crossword

No. 137

Please join in

Readers are invited to participate in
Facebook -

facebook.com/groups/caef.official/

We are now on **Twitter -**

twitter.com/CAEFtweet

You can link via the CAEF website and click on symbols to either Twitter or Facebook pages

We are also looking into setting up a
GOOGLE Group facility

Essay competition

One prize of £50

We invite entries for an essay of up to 2,000 words. The subject is 'Britain outside the EU with an economy based on manufacturing'.

Closing date 1st January 2014



Campaign against Euro-federalism

To join the *Campaign* I enclose £15 membership fee (£10 for unwaged)

Please make cheques or POs to *CAEF*

Name

Date / / 2012

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email address

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..... Postcode

I agree to abide by the rules of the *Campaign*

CAEF objectives, aims and rules can be found on the *CAEF* website or by request

As a member you will be sent copies of the *Democrat*

Return to *CAEF*, PO Box 46295, London W5 2UG

[d130]

Useful Websites

CAEF does not necessarily agree with everything in these sites

Campaign against Euro-federalism with data from current and some back issues of the *Democrat*.

www.caef.org.uk

EUobserver reports daily on EU matters with links to other newspapers and sources. This is a very popular website:

www.euobserver.com

Scottish *CAEF*:

homepage.ntlworld.com/foster-prendergast/scaef/index.files

Trade unionists against the EU Constitution (TUAUEC):

tuauec.org

No2EU yes to democracy:

NO2EU.com

TEAM the European alliance of EU critical organisations. Lists links to other organisations across Europe:

www.teameurope.info

Democracy Movement, a broad movement with a large number of supporters:

www.democracymovement.org.uk

Campaign for an Independent Britain (CIB):

eurofaq.freeuk.com

Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign, for Labour Party members:

lesc.org.uk

Peoples' Movement Ireland:
people.ie

National Platform of Ireland:
nationalplatform.org

German foreign policy group of journalists:
german-foreign-policy.com

Open Europe—an influential think tank of leading business people:

openeurope.org.uk

Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO):

eulobbytours.org

Data on other sites welcome

Campaign against Euro-federalism

The Campaign opposes:-

- the EU Constitution which hands over more powers to unelected and unaccountable bodies and reduces further the influence of Britain in the EU;
- the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, part II of the Constitution, because it takes rights away;
- the introduction of a Common Foreign and Security Policy and an EU Foreign Secretary;
- the formation of a European Army and battle groups as part of rapid reaction forces would be a threat to peace.

The Campaign is a democratic organisation and primarily oriented to the labour and trade union movement and people whom these organisations normally represent, including democrats, socialists, trade unionists, students and pensioners.

The Campaign is for democracy and accountability, independence, jobs the pound and against racism.

The Democrat

Available on subscription of £5 for five issues. The paper is posted free to members of CAEF—membership is £15 (£10 unwaged), affiliations £20 minimum.

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Press Freedom

Oscar Wilde is said to have made the comment:
"we kill the things we love."

It is palpably obvious the EU was not created to bring about a more equitable and democratic *social* environment. In fact the EU is doing nothing to resolve the contradictions so deeply embedded in our society. Contradictions which are becoming more socially and environ-

Arthur Smelt's point of view

mentally damaging as time goes by and unless radical changes come about, these crises are unlikely to be resolved or "ameliorated. The distribution of wealth, care of the environment and use of the earth's resources have to be dealt with in far more judicious ways if the future of human existence is to be protected.

The big question is, how do we go about educating humanity and changing the ethos of dog cat dog, to one which promotes more altruistic attitudes?

Recently a great deal has been said and written on the question of press freedom and how the Press functions. Anyone with a reasonable degree of sensibility cannot other than agree that the duty of the Press should be to accurately report news and events and to educate its readers.

Unfortunately there are large sections of the Press which are controlled and influenced into reporting to reserve the *status quo*. Instead of informing and educating the public, misinformation and propaganda are used in ways to perpetuate deeply entrenched oligarchical structures.

At the present time large sections of what is referred to as 'the popular press' relentlessly focus attention on the poorer sections of society to convey the impression that they are to blame for the pandemic crises now affecting millions of people. Unless the true cause of a

problem is acknowledged then the chances of rectifying that problem are remote.

It seems that in spite of the smoke-screens being thrown up, one scandal after another emerges through the smoke. Bank robberies, bonus and expenses scandals, gross mismanagement and corruption in our public services. The free market which sells our assets abroad. Problems with drugs, alcohol abuse, obesity through the promotion of rubbish food, sexual scandals influenced no doubt by a massive porn industry. Then we have the 'wake-up' to mass spying on the part of the power mad aimed mainly at those appalled at the mess and would like it to change. The Press in the right hands could bring about considerable change in attitudes in these areas.

An interesting report appeared recently in the *Manchester Guardian* regarding Pope Francis. It seems that in September he visited Cagliari the capital of Sardinia where he is reported to have addressed 20,000 people. Sardinia is one of Italy's autonomous regions with a population of 1.6 million with an unemployment rate of 20%. He called for an economic system that puts people and not "an idol called money" at its heart.

The Argentinian pontiff said that when his parents emigrated from Italy to Argentina they lost everything. He understood the suffering that came from joblessness. He went on to point out that this is not just a problem of Sardinia. Italy or Europe ... it is the consequence of a global choice. an economic system that leads to this tragedy: an economic system that has at its centre an Idol called money."

