

EU support plummets across Europe

Popular support for the EU is in free fall across Europe particularly in Greece and Spain which registered the sharpest drop in support between 2008 and last year.

Report by **Brian Denny**

A Gallup survey showed that just 19 per cent of Greeks approved of the EU's in 2013. The same was true of 21 per cent of Cypriots.

Both countries had EU bailouts imposed on them by the EU and the IMF accompanied by vicious structural adjustment programmes that have slashed public spending and growth and sparked mass unemployment.

The EU remained scarcely more appreciated in several other countries with less than a third approving of the EU in the UK, the Czech Republic, and Sweden.

Spain registered the largest decrease in support between 2008 and 2013, dropping from 59 per cent to 27 per cent last year.

Support for the EU also slumped in Ireland, a country that has just exited its bailout following years of EU austerity. While 70 per cent approved of the EU in 2008, 47 per cent did so in

2013 - a drop of 23 per cent.

But it was not only bailout countries or countries particularly affected by the economic crisis where affection for the EU waned strongly.

Sweden saw a 17 point drop over the six-year period; Finland a 14 point drop and Denmark a 10 point drop.

Meanwhile the Netherlands - which has increasingly debated the merits of the EU amid rising euro realism - went from 59 per cent support in 2008 to 48 per cent last year.

Support for the EU saw the highest approval in 2013 in Luxembourg and Germany which has been using the economic crisis and its privileged position in the Eurozone to increase exports.

The Gallup survey indicates that the record unemployment rates among young people in euro 'periphery' countries is taking a toll on the EU's popularity among 15-30 year olds. EU leadership approval among young Greeks dropped from 61 per cent in 2009 to 19 per cent, while young Italians went from 48 per cent approval in 2008 to 34 per cent last year. Spain showed a 34 point plummet over the same period, and Ireland an 18 point drop.



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Birmingham TUC

Crisis in the NHS

Conference on dangers of privatisation

Saturday 22 February
11 for 11.30am-4.30pm

Speakers include:

Lord Phillip Hunt

Terry Mandrell

Prof. Ann Davis

Peter Last

Dr John Lister

Priory meeting rooms
Bull Street
City Centre
Birmingham B4 6AF

Campaign against Euro-federalism

AGM and Public Meeting

**Saturday
5 April**

**11am—1pm
&
2pm-4pm**

**Market Suite
Comfort Inn
Station St
Birmingham**
Adjacent to New Street
Station

Take- over bid



As the European Parliament poll and promised referendum get closer, 2014 may prove important for EU politics. As our front page makes clear voter turnout in the European Parliament poll is forecast to be at its lowest level yet at below 40 percent. No doubt this is because voters sense they cannot influence decisions or common policies taken by the Council of Ministers and Commission—the real power brokers.

In recent years the traditional barriers between voters and politicians have evolved rapidly due to the various forms of the social media. It is not surprising that ways and means are being developed to bridge the gap between citizens and politicians online. It is apparent that many politicians remain unclear about what to do online. They are

now being given strong advice so in turn we should be aware of the changes advocated.

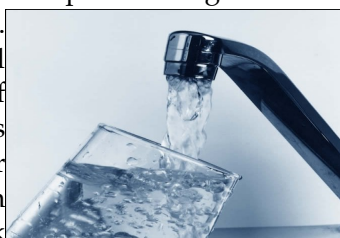
First, and perhaps the most important point, is that political impact online comes not from how fancy your technology is or how big a staff you have but from being authentic. This is the advice being delivered by Facebook's expert. He says political representatives should talk to people as they would speak in person: engage; interact; answer questions; ask questions; build trust.

However, these points raise difficulties because the EU does not engage with people, in fact the opposite. Treaties are written and signed behind closed doors and tight security. Neither MEPs in a toothless institution nor MPs in national parliaments are informed. So it is hardly surprising ordinary mortals don't know what is going on in order to discuss and take appropriate action.

It is time to further develop our own methods to ensure democracy reigns and not autocracy over the internet. CAEF has a group Facebook, a twitter account and a large popular website. Join in if you can and help discuss and act.

Water privatisation

Southern Water Company is one example in England which demonstrates how global financial interests are profiting from the commodification and privatisation of domestic water. The company has passed through the hands of various private investors since the Thatcher water privatisation scheme in 1989. In 2007 Royal Bank



of Scotland sold the company to a consortium of international investors for £4.3 billion. The Greensands consortium bought a 32 per cent stake, the Australian Challenger Infrastructure fund took 27 per cent, and the merchant bank UBS took 18 per cent. The remaining shares are divided between an Australian pension fund and an infrastructure investor. In 2012 Southern Water declared a pre-tax profit of more than £270 million, while domestic users paid an average of almost £400 in water charges in 2011, according to the Water Services Regula-

tion Authority in England and Wales.

In 2007 the authority imposed a fine of £20 million on Southern Water for supplying false customer service data. The data supplied by the company suggested that it was performing better than it was, which resulted in higher domestic water charges. In 2008 the Environment Agency named Southern Water as Britain's second-biggest polluting water firm.

According to the Water Services Regulation Authority, domestic water and sewage bills have increased by an average of 44 per cent since the privatisation of the domestic water supply and sewage treatment system in England and Wales in 1989. In 2011 the average household bill was just under £400; however, the water regulator OFWAT has since approved increased charges, and households face higher bills this year.

Don't forget, all this has come to you by courtesy of the EU

Who's on the side of 'hard working people' ?

An attempt to bring about a wholesale assault on working conditions, wages and trade union rights is taking place. This is happening not only at local and national levels but within the EU and wider still at international level involving continents.

Transport for London announced in the Christmas period the closing of ticket offices on London Underground. The upshot would be that 750 Staff out of about 2,000 would be made redundant. Both TSSA and RMT unions have stated that safety on the network would be compromised as well as more jobs disappearing. Several times the London Mayor had stated that ticket offices would remain open. This is yet another *volte face* by Boris Johnson who is driven by vested interests and has no interest in working people.

Two one day strikes are planned in a joint operation by TSSA and RMT. TfL have said they would use 1,000 volunteers in the spirit of the Olympics to keep the tube system going. The attempt to link Olympic volunteers to break a strike is a foul paradox that will not be lost on Londoners. Those who worked the London tube and bus system were an essential part of the successful London Olympics.

Amazon which is infamous for low wages and bad working conditions has eyes on the ticket offices for distribution of parcels. Boris and his staff have no doubt been in secret talks on a deal.

Almost a million young people remain unemployed. According to

the Prince's Trust forty per cent of these have faced symptoms of mental illness as a result of being out of work. One in three in long term unemployment has contemplated suicide. This is not a surprise as many young people feel they have little to live for. One aspect is the ConDem policy to raise the age of retirement which has reduced the number of available jobs. It robs older people of opportunities to fully enjoy retirement, at the same time as removing job opportunities for young people.

As we have warned for many years the free movement of labour within the EU has meant that immigrants have created a situation which permits employers to pay low wages, including below the scandalous minimum wage. This is being used to seriously undermine all wages and working conditions and is known aptly as the 'race to the bottom'.

As well as the conditions set up around us by the coalition government, the European Single Market is the background to the employment situation. The lowering of all wages by one method or another, including inflation, wage freezes and cuts is common across the EU. The government claim that regulations and red tape are to be cut, emanating from Brussels and already on the statue book is simply to make life easier for employers. There is no hint that anti-trade union legislation will be rescinded to make life easier for those who



work. The claim repeated by government ministers that they are on the side of 'hard working people' is just a mantra to kid and bamboozle us.

Free trade agreements including the US-EU, Canada-EU and other pacts are part of the world-wide thrust by transnational corporations to open up all markets for their benefit. These are being negotiated in secret by the EU Commission. These agreements will have profound and detrimental effects on all of us including the NHS and employment.

The answer is not to get depressed or bury heads in the sand but to understand not only class but national and international politics. A good start is to read our paper, the Democrat, and spread the word to others. The best protection remains membership of trade unions and participation in the labour movement and the adoption of appropriate policies.

EU drones

Tom Enders, chief executive of EADS, Europe's biggest arms and aerospace company, said the EU needed to commit money and to agree a time-line for developing and building a military drone if Europe is to narrow the wide gap with the United States and Israel.

Meanwhile EADS came under fire from shareholders in France and Germany over plans to cut 5,800 jobs. The company said a three-year reorganisation of its armaments and space activities would affect 4,500 jobs on its main payroll, of which 1,500 would be reallocated to the aircraft manufacturer Airbus and the helicopter unit Eurocopter.

Drivel admission

UKIP's leader Nigel Farage Friday told LBC radio that his party's 2010 general election manifesto was "drivel" and that he had never read the 486-page document in "excessive detail" but ordered it to be removed from the website. Farage has represented UKIP in the European Parliament since 1999. (EUObserver 24.1.14)

Security Conference

German foreign policy specialists are calling for "German Leadership" in the EU's foreign and military policy activities. It is "the responsibility of the powerful, ... to insure Europe's ability to act," wrote a former German Minister of Defence: "Germany must lead". As Director of a Munich Security Conference, Wolfgang Ischinger, explained, Germany "must massively bring to bear its foreign policy in Europe." Since the start of the economic crisis, "Germany's clout" has grown in the EU, and "so have the world's expectations on German leadership."

What they say

Pie in the sky thrown into debate about EU membership and European Parliament poll



A campaign for the European Union to become a "United States of Europe" will be the "best weapon against the Eurocritics," said the vice-president of the European Commission, Viviane Reding, the longest-serving EU commissioner and has called for "a true political union" to be put on the agenda for the European Parliament polls in May. **"We need to build a United States of Europe, with the Commission as government and two chambers: the European Parliament and a 'Senate' of Member States."**

Reding's vision, which is shared by many in the EU institutions, would consolidate the EU into a state, relegating national governments and parliaments to a minor political role comparable to that played by city and county councils.

Under her plan the Commission would have supremacy over governments, and members of the EU Parliament would supersede the sovereignty of members of national parliaments. National leaders, meeting as the European Council, would be reduced to a consultative second-chamber role, similar to that of the House of Lords.

Concern is mounting at the highest levels in Brussels, because hostility to

the EU has reached unprecedented levels throughout the Continent, and EU-critical parties of various hues are leading the opinion polls in France, the Netherlands, and Greece. *See page 1*

Senior EU figures, such as Reding, want the EU elections in May to move beyond debates over euro-zone austerity by embracing a grand federalist vision of Europe. "This debate is moving into the decisive phase now," she said. "In a little more than four months' time, citizens across Europe will be able to choose the Europe they want to live in." But it would be hard for even the most hardened Europhile to swallow that line, given that the "parliament" to which members will be elected does not possess the simple power of initiating legislation, can't raise taxes or an army and cannot write a budget.

"There is a lot at stake," Reding's dream continued. "The outcome of these elections will shape Europe for years to come. In the run up to the springtime pan-European vote, the EU is gearing up to mount an unprecedented campaign for the hearts and minds of voters."

World War I commemorations will be added to rhetoric about how the EU has saved the continent from conflict.

Deals and bribes

In June 2013 the German railway company Deutsche Bahn admitted that its subsidiary DB International siphoned off funds to obtain contracts to build the metro in Athens. Earlier the US Securities and Exchange Commission accused Daimler of having landed its Greek business deals with bribes.

German exports to Greece, worth about €5billion in 2002, had soared by 60 per cent by 2008 to reach €8 billion. Even though the German government's decision to vote in favour of Greece joining the euro zone in 2000 has been repeatedly criticised, it has proved beneficial for German industry. According to reports, the government had received indications from Brussels that the Greek trade balance was already showing a



"very large deficit," which could create enormous problems in a common currency. This assessment was considered insignificant by Schröder's government.

German industry has succeeded in consolidating its predominance in the EU with its excessive exports, not only to Greece but more widely. However, the bribes paid in Athens undoubtedly helped open doors for this export explosion.



EU Commissioner attempt to defend work of bailout 'troika'

Based on a report by Valentina Pop of EUObserver

In a two-hour long grilling by MEPs on Monday 13 January in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the EU economic affairs commissioner Olli Rehn defended the work of the troika of international lenders: the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

He said troika officials had to make decisions in "dramatic circumstances" and under "terrible time pressure" back in 2010, when Greece was about to default on its debt and Ireland and Portugal were on their way to asking for a bailout.

Several MEPs asked Rehn why there is so little transparency on the troika's work.

Their questions come after euro-deputies who visited Cyprus and Portugal last week reported that the lenders bullied national governments into making cutbacks.

But Rehn said that "[bailout] conditionalities are not dictated by anyone, but agreed with the beneficiary country, which is accountable to its national parliament".

He indirectly acknowledged that some eurozone countries - notably Germany - dictated the way the eurozone rescue was designed, however.

He said the European Commission from the beginning favoured an EU "solidarity mechanism" for troubled euro-countries, but EU member states rejected it and opted for bilateral loans to Greece instead.

Rehn recalled he had been barely sworn in to his post, in February 2010, when the first eurogroup conference call was held to deal with the ever-growing budget deficit in Greece.

The deficit was initially projected to reach three percent of GDP in 2009, but climbed to 16 percent.

Rehn also blamed EU member states for rejecting a proposal by the EU Commission in 2005 to give the EU statistics office, Eurostat, real auditing powers.

He indicated that the move would have helped to prevent Greece from giving false figures on its deficit - a major factor behind its near-collapse.

He said the troika repeatedly got its Greece economic forecasts wrong because of "political instability" and lack of reliable data.

Rehn also revealed that he spoke to the Portuguese finance minister about the necessity for reforms already in 2010 because it was clear Portugal was going to be left out of markets and need a bailout - "which then happened in April 2011."

He quoted the new German foreign minister, Frank Walter Steinmeier, who last week during a trip to Athens said that Berlin wants the troika to continue its work under its current format and that he sees no reason for the IMF to leave the structure.

"The new Grand Coalition is unequivocally in favour of the continuation of the troika and the eurogroup shares that view. So this creates a certain institutional context for the European Commission and European Parliament," Rehn said.

Tensions between the three institutions on the creation of a eurozone bailout fund (ESM), which is to be modelled on the IMF, have increased rumours that the Washington-based body will not take part in any future eurozone bailouts.

This story was corrected at 15.30 Brussels time to say that Rehn had spoken to the Portuguese finance minister in 2010 about the necessity of reforms, not to convince him to apply for a bailout.

EU Commission

Limiting powers

The Dutch Government yesterday launched a lobbying campaign to rein in the influence of the European Commission. At a conference in The Hague, the Dutch Government set out its proposal for the European Council to hand over a formal to-do and 'not-do' list to the new European Commission in order to clearly divide competences between EU institutions and national governments. The Dutch Foreign Minister said he is optimistic about the chance of success, because so many other governments had sent conference delegates: "What started as an initiative of this government, we are now trying to widen, as we have noticed we have touched a nerve, also with other countries".

(Het Financieel Dagblad 23.1.14)

Psst...

Want a passport?

A British consultancy firm, Henley & Partners, stands to make tens of millions of euros for helping Malta create up to 20,000 new EU citizens - on-paper.

The scheme will provide for a €1 billion investment fund in Malta whose national budget is €3 billion a year. It will see Malta sell 1,800 passports for €650,000 each, before closing the programme.

But every main applicant can also buy additional passports for: children up to 26 years old; spouse; her spouse's parents; and grandparents, for €25,000 - €50,000 each.

The newcomers will have the right to freely travel, reside and work in all 28 EU states. They will also buy the right to enter 69 non-EU countries and the US, with minimal security checks under Malta's visa-free travel pacts.

Back into Africa after 100 years

German Foreign policy

The EU has announced a military intervention into the Central African Republic. Last Monday, EU foreign ministers in Brussels decided to soon send soldiers from several EU countries to Bangui to support French troops in that country. The Bundeswehr will most likely participate with transport aircraft and a MedEvac Airbus.

The German Foreign Minister has also suggested the possibility of expanding the deployment of German military in Mali. This is where the Franco-German Brigade is due to make its first major deployment. But the power struggle between Germany and France continues to loom in the background. Berlin wants to use the mission in Mali to break France's exclusive influence in the West African francophone countries.



Members of the Bundeswehr have announced that "over the next few years" Germany will have "to deal with Africa, particularly its north and centre." Even before ending its (partial) withdrawal from Afghanistan, Germany is already focusing on a new intervention - in line with the global offensive Berlin's foreign policy establishment has been pushing for with growing intensity since last autumn.

(23.1.14 German Foreign Policy group—Full text available on group's website)

The collapse of the left in Britain in face of the capitalist economic crisis

Paper delivered by John Boyd, CAEF Secretary,
at 25th Desmond Greaves Annual School 2013 in Dublin, Ireland

The objective of this paper is to re-cap Desmond Greaves papers published in the pamphlet the 'National Question'. This covers the period since the Second World War, the EEC-EU treaties and up to the current situation in order to indicate where the left has failed.*

After the Second World War Britain was economically broke, had lost an empire, lost much influence in the world and ended up dependent on the US military-machine to protect interests across the world as part of a one sided 'special relationship'.

The EEC began with the 1956 Rome Treaty, with six member states.

Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined the EEC in 1973 marking the desertion of the nation-state by the ruling class. Britain was the sixth former empire to join five other broken empires in a temporary alliance.

The Thatcher government in 1979 introduced free movement of capital marked by lifting all restrictions on movement of capital. This supported the transnationals and removed an important power of the nation-state.

A distraction amongst the left at this time was euro-communism emanating from Italy and Spain which included changing the EEC from within and leaning heavily towards social democracy.

In 1984-85 the year long miners' strike and defeat took place as part of deindustrialisation and handed the energy market to oil and gas transnationals.

1986 SEA onwards to 2013

The first Treaty after the original Rome treaty, the Single European Act (SEA) of 1985, was opposed and held up for one year by Ireland in a campaign around Raymond Crotty. In contrast this Treaty was rubber stamped by Westminster with only one Labour MP drawing attention to SEA. The left and labour movement paid no attention to the consequences.

SEA was the basis of the single cur-

rency and European Single Market defined as the 'free movement of capital, services, goods and labour'. This treaty developed further the military aspect of EU.

The view advocated at this time by Desmond Greaves was that the EEC would enable capitalism to be reinvigorated and that the EEC would act on behalf of private capital. In practice this is done by using institutions of the EU. These included the unelected and unaccountable Commission, Councils of Ministers and European Court of Justice. The tools used have been common policies, directives and regulations. They have passed this legislation down the conduit to national governments and to the labour movements via the Social and Economic Committee and ETUC.

In 1986 the big bang occurred where restrictions on financial markets were lifted and occurred at same time as the SEA. The economy of Britain and Ireland became based on financial services and conjuring money out of money. An objective was to turn the City of London back into the most important financial centre of the world.

In 1988 Commission President Jacques Delors went around selling Social Europe to labour movements in exchange for supporting the EU. The Social Charter dates the serious split in the labour and trade union movement in Britain and across the EU. This strengthened the misconception that the "only game in town was Brussels" expressed by the GMB Gen Sec and TUC President John Edmunds which is a view that persists. At the time it was seen as a way around the draconian legislation of the Thatcher government instead of concerted action nationally by the labour movement against Social Europe.

The deindustrialisation of Britain continued with the loss of shipbuilding, the steel industry, coal mining and manufacturing. I wrote a pamphlet in 1986

Continued on p7

continued from page 6

called "The Murder of British Industry" published by Connolly Publications linking it to the EEC and its common policies. Deindustrialisation broke the back of the labour and trade union movement in Britain. Trade union membership was 13 million in 1979 compared with 6.5 million today. The switch of the economy from manufacturing to the financial sector and services removed the ability to create wealth and trade.

Simultaneously as with the decline of the labour movement, communities were broken up including social life in factories, around coal mines, steel works and public transport. This included trade union branches, activity and discussion. Today even public houses are no longer the centres of communities. Three hundred pubs are closing every week. TV and car transport have turned people into unsocial individuals. One claim by the establishment was that colour TV would put an end to the aspirations of the 1844 Communist Manifesto.

Around the 1990's the USSR and other socialist countries collapsed removing the beacon of socialism, thus causing disillusion amongst the left and putting capitalism back into nation-states from where it had been ousted decades before.

In 1992 the Thatcher government in Britain passed harsh anti-trade union legislation to restrict secondary pickets and to hold ballots for strike action. The objective was to head off any resistance and make it extremely difficult to take industrial action. Trade unions failed to stand up to that legislation.

The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 consolidated the euro as the single currency. In one stroke this was to consolidate the EU super-state and cull many nation-state powers. Britain as the centre of sterling and Denmark with a strong anti EU movement obtained an opt-out from the euro. Ireland joined and broke the link between the punt and sterling and the Republic with the six counties.

The Social Charter was turned into a Social Chapter at the back of the Maastricht Treaty. 'Social Europe' was made official along with other illusions like a 'level playing field'.**

In 1994 Clause four was deleted from

the British Labour Party's constitution which removed socialism turning itself into a social democratic party. This was not long after Mrs Thatcher declared that every vestige of socialism should be eliminated.

In the year 2000 the Nice Treaty introduced Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) which subjugates smaller EU Member States to larger ones: Germany, France and Britain. This Treaty was subject to two referendums in Ireland and a rubber stamp in Britain.

Following the industrial dispute at Irish Ferries where cheap labour was introduced, the ECJ used 'free market' EU legislation to attack both collective bargaining and long established trade union rights. The prominent cases were: Laval - introducing Latvian building workers to a Swedish school building site; Viking Ferries (2003) - replacing Finnish with Latvian seamen; Ruffert and Luxembourg cases on posted workers from one Member State to another employed with lower wages and poorer conditions. This legislation based on EU's 'free movement of labour' favours the employers. At the same time it's against national trade union rights, collective bargaining, and interests of the working class and small businesses.

The next stage after Nice to consolidate Euro-federalism was the European Constitution developed with no consultation with the peoples within the EU. This was rejected by the electorates in France and the Netherlands but regurgitated as the unreadable Lisbon Treaty. Ireland once again held two referendums on this Treaty, but other Member States weren't given that opportunity.

The Constitution was put in place in 2009 to complement the single currency and EuroZone. Since then finance capital and the eurozone have been and remain in crisis. Unemployment is rampant across the eurozone at 12% where youth unemployment tops 60%. Attacks on social protection and welfare states are in full swing.

To be completed in next issue.

**The National Question*

***Social Europe is a Con*

Both pamphlets are available from

Democrat Press £2 each plus 50p postage

Trade



Russia v EU

Russia has taken aim at the EU, filing its first trade dispute to the WTO in protest against anti-dumping duties imposed by Brussels.

In a statement on 6 January, the WTO, which arbitrates on international trade, said Moscow was seeking consultations with the EU over levies on Russian steel products and ammonium nitrate used in fertilisers.

Under WTO procedures, EU and Russian trade officials will have 60 days to try and settle their differences before further legal action is taken. The WTO has the power to impose either a change of policy or economic sanctions.

The EU says the duties are in place because Russia is selling goods below their production cost. In its statement, the WTO said that the complaint focuses on how the EU calculates the value of goods and level of tariff fees.

The dispute is the first initiated by Russia since joining the WTO in 2012.

**Oppose all
Con-Dem
cuts -
They
Emanate
From
the EU**

Heated debate about EU

Ukrainian PM Mykola Azarov has resigned, saying he made a "personal decision" to "create more opportunities for social and political compromise." The 'hard-line' supporter of President Viktor Yanukovych was instrumental in a decision, last November, to abandon EU integration in favour of closer ties with Russia, sparking mass-scale protests.

The far right have managed to gather enough support and destructive forces to create mayhem in some cities in the western part of the country.

The pro-EU interests may be trying for a partition of the Ukraine. Both the EU and US are interfering in the internal affairs of the Ukraine by telling the government what they should be doing rather than calling respect for democratic decisions and sovereignty to be respected. The TV in the 'west' and other media are stoking the unrest in favour of the EU.

In December the government survived a no confidence vote by a large majority.

The far right US Senator McCain opened his mouth in Kiev in support of the pro-EU camp.



**Please note
our AGM in
your diary**

**5 April
11am-1pm**

Contribution to discussion

Global Warming and Climate change?

By Colin Bullen

Stuart Devlin is absolutely correct concerning climate change. Contrary to the assertions made by think tanks and academic groups, who claim to speak for all experts on climate, and enjoy access to large sums being paid for research by basically ignorant politicians seeking to polish their green credentials. The debate is far from over and there is diminishing evidence of a relentless rise in temperature. These people would have us believe that their view of the issue is the only valid one and that the debate is in effect settled in their favour, but this is a myth, given that a large number of real climate scientists reject the whole premise and point out that we are in serious danger of destroying our economy by tilting at imaginary windmills. The latter are not given the coverage they merit in the media, in particular by the BBC which long ago threw in its lot with the alarmist lobby.

Apart from the fact that the Earth itself has evolved systems over millions of years whereby equilibrium can be restored. There is also the question of whether carbon dioxide is in fact the menace it is believed to be. True scientists, not the fakes who masquerade as such, have produced reports stating that "there is little correlation between the Earth's climate and carbon dioxide levels as, at times, the latter had been 18 times higher than today and were 10 times higher during the intense Ordovician glaciation". A second report stated that "evidence suggests very strongly that the main cause of warming and cooling derives from solar activity via its modulation of cosmic rays". Changes in temperature may be due to such activity in the sun, ocean currents or other natural factors rather than the relatively recent industrial revolution. Even many of those supportive of the theory, such as the East Anglian academics whose emails revealed their evasions on the subject, have admitted that there has been no warming for over a decade and now we have the statement from other leading proponents of the theory that

we should not expect any changes in the medium term future.

I feel that the green lobby is afraid that, if the truth becomes widely recognized, one of their main sources of support and income will be badly affected. In view of the constant rewriting of scientific history by bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, I would quote George Orwell, the greatest political thinker of the twentieth century, on the malleability of the past "everything faded into mist. The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth". I wish that the environmentalists would show common-sense in their approach, as much could be done without risking a complete meltdown of our civilisation. We should invest extensively in research, looking at the potential of tidal and wave power, temperature differentials at varied depths, the harnessing of sun power and in the development of fusion power. Given the vast amount of hydrogen in our oceans the latter would provide enough clean energy for millions of years, lasting longer than our species is likely to endure. The real solution lies in using technological advances, not going backwards to almost mediaeval arrangements. To set our feet on the latter course would be taking the road back to the caves, rather than continuing on that to the stars.

If we allow ourselves to be fooled by these baseless climate theories we shall see industry and employment undermined, domestic energy supplies fail and vital services such as hospitals unable to run essential equipment. We must not allow ourselves to be taken in by this dangerous myth. Should the lights go out and the economic foundation of our nation be totally destroyed by relentless and prolonged blackouts, I trust that the public will be aware of just whom is to blame.

What do you think? As this is the third contribution opposing theory on climate change we will only accept further contributions in favour of theories on climate change

Another secret treaty

Canada EU Trade Agreement CETA

A Partnership for Profits

The Canadian Health Coalition has serious concerns about erosion of Medicare cost of medicines and attack on the health care system

EU and Canadian trade officials continue to negotiate an investment protection chapter in the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada. Civil-society groups are demanding that this section be removed entirely as an affront to democracy, an attack on an independent judiciary, and a threat to climate change and our shared environment.

Last May it emerged that a “fair and equitable treatment” clause had been inserted in a draft of the agreement that would outlaw any “breach of legitimate expectations of investors.” The agreement has since been signed, though its details remain unpublished—negotiations have been in secret.

“Fair and equitable treatment” is a catch-all term, and the definition used in the CETA was particularly broad. It is even protects what investors consider their “legitimate” expectations from “unpredictable policy change,” so that a ban on a chemical found to be harmful to public health could be considered a violation of this provision. Investors will also be enabled to challenge scientific justifications of a policy and “arbitrary” or “unreasonable” relationships between a policy and its objective.

These excessive corporate protections, built in to thousands of investment treaties and free-trade agreements, serve no social or economic purpose other than undermining our democratic rights to decide public policy and public-interest regulation.

The EU commissioner for trade, Karel de Gucht, has admitted that a similar “investor rights” chapter is included in the projected Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the US. International experience with investor-state dispute settlement includes that of Canada, where recent court cases under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have challenged a moratorium on exploration for shale gas and two court decisions on the utility of a pharmaceutical patent. EU member-states are also feeling the sting of investor-state disputes. For example the



Swedish energy company Vattenfall against Germany’s decision to phase out nuclear power. In the US the use of such clauses in NAFTA has led to regulation-chilling cases, such as one £160 million case challenging a drilling moratorium in Québec. In the case of *Tecmed v. Mexico* a tribunal similarly ruled that Mexico had not acted “free from ambiguity and totally transparently” when a local government decided not to relicense a waste treatment plant because of environmental concerns.

Campaigners say that in 74 per cent of the cases where American investors have won in investor-state disputes, tribunals found a violation of fair and equitable treatment, and a fear lurks that similar undisclosed passages in TTIP could be used to attack environmental regulations in European countries. The clauses would enable corporations to claim potentially unlimited damages in secret courts, or “arbitration panels,” if their profits are adversely affected by environmental or consumer regulations. These investment cases are tried before business-friendly tribunals composed of corporate lawyers, and bypass national courts and override parliaments. Even expected future profits are subject to compensation.

Health campaigners and consumer groups have raised concerns that the free-trade deal could weaken regulations on health, banking, data protection and

food safety through the back door. Opposing investor-state dispute settlement is all the more important given the intention of the EU Commission to quickly conclude the TTIP with the US. The negotiating objectives for an agreement have little to do with free trade and everything to do with corporate power. TTIP risks being a partnership of those who seek to prevent and roll back democratically agreed safeguards in such areas as food and chemical safety, agriculture, and energy.

What the negotiations really aim for is a massive weakening of standards and regulations intended to protect people and our environment. Such rules are branded “trade irritants,” making them seem like an annoying itch for the corporations that have to adhere to them. These companies would like to see them removed, irrespective of the fact that the very reason for the creation of these rules is to protect people, consumers, and nature.

If the CETA is signed and ratified with Investor-state dispute settlement intact, democracy will suffer while corporations gain new tools for frustrating any number of policies designed to protect the environment, public health, public services and the conservation of resources and, crucially, to make our society more sustainable and equitable. People, not corporations, should determine the future of the economy and society.

Quiz No. 139

What are the following phrases?

1. way or weigh
2. writTing
3. thought an
4. OturnedUT
5. NOSTICTHON
6. Saucer
u
p

1Answers No. 138

1. Life starts after 40
2. Eyes wide open
3. Drunk and disorderly
4. Jules Holland
5. At the end of one's tether
6. Vitamin A deficiency

Words: Tony Grace

Tune: "Ascot Gavotte" from "My Fair Lady"

Every Duke and Earl and Peer was there
But anyone who should be was not there
The workers' voice was missing, positively missing
At the House of Lords Debate.

At the gate were all the traitors
Champing at the bit to talk it out.
What a maddening absolutely sickening
Sight of the peoples will to flout.
Amendments flowing , faces glowing
Heart beats gear up I have never been so fed up.
Any second now they'll begin to vote
Hark a bell is ringing. Our steed's become a goat.

What wrecking amendments they were. FOr the r efer endurn they've gained delay
But they're silly, absolutely silly, simply 'cause that Bill won't go away.

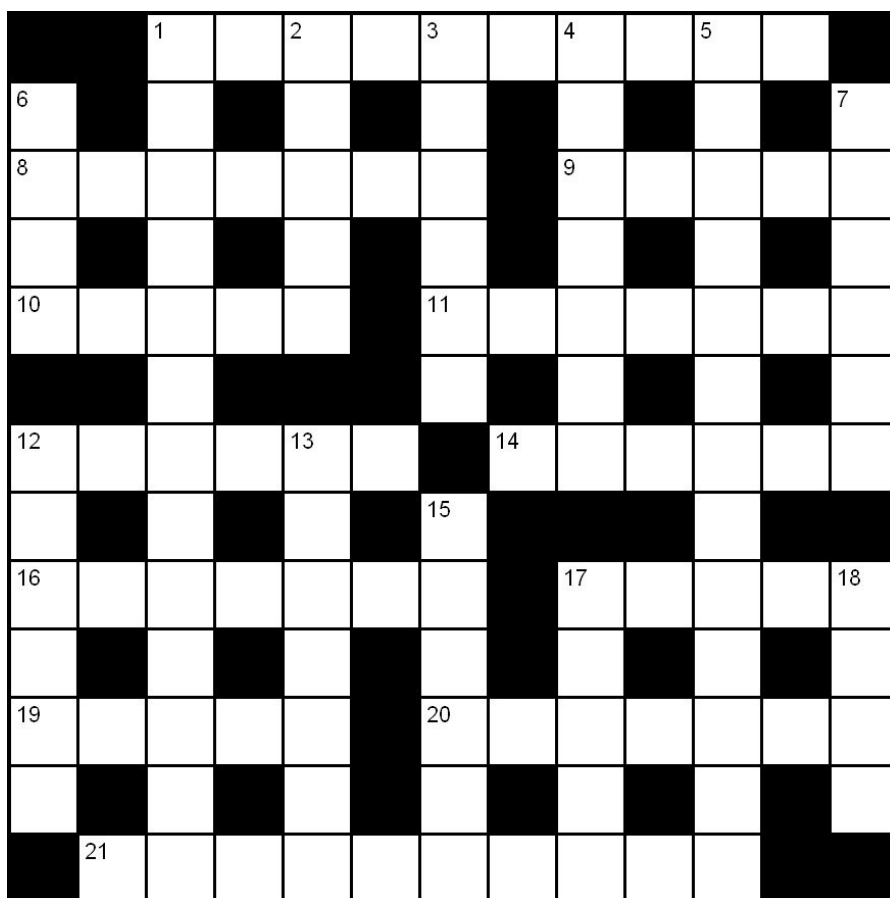


ACROSS

- 1 Skill as a sailor (10)
- 8 Pear-shaped fruit(7)
- 9 . Brother of parent(5)
- 10 . Sailing vessel (5)
- 11 Try (7)
- 12 End (6)
- 14 Emotionally confuse (5)
- 16 Deferred wage (7)
- 17 Small sailing vessel (5)
- 19 Proclamation (5)
- 20 Herb (7)
- 21 Energy and ambition (3,2,3,2)

DOWN

- 1 Showing fair play (13)
- 2 Covered (5)
- 3 Knowledgeable coat (6)
- 4 Sinking one's own ship (7)
- 5 Out of touch (12)
- 6 Peddle (4).
- 7 Insect (6)
- 12 Smart (6)
- 13 Japanese therapy (7)
- 15 Cat, goat and rabbit (6)
- 17 Rate (5)
- 18 Mass of ice (4)



Crossword No. 139

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.caeef.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

Appeal

We still need the money to keep our press running and printing copies of the Democrat for distribution to organisations and trade unions

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Social Europe is a Con



Introduction by RMT General Secretary Bob Crow
Contributors: Brian Denny, Alex Gordon,
Linda Kaucher and Joh Boyd ([Editor])

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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.

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Arthur Smelt says some things are Beyond Reason

In every walk of life and profession, there are those who conduct themselves in a reasonably humane and creditable manner and there are those who do not, along with the in betweens. Unfortunately positions of power and influence seem to be filled, far too often, by the latter.

Examination of public and private sectors shows the crazy and damaging maneuverings taking place, not only domestically but further afield.

UK failures aside, we have the most unbelievable fiascos being perpetrated by the autocratic and incompetent rulers of EU.

One area which has been spoken of and criticised many times, is the Strasbourg question.

Although the HQ of the EU government is in Brussels, once a month for one week only the whole European Parliament outfit transfers from Brussels to Strasbourg. This involves the movement of 766 MEPs, 3000 staff and 25 trucks of documents and files, all moved to Strasbourg at an annual cost of £150 million. Business can't start until all the cantines of files have been unloaded, distributed to the appropriate offices and allocated to staff involved. It will then be necessary to start planning for the return trip. A vote by the European Parliament to end this ridiculous nonsense was carried by 483 votes to 141 but has been ignored by what is called its own constitutional committee. One MEP by the name of Ashley Fox is reported to have described this monthly trip as 'an unacceptable waste of public money'. This shows the EU parliament for the sham it is.

Yet another area where taxpayers money is wasted, features a network of offices worldwide in 140 countries at a

cost of £140 million a year. Headed by unelected bureaucrat Baroness Ashton the European External Action Service set up in 2010 is expanding at a rapid rate with the aim of supervising EU projects. It employs almost 1500 staff in Brussels and something like 2000 staff in overseas offices. One office was due to shut at the end of 2013 in Vanuatu, a republic comprising a group of islands in the Pacific 10,000 miles away from Brussels where £80 million has been spent since 1984. The reason given for closure was to save money. Why was it ever opened? About 30 top officials in this area of work receive annual salaries of £150,000 before expenses. A further 500 officials receive more than the basic salary of the British Prime Minister.

Fraud is another area where millions of pounds of taxpayers' money disappears. The former European Commission chief accountant, Marta Andreasen is reported as saying: "The system is still rife with fraud. If a government of a member state lost 295 million euros to fraud, I am certain heads would roll".

From a survey carried out last year 60% of people living in Europe have lost trust in the EU.

Opposition to EU is on the increase according to a study by

the European Commission. A Eurobarometer survey showed almost two thirds of people in Europe are sceptical or anti EU. This figure includes 83% of Cypriots, 80% of Greeks, 75% of Spaniards, 71 % of Portuguese and 68% in the UK. This shows how governments carry out policies against the wishes of the electorate. Attempts are being made in the UK to give the impression that economic recovery has started and EU membership can be re-negotiated. Unless there are drastic changes in political ethics and competence, such pronouncements ring somewhat hollow.

