Compared to the Lisbon Treaty, Cameron’s reforms are ‘not worth a light’.

The Lisbon Treaty of 2009 governs EU integration and includes all the provisions of the European Constitution rejected by the electorates of France and the Netherlands in 2005. Ireland’s electorate rejected the Lisbon Treaty in 2008 and then undemocratically was forced to vote again to get the ‘correct Yes!’ result.

This Treaty turned the EU into a superstate with a legal personality under Article 47. The EU has the right to represent all areas of integration and relations with other nation states outside the EU. This includes the WTO and secret negotiations over TTIP, CETA and ISDS which governments of Member States are not privy to.

The Lisbon Treaty, or European Constitution, contains the rules by which we are governed within the EU superstate. Because there was never any public debate about Britain’s ratification of this Treaty, the contents remain virtually unknown and aren’t properly analysed. Every now and again a problem pops out like a hernia but is quickly stitched back again.

The EU does not look or feel like a superstate to those of us who live in Britain or others within the EU. Member States only retain parts of long-established national government institutions which create the illusion of a nation-state with an independent national government.

The EU now has a joint Permanent President of the European Council of Ministers and an EU Foreign Minister. The EU has 139 delegations in countries outside the EU and is represented at international organisations as if they come from a normal nation-state.

Most importantly, as part of the Single European Market defined in the Treaty, Britain does not have any control over the movement of capital, goods, services and labour in the Single European Market. For example Britain does not control its own fisheries because of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Britain does not control the steel industry and cannot support or subsidise industries or work places to protect industries or jobs from the free movement of labour, mis-called immigration.

The European Council uses a Qualified Majority Voting system. Lisbon changed the weighting of QMV votes to that based on population which meant smaller Member States can be easily out-voted and swamped by the largest populated member States. Power was shifted from smaller states to the larger. At the same time Lisbon meant that Britain’s power
to block EU legislation or obtain support was reduced. Britain now only has 12.6% of votes. Britain has to garner the support of 16 other Member States and those Member States must together have 65% of the EU’s population. So much for the claim ‘we must be in there’ to obtain decisions in Britain’s favour.

The Lisbon Treaty is over 3,000 pages long and virtually unreadable. The text consists of amendments to all previous treaties from the Rome Treaty to the Nice Treaty. It is a cut and paste job on the 560 pages of the rejected European Constitution but retains all the content unchanged.

The ‘reforms’ Cameron is hawking around other Member States are small fry compared to the Lisbon Treaty. It is clear such proposed reforms cannot be used to change the Lisbon Treaty as a ratification process is required by the other 27 Member States. This would throw any Treaty reforms beyond Cameron’s 2017 deadline for the referendum and are therefore off the agenda or end up as vague promises or lodging them with the UN over which the UN has no power to ensure the promises are carried out.

Lisbon increased the powers of the Commission, European Court of Justice and other EU Institutions. Such powers are the means by which we in Britain are governed and have everything or should have everything to do with the debate in the current referendum campaign. Instead the Cameron Government has laid down the ground to a limited discussion on reforming the EU.

What is far more important is the need to reject the Lisbon Treaty in order for Britain to leave the EU. Vote to leave the EU

Lisbon Treaty in a nutshell-page 5

In the only Member State to hold a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, the Republic of Ireland electorate voted No! Because this was not to the liking of the EU, and other forces, a second Referendum, with the Commission blatant un-democratically interfering, Ireland had a second referendum and voted Yes!
The “Grassroots Out” (GO) campaign supported by leave.eu has held three mass meetings in Kettering with hundreds of people, Manchester Convention Centre with around a thousand and in London at the QE II Centre in Westminster with over 3,000 people in attendance. More are planned in other major cities and conurbations.

GO encompasses the broad political spectrum including CAEF and many other euro-sceptic and anti-EU organisations. CAEF has always made clear that it would work with anybody except racists and fascists. CAEF Secretary John Boyd, spoke at the Manchester and London meetings and is to speak at further GO meetings.

Kate Hoey MP, of Labour.leave, reminded the audience that it was the “labour and trade union movement which opposed EEC membership in the 1975 Referendum”. The Get Britain Out campaign (GBO) included veterans like Peter Shore, Tony Benn, Douglas Jay, Michael Foot and others as well as the TUC and most trade unions. This was when the T&GWU led by Jack Jones fully supported the GBO campaign.

Graham Brady MP for Altrincham and Sale West told the Manchester meeting that: “This referendum is a fundamental choice about democracy and whether we believe we should take control of our own destiny or let an undemocratic EU make laws and impose them on us.”

Other speakers made clear we should reject being ruled by Brussels and should also reject TTIP. They said that the EU was undemocratic. It was false for the pro-EU side to say we have to be part of the EU’s Single Market. The truth is that EU Member States need Britain more than Britain needs the EU market.

Peter Bone MP for Wellingborough introduced John Boyd to the Manchester meeting saying he was a veteran anti-EU activist of many years and had taken part in the 1975 referendum.

John Boyd made clear in the Manchester and London rallies that he was speaking about the major objective of CAEF which was to win the labour and trade union movement back to an anti-EU position. This position was held from the late 1960’s to 1988. However, this was when Jacques Delors, the then President of the EU’s Commission addressed the Danish, Irish and British TUC’s offering Social Europe in exchange for support for the EU. This was accepted by the British TUC and was part of the run-up to the Maastricht Treaty, European Union, Single European Market and Single Currency. “CAEF’s principle is firmly for the right of nation-states to self-determination, national independence and democracy”, he said.

“EU laws and legislation were changed from an intergovernmental system to a superstate and a Union by the Lisbon Treaty or European Constitution. In Britain we never had the opportunity to discuss this Treaty before ratification. If we want to leave the EU it is the Lisbon Treaty which”, he stressed “must be discussed and published by the government and not the charade of the trivial reforms in Brussels with red and yellow cards, as though it were a game of football. We must show the red card to Cameron and get him off the pitch with a massive leave vote in the referendum”. At this point John Brought the house down by showing a red card.

He stated: “The only way to oppose TTIP, ISDS and EU legislation from Brussels and free movement of everything is to dump the Lisbon Treaty by winning a massive leave vote in the referendum”.

On behalf of all those in the labour and trade union movement he wished all sections of the leave camp every success in this common objective to get Britain out of the EU.

CAEF calls on all members and supporters to join the GO campaign by going to grassrootssout.co.uk. GO is supported by leave.eu. Further local groups have been and are being organised and set up with lots of activity. GO leave.eu and CAEF material is available. This includes a pamphlet which makes clear that TTIP=EU which needs to be taken into the labour movement.
This was what one read in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, one of the most influential German newspapers, on Thursday 18 February. It was the day when, in Brussels, the summit, tasked with renegotiating the UK’s terms of EU membership was to start. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* had been making it clear to its readers for weeks that the German government aimed at avoiding a “Brexit” if possible, but not at any price, and that it was clear that British voters were not to get that real change in the UK’s position inside the EU which many of them wished.

So, what was to be done? If you do not want to give someone what he or she wants, just give him or her some crumbs and make a big show out of it: This was the plan. Cameron would have to “get the stage he needs to persuade his voters that he had fought like a lion - and finally with success”, *Frankfurter Allgemeine* explained to its readers, hinting at what was to expect from the summit.

So it happened. In Brussels, the negotiations went late into the night; at 4.30 am, Cameron grimly stormed out of the room, leaving the journalists with the deliberate impression of a heavy dispute, of a severe crisis. Then, climax and happy end: A “special status” would provide the UK with “the best of both worlds”, triumphed Cameron at the press conference after the event, wiping away the sweat from his face. The summit show *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* had sneered at so contemp-tuously had come to an end.

The arrogant attitude of the German establishment which has been dominating the EU for years is increasingly being met with resentment and resistance. One of the politicians who have dared to oppose the German government publicly is Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. He came out with his protest in December when the debate on sanctions against Russia was flaming up once again. Italy is interested in ending the sanctions, but this time, Renzi was angry. Russian gas giant Gazprom, German gas producer Wintershall, Shell and three more companies had announced their intentions to build the pipeline “Nord Stream 2” which is to deliver Russian gas directly to Germany. Renzi was not against this, but he remembered very well that just one year ago, the pipeline project “South Stream” had to be cancelled. "South Stream" was to deliver Russian gas directly to southern Europe, a fact which prompted the EU to obstruct it, alleging that it was of the utmost importance to become independent of Moscow regarding the energy supply. Why had "South Stream" to be stopped, which would have been profitable for Italy, whereas “Nord Stream 2”, which will increase German wealth and power, is allowed to be built, asked Renzi and concluded: “We have to be frank: The EU has to serve all 28 countries, not just one”.

At the beginning of this year, protests grew stronger, some with good, some with bad reasons, but each time attacking German dominance. Was it ok that Germany had been allowed to spend huge sums to bail out a big bank whereas Italy was criticised for rescuing a small bank with much less money, asked Renzi. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico complained that the German government was “trying to impose dictats against all those holding other views on refugee policy”.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls announced his country would definitely stop taking in migrants after having accepted 30,000 refugees, even if Germany wanted France to admit more. Even Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann opposed Germany with regard to its refugee policy openly and publicly.

Some in the German establishment have realised that open dominance is useful to increase power but that it damages relationships in the long run. A “leading role” in the EU would have to be more “than just giving direction and forcing all member states to comply”, declared Wolfgang Ischinger, leader of the Munich Security Conference. “We were no benevolent hegemon”, admitted Gesine Schwan, a former Social Democrat politician.

Former EU Commissioner Günter Verheugen commented on the current protests against Germany: “What we see today is the price we have to pay for the fact that a whole lot of European states has been feeling bossed around and dominated by Berlin for years.” For the first time, critical voices like these rise in the German establishment. But they are a tiny minority, and they do not lead to practical consequences at all.

---

“Centre stage for Cameron”

A view from Germany on ‘reforms’ and gas pipelines

By Horst Teubert of German Foreign Policy Group

---
Power station protests against social dumping

Engineering workers launched protests in Wales, Yorkshire and Scotland after companies took on non-UK workers at rates of pay as low as £7 per hour rather than paying £16.64 per hour under UK collective agreements.

GMB members in engineering construction protested against undercutting of workers on three energy-from-waste power station construction sites.

The Margam Green Energy Plant is a £160m biomass-fired power station under construction near Port Talbot owned by Glennmont Partners. Further funding is provided by Deutsche Bank AG, supported by credit agency Eksport Kredit Fonden.

Viridor is constructing a £177m energy recovery facility in East Lothian, Scotland and Templeborough Biomass is building a £150m power station in Rotherham.

Skilled foreign workers on these sites are being paid just £7 per hour and employers are refusing point-blank to follow National Agreement for the Engineering Construction Industry (NAECI) which covers infrastructure like power stations, oil refineries and transport installations.

Steel workers also recently held protests in Brussels as the EU refused to lift a finger to protect the struggling industry.

A GMB spokesman said the "EU Commission is now directly responsible for bringing more misery to the industry that has been rocked with job losses and communities that are being destroyed".

Despite this industrial vandalism and social dumping the GMB, like the TUC, is encouraging trade unionists to vote to stay in the EU on June 23 in the referendum.

Britain’s railways were privatised by the Major Tory government twenty years ago by using EU rail directive 91/440. Despite this unmitigated disaster Brussels is now imposing the same EU privatisation model on the rest of the member states.

The EU is opening up all postal services to ’competition’ which began with the first Postal Services Directive 97/67/EC, adopted in 1997.

And now the steel industry in this country faces extinction and is being allowed to go the same way as the coal, shipbuilding and train building and many other industries. All because EU state aid rules do not allow state aid to manufacturers and industries or to defend jobs.

No industry is safe from the EU’s strictly neo-liberal model that demand privatisation and handing entire industries over to monopoly capital regardless of the human cost.

Show the red card to Juncker, Shultz and Cameron to stop social dumping

Why you weren’t told

Did you know that Denmark held a referendum on 3 December last year? Of course you didn’t because the media decided not to give the result of the No! vote to lose their opt out from Home, Justice and Police affairs.

The GO meeting in London was told this result by Henrik Overgaard-Nielson who introduced himself as ‘I’m an immigrant from Denmark’ much to the amusement of the packed meeting.

The largely overwhelmingly pro-EU media did not want to announce this snub to the EU by a small EU Member State. This would have given a boost to anti-EU campaigners in Britain.

Henrik reminded the audience that Greenland had left the EU, the biggest island in the world, and that Iceland had withdrawn its application to join the EU and given the banks short shrift.

Both countries are doing well outside the EU and tiny Iceland has completed a trade agreement with China.

Both countries control their own fishing grounds as does Norway whereas Britain’s fishing grounds are part of the Common EU lake, where we don’t even have rights over the sea bed or the space above!

Democracy Alliance

This Alliance including CAEF, Democracy Movement, other organisations and people across the political spectrum and has put its full support behind GO.

The DA has already run a successful day school in London chaired by Henrik Overgaard-Neilson. The DA has been invited to send speakers to other organisations including a half-day school in Kent.

Keep up to date on CAEF Facebook and website.
The Democrat

Number 149

The European Union has a familiar draconian response to any democratic mandate which it doesn’t care for: ignore it and then move Heaven and Earth to nullify it.

The latest flare-up in the long-running anti-democratic saga known as the “European project” is unfolding in Portugal, where the anti-austerity left has won a working electoral majority.

When the ruling pro-EU austerity conservative cabal in Lisbon lost the general election last October, the social democrats Partido Socialista (PS) sought to form a government with left-wing alliances Left Block (BE) and the Communist-led Democratic Unity Coalition (CDU).

However the right-wing President Anibal Cavaco Silva initially refused to accept the result, claiming that Portuguese governments have “never relied on the support of anti-European forces” and it is his “duty to do everything possible to prevent false signals being sent to financial institutions, investors and markets” - the main beneficiaries of EU diktats.

This is in a country where wages have dropped by nearly 20 per cent, more than a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line, over a million people have left to find work elsewhere and public debt has ballooned from 94 to 129 per cent of the GDP.

Yet President Silva is demanding more of the same in a depopulated country saddled with Greek levels of unsustainable debt brought about by EU austerity measures that benefit no-one except the German economy.

Before finally agreeing to swear in PS leader Antonio Costa to head a new left-supported government, the president demanded that left-wing parties must “guarantee” support for next year’s austerity budget, pension cuts, euro membership, mass privatisation policies and Nato membership.

He also made clear that he would step in again if the social democrats failed to continue with the same policies as the previous right-wing government.

“I do not abdicate from any of the powers vested in the president,” he said, reiterating that he has the power to sack the government and delay or veto some policies passed by parliament until his term ends this month.

The EU, of course, has failed to comment on this latest attack on the democratic process. That is because within the "European project" democratic majorities have been repeatedly nullified if they would not guarantee the implementation of a German-dictated austerity policy imposed on the entire eurozone.

In Italy prime minister Mario Monti’s unelected “cabinet of experts” ruled from November 2011 until April 2013 without any mandate at all.

The dreaded troika comprised of representatives of the EU, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund now decides varying degrees of national policies in Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Greece and Cyprus.

In July the EU even ignored the Greek population’s clear rejection of continuing austerity by a three-fifths majority in a referendum on the question.

Greece was then punished with the imposition of even harsher austerity measures, carried out by the supposedly anti-austerity Syriza government.

Then, of course, there are the referendums that didn’t get the required results or were simply ignored by the EU and ruling elites as an inconvenience.

In June 1992 the Danish voted to reject the Maastricht Treaty in a referendum. However Danes were forced to vote again to ratify the treaty with some opt-outs. Some of these legal opt-outs will be abolished if Denmark votes the right way once more in today’s referendum.

In 2001 Irish voters rejected the Treaty of Nice, only to be forced to vote again until the right result was produced.

In 2005 French and Dutch voters rejected the European Constitution, forcing the EU to carry out a hurried cut-and-paste job, renaming this charter for corporate rule the Lisbon Treaty.
Governments in France and the Netherlands simply lied to their voters by repeating ludicrous EU claims that it was a different document. These so-called "differences" were never made clear and no self-respecting eurocrat would even dare to argue that now.

However Irish voters once again upset proceedings by rejecting the rewritten treaty in a referendum in 2008.

Brussels then used menaces against the Irish people by exploiting the growing economic crisis and forced another referendum.

The EU is also throwing its weight around beyond its borders, most famously by supporting the far-right coup in Ukraine and pumping millions of EU funds into thoroughly unpleasant organisations which ultimately seized power and are trying to ban socialist thought.

All this is very troubling to those on the left and liberals that still believe that the EU can be transformed into something wonderful.

Their claims that "another Europe is possible" seem more and more tragic but their unshakable faith remains enviably steadfast.

Supporting the Tory cause for staying in "Europe," Green MP Caroline Lucas recently claimed in Parliament that the EU could work to "spread peace and make our economies more sustainable, and to promote democracy and human rights, at home and throughout the world."

It would be easy to laugh this off with a verse of Judy Garland's Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

But this blind acceptance is still widespread and whatever doubts your average liberal Eurofanatic may harbour are soon expelled when they read that Greek workers, struggling to survive in a devastated economy thanks to EU "bailouts," still have the right to workplace risk assessments.

One think piece from Polly Toynbee about how agency workers are thriving thanks to the EU Agency Workers Directive and their Euro-enthusiasm seems to be restored once more.

However it is unlikely that highly paid pro-EU pundits like these even know that this directive only kicks in after 12 weeks and a fiendishly clever opt-out, known as the Swedish Derogation, renders the whole thing useless.

Despite this admirably determined support for the EU, many liberals and Greens often do admit that the current state of affairs is hardly a democratic model to crow about.

Even EU cheerleader and former MEP Caroline Lucas argued in the same speech that the EU "must urgently change direction, away from an obsessive focus on competition and free trade."

But the grim reality is that these are the very goals the EU was set up for and if any government tries to stop it, as we have seen, they will be punished. All that remains really is to decide when you have had enough punishment and it is time to leave the empire.
The Campaign against Euro-federalism, CAEF, was founded in 1992 to address the labour and trade union movement and win it back to the anti-EU position it held from the 1960’s until 1988. This is the year when Jacques Delors sold the myth of Social Europe to the trade union movements in Denmark, Ireland and Britain in exchange for support for the European Union. This was in the run up to the Maastricht Treaty, single market and single currency. The labour movement has organisations which represent, in one way or another, the aspirations of the vast majority of the population which is working class. There are still organisations, trade unions and political parties in the movement who oppose the EU. The media ignores us. Perhaps this will now change. However, one thing is certain: we’ll not win this referendum without the labour movement.

CAEF’s position stands firmly on the right of nation-states to self-determination, national independence and democracy.

The EU is the antithesis of democracy. It is a superstate governed by EU institutions. We all need to make clear that there is the continent of Europe or the European Union, not ‘Europe’. A pub quiz question could be: “Is Norway in Europe?”

The Council of Ministers and EU Summits use a Qualified Majority Voting system in which Britain has 12.6% of votes and has to gain support from 15 other Member States. QMV shifted power away from smaller populated Member States to the largest.

The European Court of Justice overrides national courts and parliaments. Some judgements have come out against collective bargaining and for the free movement of labour.

In Lille, France, is the European Rail Agency where legislation for rail privatisation and other rail packages are prepared and passed on to the Commission and national governments to put in place. Directive 91/440 was used to privatise the railways. There was a Directive to privatise postal services and so on.

EU laws and legislation were changed from an intergovernmental system to a superstate and a Union by the Lisbon Treaty or European Constitution. In Britain we never had the opportunity to discuss this Treaty before ratification. If we want to leave the EU it is the Lisbon Treaty which must be discussed, not the charade of the trivial reforms played out today.

Meantime the European Commissioner for Trade is negotiating undemocratically the secret Transatlantic Trade and Investment Treaty (TTIP) with her counterpart in Washington. TTIP and the Inter State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) tribunals overarch the EU with the object of bolting together the EU and US markets with poorer regulations on food, labour conditions and wages, and so on. ISDS gives transnational corporations powers to take governments to these anonymous tribunals. Tobacco firm Philip Morris took the Australian government to this court for removing advertising on cigarette packages for loss of profits, likewise the Egyptian government for daring to raise the minimum wage.

The claws are out via TTIP and ISDS to grab and privatise the NHS for the largest lobby group in the US - the health and pharmaceutical companies. TTIP and ISDS override national parliaments and national democracy. There is a growing movement across the EU against TTIP and ISDS. 250,000 demonstrated against TTIP in Berlin. A pdf file is available on leave.eu website. Further copies available from: leafrequest@leave.eu.

What has happened to Britain
tition signed by over three million against TTIP has been lodged with the European Parliament. The TUC and most trade unions oppose TTIP. Despite all this opposition these same institutions support the EU. A complete contradiction. You cannot be both against TTIP and for the EU.

Leave.eu has published a pamphlet ‘STOP TTIP’ get hold of some to help distribute and spread the dangers this Treaty poses. (go to CAEF wesite for link to the pdf of this material)

Democracy only works within nation-states not between them. There is no democracy between Britain and Greece or any other Member State. The EU cannot be democratic despite talk about correcting the democratic deficit. The way the EU operates is to take away the powers of national governments, parliaments and at the same time cull national democracy and our hard won rights as the elector to tip out those who govern us.

To date the world is run with nation-states having the right to self-determination and national democracy. There are more nation-states today than ten years ago. The nation-state is here to stay: it is not a 19th century anachronism. Those who want an end to nation-states and national democracy are those forces behind TTIP, ISDS and the EU.

Britain as a nation-state to function to the benefit of the peoples’ of Britain must have control of its own borders, must be able to control its: fisheries and the sea underneath; protect its industries and jobs involved; control our borders to decide who comes into Britain. That means bringing an end to the free movement of labour in order to protect wages and stop the ‘race to the bottom’ first coined by the trade unions. These are the concerns of all who work for their living and their trade unions. The free movement of labour and immigration are different issues. Both require control of Britain’s borders.

Since the 1975 Referendum the deindustrialisation of Britain is all but complete. We had a coal industry, steel industry, shipbuilding and manufacturing. We traded across the world. These industries were the backbone of the economy which created wealth to pay for all the public services such as the NHS and the welfare state.

There are 1,680,000 people currently unemployed in Britain, many of these are young people. We have soup kitchens and food banks, an acute housing crisis and competition in the NHS is tearing it apart, competition and privatisation in the education system.

The alternative to EU membership is to have an economy based on manufacturing, associated industries and to trade across the world including nation-states in the EU, instead of an economy based on the financial and service industries which got us into deep water. That’s in addition to being locked into a crumbling crisis-ridden EU. The euro is in deep crisis with Greece being turned into a colony within the EU. Even now members of the European Movement want Britian to join the euro. We need to stay out of the euro because all Member States are lined up to join the impractical single currency and Central Bank.

The Schengen agreement of free movement of people has all but collapsed.

Regarding jobs for example, part of the alternative outside the EU lies in Africa, India and Pakistan which need electrification. We should make this equipment and other manufactures. We need a merchant navy to carry these goods, a steel and shipbuilding industry. We can together discuss and together work out a rational future for Britain and its peoples.

CAEF says the only way to oppose TTIP, ISDS, rule by Brussels and the free movement of everything especially of labour is to dump the Lisbon Treaty.

This referendum is not a game of football with red and yellow cards. We must show the red card to Messrs, Juncker, Tusk, Schultz and Cameron. Get them off our pitch in a massive vote to leave the EU.

CAEF, on behalf of all those in the labour movement who oppose the EU wish all sections well in the leave camp whatever constituency they represent in the campaign to leave the EU.
There is an alternative to the EU of the monopolies. It lies in upholding the public good, opposing the dictate of European and global monopolies, including the international financiers, and affirming the sovereignty of each state’s public authority over the direction of its economy and society as a whole. On that basis, the people of each country can develop their co-operation and unity which expresses their interests and not that of the transnational corporations; on that basis sovereign peoples can develop their own institutions of international mutual benefit.

Therefore CAEF unequivocally campaigns that Britain should leave the EU, which represents the interests of the neo-liberal agenda of the dominance of the global monopolies, the transnational corporations and the financial oligarchy of the EU.

The dangerous developments within the EU, such as the secret TTIP negotiations with the US, are designed to impose private monopoly interests and wreck public services. This is under the fraud of harmonising regulation, and the proposals for a European armed force which would lead to the escalation and broadening of armed conflict. The EU is a force for imposing the austerity agenda, as in Greece.

Membership of the EU would tie the hands of any future progressive government that serves working people. To think of the EU as a force for good international relations in Europe is an illusion, imbuing workers with false hopes.

The alternative is to build and develop trade and other relations between nations and countries for mutual benefit. The mood which has burst on the scene since September 12 is that there is an alternative to austerity. This must be extended to the EU. There is an alternative to the power structures of the EU, an alternative which serves the needs of the people in the course of their daily lives.

Just as the emergence of a “new politics” championed by Jeremy Corbyn comes out of and is based in the struggles of the people to resist the anti-social offensive and get organised, so new relations of the states of Europe will not emerge out of some kind of “reform” of the EU of the monopolies and austerity. It will emerge out of the struggles of the people against the dictate of monopoly capital. The “internationalism” of the EU is an illusion, based on the wrecking of the nation-state, the end of the nation-building projects of the big powers, and a hostility to others’ nation-building projects, a hostility which includes the so-called “free trade” and the “free movement of capital, goods, services and labour” which is designed to trample on the rights of everyone.

The internationalism of an alternative Europe is based on true social relations between peoples and their good-neighbourliness. Ultimately this means that the people must be empowered in the European states to bring these relations about. But the time is now to declare that this is the way forward and to hold governments to account that they conduct affairs on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. It would be an important break with the old for Britain to leave the EU. It is not a backward step but a step to defeat austerity on a European scale.

Such a step provides an opportunity to affirm in the nations which presently make up Britain or the UK that the alternative can and must be fought for nationally, as well as internationally. It provides a golden opportunity to build national economies which serve the public good and the people’s wellbeing. It provides an opportunity for the working people to affirm: We Decide! It provides an opportunity for working people to say No, Oxi, to legislation that goes against their interests.

The austerity agenda is destructive of the social economy. The EU represents this austerity agenda. The rights of working people, make no mistake, have been fought for by working people themselves. These rights are inviolable whatever the EU may say or not say. The issue is to have them enshrined and guaranteed in national legislation. The long-term viability of the national economy and public services are serious concerns. The EU, far from guaranteeing these long-term aims is concerned with short-term realisation of maximum profit.

The alternative for the people is themselves to fight for a pro-social direction for the economy and the guarantee of workers’ rights. This is possible in the context of fighting for control of the economy, wresting it away from those in power in the EU and leaving the EU altogether. This would be an important step in the people gaining control over their economy and over decisions which affect their lives. This is not the be-all and end-all of the fight for a national economy and public services which are under the sovereign control of the people who create the wealth in the first place. The fight for this continues and intensifies at home. But it can actually be carried out in conjunction with all those forces fighting for the same aim.

The movement is on to defeat austerity and promote the public good and all public services. The move to leave an EU dominated by the “old imperialist powers” which defends the narrow private interests of the monopolies and attempts to impose them on the member states, especially the smaller powers, should be engaged as part of the whole movement to defeat austerity. The defeat of the austerity agenda is what the whole movement to leave the EU is about and this is what should be on the banner of the labour and trade union movement. It can be brought about together with the aim of empowering working people as the decision-makers. Otherwise further crises are bound to be the result to the detriment of the people of Europe as a whole.

This alternative is where people have control of their own lives and future, in which the economy is our economy, resources are our resources, and the cooperation of the peoples of Europe is strengthened for their mutual benefit, not for the rich and powerful.

By Mike Chant, a CAEF Executive Committee member.
This EU Counter Summit was convened to show the growing antipathy towards the EU across the continent and how widespread this movement is. There were three panels totalling eleven speakers. These included six from outside Britain from Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Norway and Slovenia.

Counter Summit London 7 November 2015 Statement

This EU Counter Summit of EU critical organisations and movements states that:

- The EU is the antithesis of democracy at best illustrated by TTIP and other so-called trade deals, designed to protect corporate investors, which are being negotiated in secret.
- Has seriously diminished the sovereignty and right to self-determination of all Member States through common policies, EU directives and legislation.
- The European Single Market defined as the free movement of capital, goods, services and labour is a disaster for many Member States.
  - Districts and areas have been depopulated in the east of the EU and have lost skilled and professional labour, something that is used to undermine incomes and working conditions in Member States into which they move.
  - The unrestricted free movement of capital has resulted in whole work places and factories being moved for the sake of vested interests, especially the TNCs, and many non-TNCs as well, with workforces cast aside to unemployment.
- State aid, subsidies and protection of industries, enterprises and jobs is not permitted within the EU.
- All the above has been reinforced by European Court of Justice rulings and EU legislation emanating from the Commission.
- Permanent austerity, a common policy across the EU, stems from the strict criteria of Economic and Monetary Union that limits public sector expenditure and government borrowing. This is a major reason for the push towards privatisation which now includes education and other public services.
- The euro Member States have their economies largely controlled by the European Central Bank that determines exchange and interest rates, two key economic levers. Greece has become subordinate to the dictates of the ECB, European Commission and the IMF (the troika). Other eurozone states are now suffering from mass unemployment, especially amongst young people that is blighting their lives.
- The thrust towards the militarisation of the EU, with a European Army promoted by Germany, is a threat to peace. It was former Commission President Jacques Delors who stated “The EU needs a European Army to fight the resource wars of the 21st Century”. Forces from NATO and some EU Member States have been active outside the EU. There is an EU Common Security and Defence Policy and an armed European Gendarmerie Force.
- Military action in the Middle East, Africa and Afghanistan has created a humanitarian crisis, with refugees and economic migrants seeking sanctuary within the EU, something that has created huge economic and acute social problems for some EU Member States. The Schengen agreement, a passport-free area, for free movement of people has all but been abandoned.

This EU Counter Summit supports those organisations and movements and all those who:

- Work and campaign for their nation-state to leave the EU, to oppose EU membership or reform the EU, to defend their right to self-determination and national democracy.
- Work to achieve again the right of their nation-state to self-determination, national independence and democracy
- Work and support the growing campaign to expose and oppose TTIP and associated treaties and secret courts and tribunals. This includes further mass petitions to the EU Commission and national governments and demonstrations.
- Work and support those who seek to retrieve the right to control their nation-states and their own agriculture in place of CAP; fishing grounds and industries in place of CFP; industries and work forces in place of EU directives and common policies; border controls in place of the four freedoms of the single market.
- Work and support those who campaign for a return to their national currencies, and the ability to control their own economies.
- Work and support those who want bilateral trade agreements in place of the European Single Market and European Economic Area.

------

Signed by the representatives and delegates of organisations and movements and people at this EU Counter Summit in London on 7 November 2015.

The Counter Summit was filmed and is available as separate YouTube pieces of each speech on the TEAM website and TEAM Facebook. DVDs from CAEF for £2
TTIP

A rose by any other name

European Union trade commissioner Cecilia Malmström attempted to sell the toxic TTIP trade deal at a recent university conference.

Ms Malmström, responsible for EU international trade, is seeking to rebrand the controversial investor-state dispute settlement mechanism (ISDS).

The “corporate court” system, which allows big business to sue governments that interfere with their profits, was rejected by an overwhelming 97% in the European Commission’s biggest ever public consultation.

But the commissioner is now trying to rebrand it as the Investment Court System (ICS).

“Cecilia Malmström has already confirmed she doesn’t ‘take her mandate from the European people’ and the European people have seen for themselves how she and the EU continue to put the interests of big business first,” said War on Want senior trade campaigner Mark Dearn.

“The cynical rebranding of the corporate courts system

he more citizens know about TTIP and CETA, the less they want them – that’s the essence of the European Commission’s latest poll. Within the first year of our campaign, support for the ongoing negotiations has fallen in 24 out of the 28 EU member states, by 5% on average; while rejection increased by 7%. Keeping up our efforts to inform the public can thus make 2016 the year when a clear majority of Europeans finally turns against these trade agreements.

For the third time in a row since autumn 2014, the EU’s Eurobarometer survey asked people across Europe whether they were for or against an ‘EU-US free trade agreement’ – meaning TTIP. While in the autumn 2014 Standard Eurobarometer, 58% of the people polled were in support of the trade deal, by November 2015 this support had fallen to 53%. This result is encouraging and better still, the percentage of people who replied “don’t know” decreased from 17% in 2014 to 15% in autumn 2015. Opposition to TTIP, on the other hand, increased from 25% in autumn 2014 to 32% a year later.

In four EU countries, the majority of the population is now against the EU-US free trade agreement. In Austria and Germany more than half the population is opposed – in Austria it’s no less than a total of 70%, in Germany a total of 59%. Slovenia is new to the list. Here, the majority of the population now also opposes TTIP (in spring 2015 this was not yet the case). In Luxembourg, 47% of the population is against it.

Overall, support for TTIP has fallen in a total of 24 member states. In the Netherlands, support decreased by 10% compared to spring 2015. In Hungary, support also fell by 10%, while the Czech Republic even saw a 13% decrease. Support remained on the same level in only two countries, and increased in only two member states, which is also a positive sign. In comparison the spring 2015 poll recorded increasing support for TTIP in 9 member states. This trend is now clearly reversed.

These results are also useful feedback for Stop TTIP activists: After a long and exhausting year of signature gathering and impressive protest, countries such as Germany and Austria now have a majority that rejects TTIP. Support for TTIP in Austria even decreased further still, from 39% in autumn 2014, to 22% in autumn 2015. The Netherlands saw a 10% decrease in support for TTIP within only a few months and might become one of the next countries where majorities will switch. Lobbyists working for the trade agreements should brace themselves.

To help increase opposition to TTIP a pamphlet/leaflet has been produced by leave.eu available from:- leafetrequest@leave.eu
Myth and Paradox of the Single Market: How trade benefits have been mis-sold

Author, Michael Burrage, demonstrates in this intensive and complex exegesis, with the aid of extensive statistical tables and analyses which comprise a third of the content, that there is little if any economic benefit to membership of the European Union. It is made clear that our leaders have surrendered our independence of action only to enhance and maintain the ever growing power and menace of the new superstate that is Federal Europe.

Throughout the first section the author has compared the Free Trade Agreements made by the EU with those of four independent countries outside the EU, ie Chile, Korea, Singapore and Switzerland which lack any of the alleged advantages considered essential in trade negotiations by the CBI and many UK Businesses. Apart from Chile where there were special circumstances all the independent countries fared much better than EU member states. The author's concluding statement on this first section of the myth of the single market is: "There is no new evidence that the single market programme has helped the exports of the UK or other founder member countries to OECD nations.

To redress the appalling lack of accurate data on the spurious claims of the pro EU Parties the author suggests that: "There is, therefore, a strong case for an independent, adequately funded research and audit agency, similar to that of the office for Budget Responsibility, the Office for National Statistics or the House of Commons’ Library. to examine the economic costs and benefits of the Single Market impartially, explain or resolve the paradox that non member states have been its main beneficiaries, and allow it to become a topic of normal, evidence based debate."

Further factual material is produced in section 3 and in part 2 under the heading: "The Paradox of who benefits from the single market", to effectively dispute the assertion that Britain is not capable of negotiating Free Trade Agreements on its own, and therefore it was correct for Britain to give up its freedom to act on its own behalf. The writer shows how countries which are not members of the EU such as Switzerland, Chile, Japan and Korea have not only been able to successfully negotiate agreements on their own behalf but have exported more to the EU than the UK which is a net importer from Europe.

The author intimates that the problem for those campaigning against our continued membership of this corrupt European federation is the relentless mendacity and pusillanimity of our timorous national leaders and representatives. The concluding remarks provide a succinct exposition which can only be quoted verbatim: "Thus far, the present Government appears to be the latest in a long line of governments that have declined to provide the information which voters require to make an informed choice about EU membership. The European Commission has similarly felt under no obligation to provide information and evidence about the specific costs incurred and the benefits enjoyed by the British people.”

Published by CIVITAS: pprbk: 212 pp; ISBN

View from Germany
In an article published by the leading German foreign policy journal, an influential diplomat predicts that worldwide, there will be a further increase in the number of wars and their victims, this year. “The number of conflicts, their victims, and their refugees” has been increasing worldwide, for the past five years and this development will "most likely continue this year." The journal, "Internationale Politik," substantiates this assumption by presenting an overview of the current wars. Today’s deadliest wars—in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, and South Sudan—are indeed a direct or indirect outcome of western hegemonic policies. With its military interventions or subversive support for insurgents, this policy is aimed at provoking pro-western putsches or weakening non-compliant states. "Internationale Politik" assesses the possibility of conflicts in China’s vicinity. During the years of China’s rise, western powers were unsuccessful in knitting strong ties with the resource-rich Arab world, in view of the impending power struggle with the People’s Republic of China. This power struggle is already emerging.

(German Foreign Policy Group 12.2.16)
Quiz No. 149

What are the following?

1. GOSTOLEODS
2. 02YRROW
3. SHOTGU
4. ______ O O ______
5. DRACULA
6. Hamlet
   Word
   Word
7. N
   ROAD
8. PINNACLES
9. LOUCwt.NGE
10. 0 mouth
11. A B C D E F G
12. O P E N
13. JUMBO
14. ME
15. RAE FAED

Answers No. 148

1. A bad spell of weather
2. No two ways about it
3. Frilly underwear
4. Excuse me
5. One foot in the grave
6. Another time another place

Crossword Puzzle No. 149

ACROSS
6. Imperialist growth (12)
8. Secret (6)
9. On a vehicle (6)
10. Small lead Mass (4)
11. Lift (8)
13. Object (8)
15. Fish (4)
16. Unjust (6)
18. Duct (6)
19. Relating to flight (12)

DOWN
1. Protest (12)
2. Orb (6)
3. Vehemently disliked (8)
4. ...Zapata! (4)
5. Breed of pet (6)
7. Doable (12)
12. Interlude (8)
14. Attract (6)
15. Three times (6)
17. Quantity of paper (4)
Please renew your membership or subscription. And, donate if you can.

The Democrat

Please forward the next live issues of the Democrat to the address below. CAEF members are sent the paper free through the post. Please make cheques and POs to Democrat Press.

I enclose £6 . . . . . and a donation to the paper . . . . . . Making a total of . . . . . . .

Name . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Address . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Postcode . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

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

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 / / 2015
Address . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . email address

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

Useful Websites

CAEF does not necessarily agree with everything in these sites
Campaign against Euro-federalism with data from current, many feature articles and back issues of the Democrat.
www.caef.org.uk
EUobserver reports daily on EU matters with links to other newspapers and sources.
www.euobserver.com
Scottish CAEF:
homepage.ntlworld.com/foster-prendergast/scaef/index.files
Trade unionists against the EU (TUAEU):
tuaeu.co.uk
‘Grassroots Out’ broad campaign to get Britain out of the EU
grassrootsput.co.uk
Leave.eu broad campaign to get Britain out of the EU in the referendum:
leav.eu
TEAM the European alliance of EU critical organisations.
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
Peoples’ Movement Ireland:
people.ie
National Platform of Ireland:
nationalplatform.org
German foreign policy group of journalists:
german-foreign-policy.com
Easy read Lisbon Treaty with index.
en.euabc.com
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO):
eulobbytours.org
Data on other sites welcome

November 2015-February 2016 The Democrat page 15
**Beyond belief**

Says Arthur Smelt

How anyone who professes to support democratic principles can continue to defend the EU which can only be described as bureaucratic, dictatorial and run by unelected apparatchiks, is difficult to comprehend. Hopefully, before too long, we are going to escape from this massive con trick which was never voted for by the electorate. It remains to be seen whether or not a referendum takes place and if the vote goes against the Establishment it will be disregarded as has happened in the past in France, Holland and Ireland.

There are those who support EU for career-ist and reasons of self interest. Others accept what they are told without question because they are brainwashed and have not taken the trouble to think for themselves or to examine and analyse what is happening throughout Europe. The politics of fear are used time and time again to keep people in line. For example we are told that if we leave the EU millions of jobs will be lost. In fact we import more from the EU than we export thereby allowing other EU nations to make a trading surplus of something in the region of £165 billion a year which they are hardly going to ditch come what may. In countries like Denmark for instance reports seem to indicate that the majority of the population want to be free of EU.

Furthermore, we are witnessing large scale unemployment spread across Southern Europe. This is now being exacerbated by the influx of thousands of refugees from the Middle East, due to the crazy foreign policies of certain Western nations who have been waging futile wars for the past fourteen years in the Middle East. Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and now Syria where trillions of pounds have been frittered away, thousands of people have been killed, maimed and displaced, their houses destroyed and their lives ruined. Ordinary people no matter what their nationality or colour want to live peaceful lives in decent accommodation with enough to eat and drink, with decent education and welfare for their children. Is there any wonder they are prepared to risk their lives to improve their existence. The only people who gain are the arms manufacturers and their associates.

Recently demonstrations have taken place in quite a number of major cities throughout the world on the question of climate change and the need to take steps to slow it down. Instead we are hearing in our news bulletins about thousands of sorties by aircraft burning up fuel, dropping bombs and polluting the environment with ground vehicles doing pretty much the same thing. Pope Frances has bravely pointed out that the Earth is approaching environmental suicide and we have this kind of insanity taking place.

Nearer to home reports tell us our health services are in an unholy mess. Care for our elderly people is sadly lacking. We are told that 43,900 elderly people died last winter, many because of the cold but in some cases due to the lack of lifesaving medication. If we examine the infrastructure of our country there is a great deal which needs sorting out. If the trillions wasted on war, tax evasion, massive salaries and bonuses, corruption, incompetence and so on, life in the UK could be transformed.