

Free Britain

Newspaper of the Campaign for an Independent Britain

September 2009

SAVE LOCAL DEMOCRACY!



Gordon Brown's Government and the European Union are between them destroying local democracy in Britain. Just as New Labour has made Parliament impotent by transferring national powers to Brussels, it has also squashed local councils and brought in unaccountable quangos to take charge of planning, housing and transport – all in the name of EU-imposed “regionalisation”.

The latest of these quangos are the Regional Partnership Boards – secretive and unaccountable bodies dominated by bureaucrats and Labour-supporting businessmen. These Boards have been given responsibility for creating new “Regional Strategies” for each of the nine Euro-regions of England. At the same time, local councils are being “privatised” – their administrations being contracted out to foreign-owned companies. In one case, *Free Britain* has discovered, a council in Yorkshire has handed over much of its management to a corporation based in Germany.

The business in question was close to Hitler's regime dur-

ing WWII and was led at one time by a dedicated Nazi who helped bankroll the SS. The German takeover of East Riding is just a pilot scheme for the “Europeanisation” of local and national government administration in Britain and EU-wide.

Brussels

All this has been done at the behest of Brussels, which wants every aspect of government administration in the EU member states – right down to local level – to be subject to Europe's “open market”.

Under the Lisbon Treaty – the revamped EU Constitution – the erosion of local and national democracy will be massively accelerated.

In this issue of *Free Britain* we look at ways in which the European Union is taking away our democratic rights. If you want to stop the EU destroying our liberty and democracy, you should join the Campaign for an Independent Britain.

The fightback starts here!

Mandy the democrat?

“The era of pure, representative democracy is coming to an end ... a number of other means of representation would take the place of pure democracy ... plebiscites, focus groups, lobbies, citizen movements and the internet” (Peter Mandelson, March 1998)

More from Mandy on page 2

What you can do to help...

- If you share our determination to defeat the EU Dictatorship, and restore independence and democracy to the United Kingdom, please join our campaign, help us distribute copies of *Free Britain* and our “Time for Truth” leaflets, and spread the word about the “European Project”. Full details and an application form for membership of the Campaign for an Independent Britain appear on the back page. It costs as little as £10 to join our campaign.

For more information visit: <http://www.eurosceptic.org.uk>

Demand a referendum!

David Cameron has promised that a Conservative government would give the British people a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty – the revamped EU Constitution.

However, this is only if the Treaty has not been ratified by the remaining EU member states – the Irish Republic, Germany and the Czech Republic – in the meantime.

As the General Election is unlikely to take place until next summer, the chances are that the Irish, Germans and Czechs will by then have been coerced into accepting the Treaty, and it will have become law across the whole EU.

If that happens, what will David Cameron do if and when he enters 10 Downing Street? Will he do the right thing?

That, of course, is to give us a referendum on Lisbon even if it has already been fully ratified.

A referendum is the best way to decide the matter once and for all. We need to ensure that these issues are properly debated in the country and put to a free vote.

And where the people lead, the Nation's Parliament must follow. If the result of a referendum is, as we expect, a decisive "No" to Lisbon, then the Government must move swiftly to extricate us from this dangerous entanglement with the European Union.

A Sovereignty Bill must be put before MPs, the aim of which would be to restore the hard-won liberties of the British Parliament and people. The choice facing our Nation is clear. Do we wish to be part of a single European political union as envisaged by the Lisbon Treaty, or will we seek to regain our independence and democracy?

David Cameron must go into the next General Election pledging a referendum on Lisbon whether or not the EU ratification process has been completed by then.

And if he wins that Election, he must honour the pledge. Give us our referendum!

– Andy Smith, Editor

More about Mandy...

"I do not favour a referendum ... because I don't believe the (Lisbon) Treaty warrants it, nor do I believe further movement towards referendums fits with Parliamentary democracy." (Peter Mandelson, July 2009)

Lord Mandelson, former European Trade Commissioner, now First Secretary of State (aka deputy PM) in Gordon Brown's Government, has "flip-flopped" in his views on democracy. As a Cabinet Minister under Tony Blair in 1998 he declared that the Parliamentary system was finished and that "plebiscites [and] citizen movements" were the wave of the future. In 2009, however, as Gordon Brown's deputy, he rejects plebiscites and declares them to be inconsistent with Parliamentary supremacy.

He may have changed his views on democracy but this is because, for "Mandy", Europe comes first at all times. Sometimes he and his fellow Europhiles find it convenient to champion Parliamentary democracy; at other times referendums and direct-democracy. He backed the referendums on devolution in Wales and Scotland but he doesn't want the people of the UK to have their say on the Lisbon Treaty because he knows they realise it is simply the discredited EU Constitution under another name and they would there-

fore reject it. He also knows that such a rejection brings closer the day when Britain leaves the European Union altogether. No wonder he is desperate to avoid any such possibility – even if it means having to pretend to be a defender of Parliamentary democracy!

What he never admits is that he cares nothing for either Parliament or the people. His only interest is dragging Britain deeper and deeper into the undemocratic, scandal-ridden and institutionally-corrupt European Union.



Help us expose the lies...

Spread the word! CIB has published a series of leaflets setting out the truth about the costs of Britain's disastrous membership of the EU.

You can order our leaflets – for free – from: www.eurosceptic.org.uk/leaflets

England's Euro-Regions

At the same time that New Labour pushed "devolution" onto Scotland and Wales, it divided England into nine Euro-regions – London, East of England, South East, South West, East Midlands, West Midlands, North West, Yorkshire & Humber, and North East.

In order to meet the requirements of the EU's Committee of the Regions, the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998 created a whole new tier of government for England, with business-led Quangos called Regional Development Agencies "to drive economic development" and Regional Assemblies as the first step towards the destruction of independent local government.

The original idea was for the Assemblies to become mini-parliaments but, after the proposal for a directly elected Assembly was defeated in a regional referendum in the North East, Labour gave up on that idea and instead came up with a "Plan B" – regionalisation by the back door.

Two years ago, Labour decided to implement the findings of its obscure "Sub-National Review of Economic Development" which called for the Regional Assemblies to be scrapped and their power handed instead to the even less accountable and far more shockingly wasteful Regional Development Agencies – quangos that have cost the UK taxpayer over £16bn so far.

As a result of the Sub-National Review, in place of Assemblies the English regions have each been given – in addition to their RDA – two other taxpayer-funded bodies, a Regional Partnership Board (dominated by the RDA) and a Council Leaders' Board (on which a small number of local authorities are "represented").

Imposed

The Partnership Boards and the Council Leaders' Boards are extremely low profile – but they are extremely powerful. They are the latest means by which Gordon Brown's Government is putting into practice the EU-imposed policy of regionalisation.

The Partnership Boards are responsible for producing Regional Strategies covering transport, infrastructure, housing, planning, environmental and economic policies. This will make them far more significant than either any of the local councils. Yet these Boards are totally undemocratic, unrepresentative and unaccountable.

These Quangos are not the



▲ **Brussels' regionalisation policy aims to break up the United Kingdom.**

only threat to independent local government in England. At the same time as pushing through the regionalisation policy, the Government has introduced new legislation that makes it more difficult for local communities to influence the planning process or to exercise their democratic rights.

These changes are supposedly in the interests of "streamlining" the planning system to aid economic growth – but in fact this is all about the destruction of local democracy.

The Government and the EU do not want the people of this country to command their own destiny. They do not want a strong British Parliament or independent local government. The future, for them, is "European".

Help regain your democratic rights by joining the Campaign for an Independent Britain.

Germans take power in Yorkshire!

A local council in the north of England has handed its administration to a Germany company, Arvato AG, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Frankfurt-based multinational corporation Bertelsmann, a group better known for its publishing endeavours on behalf of the Nazis in the 1930s and during World War Two, writes Edward Spalton.

Due to the EU "open market", for the past four years Arvato has had control of public administration in the East Riding of Yorkshire, and some 500 of the council's staff have transferred to the German company.

The contract with the local council – which is responsible for over 350,000 people – is regarded by the Germans as "a pilot project of strategic importance" for their expansion into a multi-billion pound market in UK public administration.

Across Europe, Bertelsmann aims to expand within the framework of the so-called "Public/Private Partnership" into areas which are presently under the control of nation states and local authorities. Britain is a prime target for Bertelsmann's expansion.

Bertelsmann's economic rise was based on close involvement with Nazism. From 1933 Bertelsmann produced

Nazi propaganda, becoming the largest producer of books for the *Wehrmacht*, printing over 19 million copies. A TV report on the publisher stated that its literature "imparted strongly anti-semitic, racist, militarist content and National Socialist propaganda". The former Managing Director, Heinrich Mohn, supported the SS financially from 1921 as a "subscribing patron member". He gave around 15,000 Reichsmarks.

Not a free market

The EU operates on "market principles". However, it is not a free market in the classical sense of the "hidden hand" of Adam Smith but very much a managed affair, set up to suit the interests of large corporations. Government and corporate business are seen as being in partnership.

"Privatisation" of public services through the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Public Private Partnerships

(PPP) has been supported by both the Labour and Conservative parties. There are functions carried out by the state or local government which could possibly be done better by independent private or co-operative businesses under impartial legal supervision by the state. But PFI, PPP and similar schemes are not like this. Under the Partnership concept, the state commissions a private provider to raise the capital for, say, a hospital or a school, and then to run it under contract for a period. But if these contractors go bust then the taxpayer picks up the bill.

Subcontracted

A little noticed clause of the Lisbon Treaty takes this further by requiring that services of basic administration should be subcontracted to private businesses – apart from those relating to security and the basic structure of the state.

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Forthcoming Events

PUBLIC MEETING

LABOUR EURO-SAFEGUARDS CAMPAIGN

on Monday 28th September 2009, at 5.45pm
(immediately after the final session of the Labour Party Conference)
At the Umi Hotel, 60-64 Kings Road, Brighton

WHY WE NEED ANOTHER IRISH "NO" TO THE LISBON TREATY

Speakers:

Tony Benn

Kelvin Hopkins MP

John Mills

Chair: Austin Mitchell MP

ALL WELCOME!

Campaign for an Independent Britain

...in The Freedom Zone at the Conservative Party Conference

CIB will have a stand in "The Freedom Zone" at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, on the "fringe" of the Conservative Party Conference, on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th October. So, if you are planning to attend the Conference, or will be in Manchester on those days, please come along and meet the CIB team.

Other groups in The Freedom Zone include The Freedom Association, Better Off Out, Global Vision, Tax-Payers' Alliance, Campaign Against Political Correctness, Conservative Way Forward and Young Britons Foundation.

Open to the public. All welcome. No conference pass needed.

Support our Armed Forces

Conservative Party Conference Fringe Meeting

... in The Exchange Auditorium,
Manchester Central Conference Centre,
on Monday 5th October 2009, at 12.30pm.

Organised by the UK National Defence Association

Speakers include Prof Richard Holmes
and Andrew Roberts

Please note that this meeting is within the main conference centre and you must have a conference pass in order to attend.

Free Britain

Further copies of *Free Britain* may be obtained by visiting www.eurosceptic.org.uk/free-britain or from Jim Reynolds, Brentwood House, Cornsland, Brentwood, Essex. CM14 4JL or 'phone 01277 219140 or fax. 01708 641211. There is no set charge; however any donations towards postage costs are greatly appreciated. Stamps are accepted for smaller quantities or cheques should be made payable to 'Campaign for an Independent Britain'. Please note that the 20p printed on the newspaper is only for the newsagent/stores where these are sold.

POSTAGE GUIDELINES


Up to 4 copies (98g)	47p	36-46 copies (986g)	£2.70
5-10 copies (220g)	76p	47-90 copies (1.90kg)	£4.41
11-23 copies (487g)	£1.04	91-182 copies (3.90kg)	£7.06
24-35 copies (733g)	£1.51		

Quantities over this are usually dispatched by courier at a charge of either £7.00 or £10.50 dependent on area.

BRUGES GROUP ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE FUTURE OF THE EU... CAN IT SURVIVE?
Saturday, 21st November 2009
10.30am – 6.15pm

ADMISSION: £20 (payable on the door or in advance) Includes lunch, wine, tea, coffee, cheese, biscuits, refreshments and nibbles

VENUE: The Great Hall, Kings College London Strand, London WC2R 2LS




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Fighting for freedom...

The Campaign for an Independent Britain (CIB) is the broadly-based, cross-party alliance to defend national sovereignty and the historic rights and liberties of the British people.

We believe that the European Union is the single greatest threat to British freedom and democracy, and our central aim is to secure the repeal of the European Communities Act 1972 under which EU regulations and directives have precedence over UK law.

For over 30 years CIB has fought in defence of British sovereignty. We have consistently warned of the consequences of Parliament handing over its powers, one by one, to EU institutions. In all this time, no other organisation in Britain has done more than CIB to maintain opposition to the European Union.

More recently, through our newspaper Free Britain and our "Time for Truth" publications we have revealed the true extent of European Union power, and shown how EU directives affect all of us in our daily lives.

We were the first to expose the hidden EU agenda behind "regionalisation" and the breakup of Britain, and the first to "blow the gaffe" on the real reasons for rail privatisation, health service cuts, and post office closures.

Politicians

Members of CIB come from all walks of life and include journalists, teachers, lawyers, trade unionists, civil rights activities, and prominent Members of Parliament from both sides of the House. Leading members include Conservative politician Daniel Hannan MEP, Labour MP Austin Mitchell, Independent Labour peer Lord Stoddart, Independent MP Dr Bob Spink, and former Conservative MPs Sir Richard Body, Sir Teddy Taylor and Sir Nicholas Bonsor. We also have within CIB's ranks the representatives of other anti-EU organisations,

such as Conservatives Against a Federal Europe, Campaign Against Euro-Federalism, and the Labour Euro Safeguards Campaign, for whom CIB acts a focal point for concerted action.

What unites all the individuals and affiliated groups under the CIB "umbrella" is a strong belief that Britain needs to regain its independence by leaving the EU. For Britain to remain inside the EU and attempt to "reform" it from within is not a viable option. The European Union is inherently dictatorial, corrupt, fraud-ridden and power-hungry; it can never be reformed.

If you share our view that Britain must leave the EU, and if you want to help us in our fight to restore British self-government and liberty, please join CIB.

The facts about Europe

Why Britain would be better off out of the EU

- Belonging to the EU costs Britain £55 billion a year. That's £39 million a day, or, to put it another way, £1,799 for every British taxpayer. Think what else we could do with that money!
- Due to its complex and unsustainable system of subsidies, the EU's Common Agricultural Policy puts an extra £30 per week on the food bill for the average British family. Meanwhile, the Common Fisheries Policy has destroyed the livelihoods of thousands of British fishermen and wrecked traditional fishing communities.
- The vast majority of our laws are made in Brussels, not Westminster, and there is hardly an area of public policy that is not shaped by the EU. The main role of the House of Commons nowadays is to rubber-stamp decisions taken on the other side of the English Channel.
- The British Government is entirely subservient to Brussels. When Gordon Brown pledged to fight for "British jobs for British workers" he knew he was unable to keep his promise – due to the EU's policy of "free movement of labour".
- Despite our economic problems and falling standards of living, Britain is still the second largest net contributor to the EU, after Germany, and we are forced to subsidise countries such as Greece, Portugal, Poland, Spain, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Estonia, Ireland, Belgium, Slovakia, Malta, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia.
- The Lisbon Treaty – which has already been ratified by the UK and the majority of EU member states – will give yet more powers to the European Union, including control over our defence and foreign policies, and will result in even higher costs.

Join our campaign

I wish to join the Campaign for an Independent Britain and enclose a subscription of:

£20 (recommended) £10 (minimum) £30 £40 £50

Cheques payable to 'Campaign for an Independent Britain'

Title: Name:

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Your comments...

To comment on the issues raised in this newspaper please visit our Blogspot:

<http://www.euroscepticuk.blogspot.com/>

German take-over

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This is a means of enforcing the handover of large parts of national and local administration to supra-national companies with no particular loyalty to the country in which their operations take place and with a prior obligation to the EU institutions for opening up the market for them. It is a power-grab on a breathtaking scale which appears to have done almost unnoticed.

The author is indebted to the news archives of the EU Democrats and to the German Ecological Democratic Party for much of the information in this article.

What do most Britons think about the EU?

- 75% of voters think UK politicians "don't do enough to stand up for British interests in Europe". The same proportion views the EU as "out of touch".
- 65% say the UK "gets an unfair deal in the European Union; we play by the rules but nobody else does."
- 71% want a national referendum to decide whether or not Britain stays in the EU.
- 83% are opposed to European law overriding UK law.

Opinion poll carried out for the Campaign for an Independent Britain by polling company ComRes in February 2009.