

European Union

**Support for
nurses and
pensioners...**

**...or billions
for Brussels?**



What would you like your taxes spent on?

- 1 million hip replacements, or...
- 220,000 more nurses, or...
- 182,000 more teachers, or...
- 162,000 more policemen, or...
- an extra £8 a week on the basic state pension...

...or just one European Union...

According to the Government's own figures, Britain's **direct** annual contribution to the EU budget will be a staggering **£4,700,000,000** in 2007 – enough to pay for a vast increase in NHS and other services. Instead, this incredible sum will be spent on EU bureaucracy and corruption – while the British health service continues to suffer cuts and the threat of privatization initiatives forced on us by European directives.

The EU's hand on your Pension Fund

Increasing privatization of public services through Private Finance Initiatives (PFIs), the ending of final salary pension schemes, and the run down of British industries have all been affected by the dead hand of the EU. Domestic intervention in British industry and growth in truly public services are both prohibited by existing EU treaties and directives.

The closure of Peugeot's Coventry plant was engineered by the EU, as it subsidised a new plant in Slovakia. The EU refused permission for the British government to invest in the plant here.

Although **rejected** by the voters of France and Holland, with trade unionists giving a significant lead, the **EU Constitution** is being brought into force by stealth. This will intensify the EU's liberalising, financially restrictive agenda and bring further rounds of reductions in public spending. More laws like the Services Directive will follow.

Labour migration cannot be controlled under the EU's principle of "Freedom of Movement". This creates skills shortages and weakens the trade union movement in Eastern Europe whilst bringing pressure on union organisation and pay and conditions in Britain. This happened at Gate Gourmet and in the Irish Ferries dispute, where existing

workers were supplanted by cheaper, non-unionised migrants. The huge potential flow of immigrants from Romania and Bulgaria must be prevented. Only a British government free of EU interference can impose permanent control.

Britain's accumulated manufacturing trade deficit with the EU is more than £220 billion. All the 'Single Market' has really achieved has been the export of British workers' jobs – leading to unemployment at home. This massive trade deficit gives the lie to the claim that 3 million jobs are dependent on EU membership.

Peace in our time?

It is ridiculous to claim that the EU has brought peace to Europe. This disregards those who fought for reconciliation prior to the existence of the EU and those who are fighting today against the increasingly militarised EU. The EU supported the NATO-led bombing of Yugoslavia. EU forces are not designed for self-defence but for operations anywhere in the world. The EU calls such attacks “the export of stability”.

Independence for others. Why not for Britain?

British trade unionists have a long history of supporting other nations' aspirations to independence. Recently support was given to various Latin American countries which broke the shackles of the dollar and created their own trading arrangements. Yet the EU ties Britain to its strict economic and political guidelines, dictated by the European Central Bank and the EU Commission – which the British electors can neither choose nor sack.

EU: undemocratic, expensive and corrupt...

The EU's unelected institutions now decide more than half of Britain's laws. Elected by nobody and, in practice, responsible to nobody, the EU Commission takes a net contribution of £115 million *per week* from the British taxpayer. Yet more than 80% of its expenditure is not properly audited. This does not include the cost to British pockets of higher food prices or the huge burden of regulation on 100% of our economy when only 10% of our Gross National Product is exported to the EU.

Better Off Out...

From the beginning of Britain's membership of the 'Common Market' until Delors' deceitful TUC speech in 1988, the British Trade Union Movement and the Labour Party were clear about the intentions of the EU superstate. That clarity must return. The EU should be recognised for what it is – the enemy of free and effective trade unionism.

Yes, we can do it...

...and do better for ourselves

Leaving the European Union is quite simple. One short Act of Parliament and notice to the EU under the Vienna Convention on Treaties will do it. Trade unionists support national independence in other countries. It is time now to support it at home. An independent British government would negotiate a progressive, co-operative relationship with our European neighbours whether they are in the EU or outside it.

The Campaign for an Independent Britain is a cross-party, non-sectarian organization which campaigns against the way in which the EU damages our democracy and economy, creating enormous problems for the British people and totally undermining the work of trade unions and all those who seek to defend the interests of workers and pensioners.

For more information visit our website or return the coupon below to:

Campaign for an Independent Britain, 81 Ashmole Street, London, SW8 1NF

T: 0208 340 0314 F: 0207 582 7021 E: info@cibhq.co.uk W: www.cibhq.co.uk

www.eurosceptic.org.uk/health

Please send me information on how Britain would be Better Off Out of the European Union

Name _____ Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Tel _____

