
Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by DoricMan - 2008/06/13 11:22

Reading the BBC's item on Irelands's voting on European Union's Lisbon Treaty.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7452171.stm>

It appears that many do not understand, or have even read what this treaty is all about. Myself I have not read the thing because I have not been asked to vote on it.

Has another of our freedoms has been trashed, what next?

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/13 14:27

The treaty can be compared to the constitution here:

<http://www.openeurope.org.uk/research/comparative.pdf>

Many people are under the impression that the E.U. already exists - it doesn't. What we have at present is the European community. This treaty would have changed that. The provisions as set out in the treaty would have established a true European Union and reduced national powers accordingly.

The Irish, rightly, voted it down. For all the flowery language about decisions being taken by the people, 3 million Irish folk were the only ones to get a vote. Sickening.

Will they pull a Denmark and make them vote again and again until they get it right?

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Levenax - 2008/06/13 14:59

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7452171.stm>

Even the Irish who have benefitted to the tune of €Bs from the EU and whose farmers still grow fat on CAP handouts have rejected this vile proposal. Let's hope that this is the final nail in its coffin.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/13 15:34

scunnert wrote:

The treaty can be compared to the constitution here:

<http://www.openeurope.org.uk/research/comparative.pdf>

Many people are under the impression that the E.U. already exists - it doesn't. What we have at present is the European community. This treaty would have changed that. The provisions as set out in the treaty would have established a true European Union and reduced national powers accordingly.

The Irish, rightly, voted it down. For all the flowery language about decisions being taken by the people, 3 million Irish folk were the only ones to get a vote. Sickening.

Will they pull a Denmark and make them vote again and again until they get it right?

The BBC site is very anti the no result judging by a quick read. They point out that Ireland only has 3 million voters with a sort of "How Dare They!" indignation. But I agree with you Scunny, if they're so sure its a good thing why are they so reluctant to allow us to vote on it?

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/13 17:10

'Luxembourg Premier and Finance Minister Jean-Claude Juncker said the defeat of the Lisbon Treaty represents a new "European crisis."

"Ireland said 'no' to the Lisbon Treaty," Juncker told reporters in Luxembourg today. "This is not good for Europe. ' "

<http://www.ireland.com/newspaper/breaking/2008/0613/breaking1.htm>

'Sylvie Goulard, head of the European Movement in France, said "the French presidency is interested in maintaining its agenda" because there is no reason to renounce its objectives regarding the climate "on the pretext that several tens of thousands of Irish voters said 'no'" to the treaty.'

<http://www.ttc.org/200806131600.m5dg0yb12081.htm>

'POLISH PRIME MINISTER DONALD TUSK

"Ireland will for sure find a way to ratify this treaty"

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/reutersEdge/idUKGRI34252120080613?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0>

'Britain, France and Germany were set to make clear their resolve to continue ratifying a treaty designed to overhaul the bloc's creaking institutions. That may put the onus back on Dublin to find a way out that allows the reforms to take effect.

A senior diplomat said Prime Minister Gordon Brown had reassured key EU partners that London would complete parliamentary ratification, despite likely fierce pressure from Eurosceptics for a referendum or to scrap the treaty.'

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=585903>

'JOSE MANUEL BARROSO, EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT

The No vote in Ireland has not solved the problems which the Lisbon Treaty is designed to solve... The European Commission believes the remaining ratifications should continue to take their course... The treat is not dead. I believe the treaty is alive.'

'FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER, GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Naturally we are disappointed, it is a hard blow. Nevertheless, I am convinced that we need this treaty. Therefore we are sticking with our goal for it to come into force. The ratification process must continue.'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7453378.stm>

'Article 2 The Union's values

The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights ...'

<http://www.openeurope.org.uk/research/comparative.pdf>

Except when we don't vote correctly?

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/13 18:07

The EU needs reformed and the Treaty would have brought much needed change to the EU's institutions and it's back to the drawing board which is a shame because there's been so much crap thrown about regarding Lisbon.

The status quo is a no-no because the EU and its 27 (soon to be 29) Member States cannot function efficiently as it is currently organised. The UK leaving the EU is also a no-no (even under the Tories).

So, my question to those who are anti-Lisbon, given the above, what changes would you advocate instead of Lisbon ?

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/13 18:10

So it would appear Scunny. Interesting so many insist they will ratify it. Yesterday they were saying if Ireland voted no it was dead in the water. If nothing else surely it proves the need to allow countries to vote on it, why are they afraid of that?

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/13 18:13

scunnert wrote:

Many people are under the impression that the E.U. already exists - it doesn't.

The Treaty on European Union (the Maastricht Treaty)

I: COMMON PROVISIONS

Article A

By this Treaty, the High Contracting Parties establish among themselves a European Union, hereinafter called 'the Union'.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/13 18:51

TLJ wrote:

The EU needs reformed and the Treaty would have brought much needed change to the EU's institutions and it's back to the drawing board which is a shame because there's been so much crap thrown about regarding Lisbon.

The status quo is a no-no because the EU and its 27 (soon to be 29) Member States cannot function efficiently as it is currently organised. The UK leaving the EU is also a no-no (even under the Tories).

So, my question to those who are anti-Lisbon, given the above, what changes would you advocate instead of Lisbon ?

Hi T. I am no expert on what is proposed I'm ashamed to say but in my own defence I tried to find out more about the Lisbon Treaty and found the information available unhelpful to say the least.

On the general subject of the EU I believe many people are now highly suspicious of the whole deal. I would never not want to be part of Europe however I have myself felt at times that it was seeking to undermine the member countries in some areas, our Laws for instance, and even on issues like taxes. I think some issues are for individual countries to make decisions on and individual parliaments.

On a specific issue, the massive movement of people from some areas of Europe to others, I think the EU has failed spectacularly and that issue alone is probably the main reason why so many in the UK resent the EU and all we perceive it to stand for. Many see it as an advocate of the open door policy and we are seeing what such a policy can do. Look at the publicity surrounding illegal immigrants, the resentment built up as a result of that and the open hostility which I would say has been fuelled shamelessly by some sections of the UK media. It could also be said that some of us think the EU is becoming too big.

The other thing is money for again, due to adverse press coverage, we wonder what are these MEP's doing with all this money? There have been many scandals involving financial dealings, fraud and all sorts. So people don't trust the EU and see it as a massive gravy train.

I don't see why it all has to be so complicated. You've asked what we want. I want transparency, I want things simplified and I certainly want a strong Europe but I don't want an EU which, for example, joins in with the US when it comes to denying the people of Palestine much needed food and other aid just because they elected a Party the US doesn't approve of.

This current crisis, the Lisbon Treaty, the fact that they did not want countries to vote on it worried me from the beginning because I couldn't understand why that was the case? I feel for Ireland because they gave their people the chance to do that, to express a view and now they are being pilloried. "There are only 3 million of them, their view can't be permitted to change anything." Why on earth not? The only reason we don't know what any other country thinks is because they won't let them vote on it.

The other thing is, (sorry I'm rambling all over the place here by the way (shut it Lev)) it was also stated in recent weeks that this Treaty would automatically do away with around sixty individual rights (of member countries) when ratified. It was reading this that I went to look for more information and couldn't find it. That would scare people wouldn't it? It scared me.

So in answer to your last question I think they do need to start proving to the people of Europe what they really are about and how they intend to make it work. I think they need to go back to the drawing board and get real if they want everyone on board.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/13 18:54

TLJ wrote:
scunnert wrote:

Many people are under the impression that the E.U. already exists - it doesn't.

The Treaty on European Union (the Maastricht Treaty)

I: COMMON PROVISIONS

Article A

By this Treaty, the High Contracting Parties establish among themselves a European Union, hereinafter called 'the Union'.

Now I am confused! Why then does the opening article in the Lisbon Treaty state:
'Article 1 Establishment of the Union

By this Treaty, the HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES establish among themselves a EUROPEAN UNION, hereinafter called 'the Union' on which the Member States confer competences to attain objectives they have in common. '?
=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/13 20:35

scunnert wrote:
TLJ wrote:
scunnert wrote:

Many people are under the impression that the E.U. already exists - it doesn't.

The Treaty on European Union (the Maastricht Treaty)

I: COMMON PROVISIONS

Article A

By this Treaty, the High Contracting Parties establish among themselves a European Union, hereinafter called 'the Union'.

Now I am confused! Why then does the opening article in the Lisbon Treaty state:

'Article 1 Establishment of the Union

By this Treaty, the HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES establish among themselves a EUROPEAN UNION, hereinafter called 'the Union' on which the Member States confer competences to attain objectives they have in common. '?

I suspect that you're reading the consolidated version. Remember that the Govt's argument against a referendum was that Lisbon is an amending Treaty - ie, it modifies existing ones - whereas the Constitution effectively replaced the existing Treaties with a single document.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Jimbo - 2008/06/13 21:32

What we were heading for here was a United States of Europe, with a president (Blair fav' for the job), a constitution, in fact the full bhuna.

What the Irish vote does is put the lie to the Westminster claim that Scotland has more say in Europe as part of the Union and an independent Scotland would be too small to have any clout.

From the Telegraph:

<http://tinyurl.com/4ybjhx>

"The agreement, which would sweep away dozens of national vetoes, must be ratified by all 27 European Union members before it can take force next year."

The EU's Lisbon Treaty explained:

<http://tinyurl.com/6mkdqt>

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Jimbo - 2008/06/13 21:53

Referendum results in full

Ireland referendum 2008

Results by constituency of the vote on the Lisbon Treaty held on July 12 2008

Yes (%) Nice2001(%) No (%) Nice2001(%) Turnout (%)

Carlow/Kilkenny 26,210 49.8 47.7 26,206 49.8 52.3 50.9

Cavan/Monaghan 22,346 45.0 48.1 27,113 54.6 51.9 53.4

Clare 20,982 51.7 48.7 19,490 48.0 51.3 52.5

Cork East 18,177 42.9 43.5 24,052 56.7 56.5 50.6

Cork North-Central 12,440 35.4 41.2 22,546 64.2 58.8 53.4

Cork North-West 16,253 46.0 45.4 18,991 53.7 54.6 55.6

Cork South-Central 22,112 44.7 45.4 27,166 54.9 54.6 55.0

Cork South-West 14,235 44.2 47.2 17,806 55.3 52.8 55.3

Donegal North-East 9,006 35.1 39.9 16,504 64.3 60.1 45.7

Donegal South-West 10,174 36.4 39.6 17,659 63.2 60.4 46.5

Dublin Central 12,328 43.6 40.9 15,816 56.0 59.1 48.8

Dublin Mid-West 12,577 39.5 41.9 19,182 60.3 58.1 51.7

Dublin North 22,696 50.3 48.0 22,194 49.2 52.0 55.3

Dublin North-Central 15,772 50.5 43.0 15,396 49.3 57.0 61.1

Dublin North-East 12,917 43.1 43.5 16,973 56.6 56.5 57.2

Dublin North-West 9,576 36.3 42.1 16,749 63.5 57.9 52.9

Dublin South 32,190 62.7 51.9 19,005 37.0 48.1 58.4

Dublin South-Central 16,410 38.9 43.2 25,624 60.8 56.8 51.6

Dublin South-East 17,111 61.4 49.3 10,644 38.2 50.7 49.6

Dublin South West 12,601 34.8 39.1 23,456 64.8 60.9 53.6

Dublin West 13,573 47.8 44.2 14,754 51.9 55.8 54.5

Dun Laoghaire 31,524 63.3 53.5 18,149 36.4 46.5 58.8

Galway East 18,728 46.7 47.0 21,230 52.9 53.0 49.8

Galway West 19,643 45.8 42.0 23,011 53.7 58.0 50.0

Kerry North 11,306 40.2 39.5 16,702 59.4 39.5 51.3

Kerry South 11,569 42.4 44.9 15,571 57.1 55.1 53.1

Kildare North 20,045 54.4 49.3 16,653 45.2 50.7 51.5

Kildare South 13,470 48.4 47.7 14,308 51.4 52.3 48.7

Laois/Offaly 31,786 55.8 48.6 24,963 43.8 51.4 54.3

Limerick East 18,085 45.8 46.6 21,191 53.7 53.4 51.4

Limerick West 13,318 44.5 49.1 16,511 55.1 50.9 51.8

Longford/Westmeath 19,371 46.1 45.8 22,502 53.5 54.2 51.4

Louth 18,586 41.7 46.6 25,811 57.9 53.4 53.4

Mayo 18,624 38.1 44.3 30,001 61.4 55.7 51.3

Meath East 17,340 50.8 48.0 16,703 48.9 52.0 50.6

Meath West 14,442 44.3 47.8 18,028 55.3 52.2 51.9

Roscommon/South Leitrim 15,429 45.4 46.7 18,402 54.2 53.3 56.9

Sligo/North Leitrim 12,602 43.1 44.8 16,496 56.4 55.2 52.6

Tipperary North 16,235 49.6 49.4 16,367 50.0 49.4 58.5

Tipperary South 13,853 46.6 48.6 15,755 52.9 51.4 55.4

Waterford 17,502 45.5 48.2 20,812 54.1 51.8 53.4

Wexford 23,371 43.8 48.7 29,793 55.8 51.3 52.8

Wicklow 25,936 49.6 46.2 26,130 50.0 53.8 60.8

Total 752,451 46.4 46.1 862,415 53.2 53.9 53.1

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/14 06:50

On BBC Newshour - Patricia McKenna of the Green Party in Ireland, and the Swedish Foreign Minister, Carl Bilt;

To paraphrase:

McKenna said Barroso failed to understand the key reasons why people voted 'No'. The arrogance and contempt shown for the voice of the people throughout Europe with Barroso forging ahead when he knows this treaty can't be ratified without the agreement of all 27 members and the Irish people had already said "No". This shows contempt for the voice of the people, and reflects the project itself, and how it came about. After the French and Dutch had voted "No" they reformulated it and put it out again without giving people a voice.

Carl Bilt responded by accusing McKenna of showing contempt for the decisions of all the other European peoples and their process of ratification. "Ireland has its voice" he said, "but don't deny Sweden and other European countries their voice". "We have the right to take our decisions under the procedures that we have decided."

McKenna responded that polls have shown that over seventy five percent of citizens of member states would like a vote but were denied it, and as Sarkozy said, the only reason for denying the French a vote again was because they would say "No". So you clearly have a project being forged ahead without the consent of the people.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/news/>

So what do you think? Is the EU democratic?

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/14 07:11

I'm not ignoring this question - I just want to take my time in replying. However, I would like you to expand on your views TLJ. You seem to be well informed regarding the EU, and I would appreciate a rational commentary on these proposals with emphasis on why referenda were not the "procedure" of choice to poll the citizens of the E.U on this issue?

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/14 07:32

TLJ wrote:

"I suspect that you're reading the consolidated version. Remember that the Govt's argument against a referendum was that Lisbon is an amending Treaty - ie, it modifies existing ones - whereas the Constitution effectively replaced the existing Treaties with a single document."

I expect you're correct TLJ. Thanks for the clarification,.

That explains this:

'Article 1 Establishment of the Union

Article I-1 The Union shall be founded on the present Treaty and on the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as "the Treaties"). Those two Treaties shall have the same legal value. The Union shall replace and succeed the European Community.'

Does the Irish result mean that Maastricht has been abjured, abrogated, and abolished? It seems to me that if a yes vote were seen to consolidate and legitimize previous treaties then a "No" vote should invalidate, and nullify the said treaties. I should imagine then that the above statement re: the "Union" replacing the "Community" is no longer valid?

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Levenax - 2008/06/14 11:04

TLJ wrote:

The EU needs reformed.....

So, my question to those who are anti-Lisbon, given the above, what changes would you advocate instead of Lisbon ?

Replace Jose Manuel Barroso as President of the Commission with Nigel Farage. :laugh:

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/14 11:10

I'm reading the debate between you two with interest as I'm not up on the heavy-duty stuff concerning the EU.

I would say tho that the EU is seriously discredited and that mistrust of the implications of the Treaty is behind the no vote. I can understand that completely. I am pro-Europe also.

Think about it. Of all the countries here (of the UK and Ireland I mean) probably only England is obsessed with its own importance as "England". The rest are pretty much pro-Europe so to adopt an anti-Europe approach is not a natural route for any of the others to go. I would say therefore that it was offensive to dismiss the Irish result as based on ignorance. It could have been based on fear of losing their own right to make certain decisions for their country under this Treaty with the loss of the veto. I think that aspect is what frightens me too, and many Scots, for let's say we do get independence. Will it be destroyed because of a Treaty which will deny us the right to make important decisions for our own country in the future?

Europe is a wonderful idea, but the idea of a Europe which dictates to every individual country in it isn't. And right now, Europe is a mess due to people movement which the EU has largely ignored for more than ten years. The EU, financially, is up to its eyes in sleaze due to the level of financial mismanagement and allegations of fraud all over the place. Why would we want to give those running it any more powers?

The other thing is that the EU doesn't appear particularly keen to educate us on how it works. Getting access to information on the net is murder and when you find it it is worded in a way which doesn't immediately make sense. I just don't think anything has to be that complicated.

Ultimately I think the EU has a major image problem TLJ. For my own reasons (its decision to block vital aid to Palestine after the election of Hamas) I lost confidence in it a long time back. Other reasons, the fraud allegations, the financial mismanagement added to my concerns but mainly its determination to remove the authority of individual countries on issues that are ours to make policy on convinced me that its about power now and the idea of giving that up, without even getting a vote on it convinced me they need to start over and get back to communicating with us.

I think if Brown ignores this he will finally achieve an ambition he's been banging on about for the last year: he will unite the UK. The bad news for him is that the unity will be down to all countries in the UK union calling for a vote on Lisbon.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Levenax - 2008/06/14 13:01

Clare's right about the deliberate obfuscation the EU puts in the way of those wishing to find out more about how it

works. One of my concerns is the lack of accountability from the hundreds of bent MEPs who screw their expenses and find it easy to do so because they don't have to produce a receipt for anything to the €Bs that have disappeared into black holes in Spain, Greece, Italy and Ireland to name but four recipients of EU largesse. The most ludicrous thing of all of course is the shuffling between Brussels and Strasbourg. That costs €Ms every year and is just done to keep the Frogs happy. Oh, and lets's not forget that everything is translated into all these languages at huge cost. The EU should decide on one or possibly two languages to do business in. One should obviously be English because that's what the rest of the world uses and let the Frogs and the Krauts fight it out for the other.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/14 14:24

scunnert wrote:

Does the Irish result mean that Maastricht has been abjured, abrogated, and abolished? It seems to me that if a yes vote were seen to consolidate and legitimize previous treaties then a "No" vote should invalidate, and nullify the said treaties. I should imagine then that the above statement re: the "Union" replacing the "Community" is no longer valid?

No - because the "yes" vote is about the change from the status quo. Throw Lisbon out, and we're back to what we have just now.

And, as everyone appears to agree, what we have now needs to be changed.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/14 14:46

Clare wrote:

Ultimately I think the EU has a major image problem TLJ. For my own reasons (its decision to block vital aid to Palestine after the election of Hamas) I lost confidence in it a long time back. Other reasons, the fraud allegations, the financial mismanagement added to my concerns but mainly its determination to remove the authority of individual countries on issues that are ours to make policy on convinced me that its about power now and the idea of giving that up, without even getting a vote on it convinced me they need to start over and get back to communicating with us.

Indeed, it has a poor image. But that's not surprising when the written media throw the scare stories about (most of which are actually myths) and forget the very many positives about the Union - the most important one being the level of co-operation which has been brought about between countries which were at war with each other some 60 to 70 years ago. Western Europe is at its most peaceful ever, and much of that is down to the EU and its predecessor institutions.

Whilst there is undoubtedly financial mismanagement in the EU (organisations much, much smaller than it suffer from financial mismanagement), did you know that much of the reason that accounts are not signed off is not because of mismanagement within the EU itself but within the Member States ? And, whilst Europhobes might like to blame the other Member States for that, the UK is by no means squeaky clean either.

Before the population at large are asked to cast votes on a Treaty taking the EU forward for the remainder of the first half of the 21st Century, it would be helpful if they properly understood the role of each of the Institutions. I don't think it's arrogant of me to say they don't. Nor should referenda be used to show distaste towards the Govt of the day (hence Gordie's back-tracking) - votes should be cast in answer to the question, not as some opinion poll.

As for the Irish "no" vote, the scare stories have won the day. Lisbon actually gave powers back to national Parliaments, it gave powers to the European citizens, it strengthened the European Parliament's own powers against the grey suited Heads of State in the Council. But, tabloid talk of a Presidency (which actually exists already but what currently lasts six months was to be extended to last three years) bought the fear of the voters.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/14 17:25

TLJ wrote:

"Before the population at large are asked to cast votes on a Treaty taking the EU forward for the remainder of the first half of the 21st Century, it would be helpful if they properly understood the role of each of the Institutions. I don't think it's arrogant of me to say they don't. Nor should referenda be used to show distaste towards the Govt of the day (hence Gordie's back-tracking) - votes should be cast in answer to the question, not as some opinion poll."

I think if people don't understand the roles of EU institutions then the EU has failed the people of the 27 member states. Is it possible that this situation is intended? The EU seems to operate in a byzantine fog of obfuscation of its own making purposely designed to keep EU citizens in a state of ignorance.

Surely I'm wrong in thinking that you support the actions of the Broon government in denying the citizens of the UK a vote on this treaty as your last quoted sentence seems to suggest?

I like what Niall Ban has to say on the subject. From today's Herald:

"Posted by: Niall Aslen, Cairnbulg Aberdeenshire on 3:58pm today

Thanks to our Irish friends who are true Democrats the plans of the arch Euro federalists are now set back for a few months until they can bully little Ireland back into line to hold another referendum as they did in 2002 when the Irish rejected the treaty of Nice. Ireland was threatened with economic sanctions if it did not comply with their demands and accordingly another referendum was held but this time with a massive EU financed pro EU agenda through the bought media and politicians like Bertie Ahern who was up to his armpits in EU corruption and sleaze for which he has since had to resign.

There is no true Democracy in the EU or as most Europeans call it "The EUSSR" or "Der Fourth Reich!" What we have is a sham in the European Parliament with recent legislation banning all anti EU or Eurosceptic parties from taking part in the process. The SNP need to wake up fast because their slogan "Independence in Europe" is meaningless because as one small region in the superstate called "Europa" we will not even have any influence. Our assets will become the property of the Superstate and all our affairs will be dictated by Brussels at the behest of Globalising big business.

The EU is the successor state to the Iron and steel confederation set up by the American State department in 1948 as a bulwark against Communism. This became the EEC and then the EU and if the Federalists have their way will become Europa. A huge sprawling superpower taking in all of Europe, Asia minor and North Africa. All at the behest of international Global companies who want a wide open market place with no regard for the social consequences.

Yes the Irish have won a battle but the victory is a long way off. All Scottish nationalists should take the view that an Independent Scotland does not join the EUSSR, instead stays outside and makes her own advantageous trade agreements with the EU as Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland have done.

'S Mise
Niall Ban."

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu's Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/14 17:39

scunnert wrote:
TLJ wrote:

I think if people don't understand the roles of EU institutions then the EU has failed the people of the 27 member states. Is it possible that this situation is intended? The EU seems to operate in a byzantine fog of obfuscation of its own making purposely designed to keep EU citizens in a state of ignorance.

Surely I'm wrong in thinking that you support the actions of the Broon government in denying the citizens of the UK a vote on this treaty as your last quoted sentence seems to suggest?

I like what Niall Ban has to say on the subject.

Perhaps it's not the EU who has failed the people by not having them educated in the ways of the institutions but (in our case) the UK media ?

I don't necessarily support the actions of the UK Govt but I don't think that a referendum on Lisbon is appropriate for a number of reasons, not least that it would be used to express people's views against the Govt rather than on the Treaty itself. It's shouldn't be.

As for Niall Ban's view - well, you'll find the right wing referring to it as the EUSSR and you'll find the left wing referring to it as a friend of capitalism. I guess that means it's probably somewhere in the middle.....

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/14 18:09

TLJ wrote:

" I don't think that a referendum on Lisbon is appropriate ..."

Wow! Careful TLJ, your elitism is showing. The great unwashed can't be trusted to vote properly so important decisions must be taken by the political elite. Well - so much for democracy. And that is the EU - anti-democratic and elitist. And that is why I, for one, would vote it out of existence. That doesn't mean I'm against a europe of the people - that's the EU's job.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/14 18:16

scunnert wrote:

TLJ wrote:

" I don't think that a referendum on Lisbon is appropriate ..."

Wow! Careful TLJ, your elitism is showing. The great unwashed can't be trusted to vote properly so important decisions must be taken by the political elite. Well - so much for democracy. And that is the EU - anti-democratic and elitist. And that is why I, for one, would vote it out of existence. That doesn't mean I'm against a europe of the people - that's the EU's job.

It's not being elitist, it's fact. A referendum on Lisbon would be effectively turned into a vote on something completely different by the Tories and by the media - and that's no basis on which to make a decision.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/14 18:30

TLJ wrote:

"It's not being elitist, it's fact. A referendum on Lisbon would be effectively turned into a vote on something completely different by the Tories and by the media - and that's no basis on which to make a decision.'

I agree. Nevertheless a decision will be taken - by the political elite. I have no doubt that the requirement that all 27 member states ratify this treaty will be ignored and Lisbon will be implemented.

Having failed to make their case, and convince the population of the merits of further integration, the people will be ignored, and the elite will make the decisions.

EU = Elitist Ubermensch

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

scunnert wrote:

TLJ wrote:

"It's not being elitist, it's fact. A referendum on Lisbon would be effectively turned into a vote on something completely different by the Tories and by the media - and that's no basis on which to make a decision.'

I agree. Nevertheless a decision will be taken - by the political elite.

That's exactly the power that we invest in them ! They are supposed to make decisions on our behalf.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Alex McG - 2008/06/14 22:49

TLJ et al:

Whether this constitution or treaty (whichever it may really be) is a good or a bad piece of legislation is, in this particular case, irrelevant!

Those who say the treaty has been rejected by only 1% of the EU are looking at this question through the wrong end of the telescope. I suggest that in truth this treaty is being FORCED through by a small group of people comprising Politicians and unelected Bureaucrats. This is the action of a dictatorship!!

This treaty has far reaching effects on every individual in the nations of the European Community and it will be irreversible. There is already legislation in the making to ban any Political Party that opposes the EU; thereby denying legitimate political and democratic dissent. Is this not to emulate the old Soviet Union? Are we heading for the single Party State?

If these Politicians are so sure this treaty is essential and beneficial to the Community then it is in their interest and indeed their duty to explain – in detail and in simple language – the benefits and the deficits of the treaty. Having done so; they must then seek the approval of the people. If they are so sure it is in the people's interest as opposed to being in the interest of the inner sanctum of a small coterie of politicians and unelected bureaucrats, what are they afraid of?

Politicians hold their authority in trust for the people not to abuse the people. This treaty needs to be approved by a majority of European citizens if it is ever to be considered a decided matter. Failure to obtain the consent of the people will result in the near future of an implosion of the EU with, I fear, significant bloodshed.

This union will be like that of the Union of Parliaments in the UK. This was forced on the Scotland, without the agreement of the people and even after 300 years it is still resented and that resentment is growing and so it will be if this is forced through without the approval of the people.

Whilst I have struggled to read and study the complex and boring document, I have, deliberately, not indicated if I favour or not this treaty. That is an entirely different argument which has no part in this argument about the denial of the democratic process.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by blind neep - 2008/06/15 06:21

The problem I have with the whole EU caper is that I seem to have less and less say in what I'm allowed to do. I remember in the sixties when we wanted to join the Common Market (as it was called then) and France said Non! but it never stopped us from trading with all these other countries.

As I remember, it was to allow easier trade between countries but I don't see that has happened. For instance, we're all supposed to have freedom of access to all member states facilities, ie we're supposed to be able to work anywhere within the EU ...Try it!...

We're supposed to have the same duty free allowance? try it....
and that's just the first two that spring to mind.

I've been against the EU ever since they decided to have a European Parliament.
When did they ask for my opinion on that or ask me to vote on whether I wanted a new layer of Government?
It was imposed on me.

I agree that we're being dictated to. It seems that no matter what we vote for, it'll be shuffled around until it suits whoever's trying to push it. I read the other day that Mugabe's troops are forcing people to re-vote cos they voted " the wrong way".
Different tactics to Brussels but with the same outcome....????

In 1939 we went to war with Germany cos they wanted a United Europe under their control.

Hmmm. What do we have now?
A United Europe controlled by the Bundesbank.....

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by DoricMan - 2008/06/15 10:37

TLJ wrote:
scunnert wrote:
TLJ wrote:
scunnert wrote:

Many people are under the impression that the E.U. already exists - it doesn't.

The Treaty on European Union (the Maastricht Treaty)

I: COMMON PROVISIONS

Article A

By this Treaty, the High Contracting Parties establish among themselves a European Union, hereinafter called 'the Union'.

Now I am confused! Why then does the opening article in the Lisbon Treaty state:

'Article 1 Establishment of the Union

By this Treaty, the HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES establish among themselves a EUROPEAN UNION, hereinafter called 'the Union' on which the Member States confer competences to attain objectives they have in common. '

I suspect that you're reading the consolidated version. Remember that the Govt's argument against a referendum was that Lisbon is an amending Treaty - ie, it modifies existing ones - whereas the Constitution effectively replaced the existing Treaties with a single document. Thanks TLJ for your comments and to the others who have contributed a variety of interesting reading. My problem in considering voting for the Treaty, is that how would this affect us in Scotland as a future independent country in the EU?

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/15 11:22

blind neep wrote:

The problem I have with the whole EU caper is that I seem to have less and less say in what I'm allowed to do.

I remeber in the sixties when we wanted to join the Common Market (as it was called then) and France said Non! but it never stopped us from trading with all these other countries.

As I remeber, it was to allow easier trade between countrties but I don't see that has happened. For instance, we're all supposed to have freedom of access to all member states facilities, ie we're supposed to be able to work anywhere withinn the EU ...Try it!...

We do.

We're supposed to have the same duty free allowance? try it....
and that's just the first two that spring to mind.

Duty free doesn't exist in the EU now.

I've been against the EU ever since they decided to have a European Parliament.
When did they ask for my opinion on that or ask me to vote on whether I wanted a new layer of Government?

The European Parliament is not a "layer of Government". In its original form, it was unelected and only became democratically elected in 1979. Unlike other parliaments, it doesn't form a government - instead, its role is to scrutinise the legislative proposals being put forward. However, until recently, it had little power to block these proposals although that has increased in recent years and would have increased further through Lisbon. Given that it is the only directly elected institution and it challenges the Commission and the Council of Ministers (ie the Heads of Govt from the member states), it's one which I would have thought that people would have welcomed as a balancing tool against the power that Europhobes are constantly complaining about.

It was imposed on me.

Our Government imposes things on us without asking all the time. It's the consequence of representative democracy.

Of course, the Treaty provided a formal route out of the EU - something which doesn't exist at the moment. So, to some extent, the "No" voters are acting like turkeys voting for Christmas

I agree that we're being dictated to. It seems that no matter what we vote for, it'll be shuffled around until it suits whoever's trying to push it. I read the other day that Mugabe's troops are forcing people to re-vote cos they voted " the wrong way".
Different tactics to Brussels but with the same outcome....????

And your solution is ? As I said before, the UK won't be leaving the EU in the foreseeable future (even under Cameron) and the status quo is untenable.

In 1939 we went to war with Germany cos they wanted a United Europe under their control.

Hmmm. What do we have now?
A United Europe controlled by the Bundesbank.....

Absolute bollocks. The Bundesbank doesn't control monetary policy in the EU - and its previous power has been diminished substantially since the introduction of the Euro which is controlled through the European Central Bank.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/15 11:39

T, I understand your enthusiasm for the EU, I'm pro-Europe myself, but not at all costs.

They have a serious image problem and until they address that I'm not prepared to give them any more powers, and especially NOT powers to challenge or even over-rule legislation passed by individual countries.

A strong Europe is a good thing for all of us and by being strong individual countries the EU will be a strong body indeed. A United States of Europe isn't what this was meant to bring about and that is looking increasingly like the end result wanted by the EC. So its about power. So, on that score, I'm not budging.

They need to clean up their act, particularly on the financial bit because the allegations of fraud within the EU are considerable. It is looking like a massive gravy train for certain MEPs who aren't even asked to provide receipts. We're funding that! Until they behave like a serious outfit I will not take them seriously myself. They don't deserve it.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/15 12:55

Clare wrote:

T, I understand your enthusiasm for the EU, I'm pro-Europe myself, but not at all costs.

They have a serious image problem and until they address that I'm not prepared to give them any more powers, and especially NOT powers to challenge or even over-rule legislation passed by individual countries.

A strong Europe is a good thing for all of us and by being strong individual countries the EU will be a strong body indeed. A United States of Europe isn't what this was meant to bring about and that is looking increasingly like the end result wanted by the EC. So its about power. So,on that score, I'm not budging.

They need to clean up their act, particularly on the financial bit because the allegations of fraud within the EU are considerable. It is looking like a massive gravy train for certain MEPs who aren't even asked to provide receipts. We're funding that! Until they behave like a serious outfit I will not take them seriously myself. They don't deserve it.

It's not perfect, Clare, not by any means - but Lisbon would have helped.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/15 13:17

TLJ wrote:

Clare wrote:

T, I understand your enthusiasm for the EU, I'm pro-Europe myself, but not at all costs.

They have a serious image problem and until they address that I'm not prepared to give them any more powers, and especially NOT powers to challenge or even over-rule legislation passed by individual countries.

A strong Europe is a good thing for all of us and by being strong individual countries the EU will be a strong body indeed. A United States of Europe isn't what this was meant to bring about and that is looking increasingly like the end result wanted by the EC. So its about power. So,on that score, I'm not budging.

They need to clean up their act, particularly on the financial bit because the allegations of fraud within the EU are considerable. It is looking like a massive gravy train for certain MEPs who aren't even asked to provide receipts. We're funding that! Until they behave like a serious outfit I will not take them seriously myself. They don't deserve it.

It's not perfect, Clare, not by any means - but Lisbon would have helped.

No TLJ, Lisbon would have given them too much power before they cleaned up their act. I think it was too risky. Really.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Niall Ban - 2008/06/15 14:38

<http://www.wiseupjournal.com/?p=173>

This is a video which is worth watching right through its 1hr 22minutes. Its about the Irish 'NO' Vote and it completely exposes the lies and treason of our Prime minister and our MEPs and advisors. Please distribute this widely and then let us all get together to DEMAND A REFERENDUM on the Lisbon Trea(son)ty.

Section 3 at about 14 minutes is a must about the EU Court of Justice and how our civil and legal rights will be abolished. There will be no Habeas Corpus and everything I warned about in my article on Corpus Juris will come to pass. The European movement MUST be opposed at all costs.

'S Mise le meas
Niall.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/15 15:00

Niall Ban wrote:

<http://www.wiseupjournal.com/?p=173>

This is a video which is worth watching right through its 1hr 22minutes. Its about the Irish 'NO' Vote and it completely exposes the lies and treason of our Prime minister and our MEPs and advisors. Please distribute this widely and then let us all get together to DEMAND A REFERENDUM on the Lisbon Trea(son)ty.

Section 3 at about 14 minutes is a must about the EU Court of Justice and how our civil and legal rights will be abolished. There will be no Habeas Corpus and everything I warned about in my article on Corpus Juris will come to pass. The European movement MUST be opposed at all costs.

'S Mise le meas
Niall.

Cheers Niall

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/15 15:04

Clare wrote:

Niall Ban wrote:

<http://www.wiseupjournal.com/?p=173>

This is a video which is worth watching right through its 1hr 22minutes. Its about the Irish 'NO' Vote and it completely exposes the lies and treason of our Prime minister and our MEPs and advisors. Please distribute this widely and then let us all get together to DEMAND A REFERENDUM on the Lisbon Trea(son)ty.

Section 3 at about 14 minutes is a must about the EU Court of Justice and how our civil and legal rights will be abolished. There will be no Habeas Corpus and everything I warned about in my article on Corpus Juris will come to pass. The European movement MUST be opposed at all costs.

'S Mise le meas
Niall.

Cheers Niall

HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!! IT WON'T WORK!

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Jamrie - 2008/06/15 15:28

Clare wrote:

They need to clean up their act, particularly on the financial bit because the allegations of fraud within the EU are considerable. It is looking like a massive gravy train for certain MEPs who aren't even asked to provide receipts. We're funding that! Until they behave like a serious outfit I will not take them seriously myself. They don't deserve it.

Absolutely agree, I remember a few years ago the chief accountant in Brussels, a Ms Marta Andreasen , was sacked. Her crime? She refused to sign Commission accounts that were a licence for fraudsters to loot taxpayers' money. No matter that she was only doing her duty, officialdom in Brussels hates anyone rocking the boat, or upsetting the gravy train.

I don't suppose that anyone will be surprised to learn that the Commissioner who was the prime mover in her dismissal

was none other than Neil Kinnock, the supposed "fraud buster " of the EU.
But as Ms Andreasen goes, officials linked to a £3million fraud are still at their desks.
I also think that the Euro parliament is equally as guilty by their silence. They know what is going on but have refused to take any action (that I'm aware off).They also don't seem to show the slightest concern for public opinion.

You can read about Marta Andreasen on the following:-

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marta_Andreasen

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/15 15:32

Niall Ban wrote:

Section 3 at about 14 minutes is a must about the EU Court of Justice and how our civil and legal rights will be abolished. There will be no Habeas Corpus and everything I warned about in my article on Corpus Juris will come to pass. The European movement MUST be opposed at all costs.

'S Mise le meas
Niall.

Habeas Corpus does not exist in Scots Law as it is.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/15 15:32

Good vid Niall. Thanks.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/15 16:06

scunnert wrote:
Good vid Niall. Thanks.

It's a pity that his comments about the abolition of Habeas Corpus can't apply to Scotland. AS it is, Lisbon wouldn't affect the rule of Habeas Corpus in the rest of the UK.

It's called scaremongering. The anti-EU campaigners are well versed in it.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/15 16:53

TLJ wrote:
scunnert wrote:
Good vid Niall. Thanks.

It's a pity that his comments about the abolition of Habeas Corpus can't apply to Scotland. AS it is, Lisbon wouldn't affect the rule of Habeas Corpus in the rest of the UK.

It's called scaremongering. The anti-EU campaigners are well versed in it.

T, now that isn't fair. We're not anti-EU, nor do I believe is Ireland. This is about more than that. I still say it is possible to function as independent countries with our own laws, taxation systems and so on without requiring an EU to have the authority to over-rule us. That just isn't on. Strong individual countries can only bring about a stronger EU but accountability is paramount. Rightly or wrongly Lisbon has raised fears about autonomy and this must be addressed obviously but elsewhere the EU has spectacularly failed to address its own shortcomings particularly in the area of finances. It needs to do so. Urgently.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/15 17:01

Clare wrote:

T, now that isn't fair. We're not anti-EU, nor do I believe is Ireland.

You aren't; Niall most definitely is.

Don't tell me references to the EUSSR aren't to scare ? Don't tell me that references to Habeas Corpus isn't to scare - despite the fact we don't !

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/15 17:05

TLJ wrote:

Clare wrote:

T, now that isn't fair. We're not anti-EU, nor do I believe is Ireland.

You aren't; Niall most definitely is.

Don't tell me references to the EUSSR aren't to scare ? Don't tell me that references to Habeas Corpus isn't to scare - despite the fact we don't !

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/15 17:13

Is it true that the EU is the brainchild of the Bilderberg Group whose ultimate aim is the enslavement of all humanity?;)

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/15 18:41

scunnert wrote:

Is it true that the EU is the brainchild of the Bilderberg Group whose ultimate aim is the enslavement of all humanity?;)

Probably not.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/3773019.stm>

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/16 07:15

Levenax wrote:

Clare's right about the deliberate obfuscation the EU puts in the way of those wishing to find out more about how it works. One of my concerns is the lack of accountability from the hundreds of bent MEPs who screw their expenses and find it easy to do so because they don't have to produce a receipt for anything to the €Bs that have disappeared into black holes in Spain, Greece, Italy and Ireland to name but four recipients of EU largesse.

The most ludicrous thing of all of course is the shuffling between Brussels and Strasbourg. That costs €Ms every year and is just done to keep the Frogs happy. Oh, and lets's not forget that everything is translated into all these languages at huge cost. The EU should decide on one or possibly two languages to do business in. One should obviously be English because that's what the rest of the world uses and let the Frogs and the Krauts fight it out for the other.

Come on, Levenax, I aim to keep the standard of this board reasonably high and introducing racist epithets doesn't achieve that. "French" and "German", please.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/16 07:55

TLJ wrote:

scunnert wrote:

Is it true that the EU is the brainchild of the Bilderberg Group whose ultimate aim is the enslavement of all humanity?;

Probably not.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/3773019.stm>

Are you now, or have you ever been, a fellow traveller?

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/16 08:38

scunnert wrote:

Are you now, or have you ever been, a fellow traveller?

How could I possibly say ? They're more secretive than the Masons !!

:laugh: :laugh: :laugh:

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Levenax - 2008/06/16 10:37

TLJ wrote:

Come on, Levenax, I aim to keep the standard of this board reasonably high and introducing racist epithets doesn't achieve that. "French" and "German", please.

I appreciate your efforts TLJ but aren't you being a little po-faced here? The world is full of slang names for people e.g. Yanks, Limey, Les Rosbifs, Poms, Jock, Kiwi, Rooinek, Digger, Teuchter, etc etc that are harmless. Some can be offensive or can be used in a racist way but Frog or Kraut? I don't think so.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/16 16:42

Levenax wrote:

TLJ wrote:

Come on, Levenax, I aim to keep the standard of this board reasonably high and introducing racist epithets doesn't achieve that. "French" and "German", please.

I appreciate your efforts TLJ but aren't you being a little po-faced here? The world is full of slang names for people e.g. Yanks, Limey, Les Rosbifs, Poms, Jock, Kiwi, Rooinek, Digger, Teuchter, etc etc that are harmless. Some can be offensive or can be used in a racist way but Frog or Kraut? I don't think so.

You might not think so although I do. Nor am I the only one who does.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/16 18:14

{youtube}DKGFBtIPiyl&feature=related{/youtube}

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/16 18:44

scunnert wrote:

{youtube}DKGFBtIPiyl&feature=related{/youtube}

Scunny If that guy had been interviewing me and behaved like that I would have punched his lights out. What a rude man!

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/16 19:43

Levenax wrote:

TLJ wrote:

Come on, Levenax, I aim to keep the standard of this board reasonably high and introducing racist epithets doesn't achieve that. "French" and "German", please.

I appreciate your efforts TLJ but aren't you being a little po-faced here? The world is full of slang names for people e.g. Yanks, Limey, Les Rosbifs, Poms, Jock, Kiwi, Rooinek, Digger, Teuchter, etc etc that are harmless. Some can be offensive or can be used in a racist way but Frog or Kraut? I don't think so.

From Monty Python:

Braddon Good evening and welcome to another edition of 'Prejudice' - the show that gives you a chance to have a go at Wops, Krauts, Nigs, Eyeties, Gippos, Bubbles, Froggies, Chinks, Yids, Jocks, Polacks, Paddies and Dagoes.

(applause; he goes to desk at side of stage)

SUPERIMPOSED CAPTION: 'ALL FACTS VERIFIED BY THE RHODESIAN POLICE'

Braddon Tonight's show comes live from the tiny village of Rabid in Buckinghamshire, and our first question tonight is from a Mrs Elizabeth Scrint who says she is going on a Mediterranean cruise next week and can't find anything wrong with the Syrians. Well, Mrs Scrint, apart from being totally unprincipled left-wing troublemakers, the Syrians are also born skivers, they're dirty, smelly and untrustworthy, and, of course, they're friends of the awful gippos. (applause) There you are, Mrs Scrint, I hope that answers some of your problems - have a nice trip. (more applause) Well now, the result of last week's competition when we asked you to find a derogatory term for the Belgians. Well, the response was enormous and we took quite a long time sorting out the winners. There were some very clever entries. Mrs Hatred of Leicester Said 'let's not call them anything, let's just ignore them' ... (applause starts vigorously, but he holds his hands up for silence) ... and a Mr St John of Huntingdon said he couldn't think of anything more derogatory than Belgians. (cheers and applause;

a girl in showgirl costume comes on and holds up placards through next bit) But in the end we settled on three choices: number three ... the Sprouts (placard 'The Sprouts'), sent in by Mrs Vicious of Hastings... very nice ; number two..... the Phlegms (placard) ... from Mrs Childmolester of Worthing; but the winner was undoubtedly from Mrs No-Supper-For-You from Norwood in Lancashire... Miserable Fat Belgian Bastards. (placard; roar of applause) Very good - thank you, Carol. (Carol exits) But as you know on this programme we're not just prejudiced against race or colour, we're also prejudiced against - yes, you've guessed, stinking homosexuals! (applause) So before the streets start emptying in Chelsea tonight, Let's go straight over to our popular prejudiced panel game and invite you once again to - Shoot The Poof! And could our first contestant sign in please.

Cut to blackboard and entrance as they used to have in 'What's My Line'. A contestant comes from behind screen and starts to write his name.

Voice Over Our first contestant is a hairdresser from...

A shot rings out and the contestant falls to the floor. Applause.

Cut to a camp highwayman in a pink mask who blows smoke from a gun and puts it back in the holster.

Highwayman I never did like that kind of person... !

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/16 20:05

Gordon Brown admits Lisbon is finished

The British prime minister is privately ready to sacrifice the treaty rather than allow Ireland's No vote to create a two-tier Europe

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/ireland/article4139426.ece>

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/16 20:10

scunnert wrote:

From Monty Python:

Monty Python was 30+ years ago. I had thought we'd matured and now showed respect for other peoples' nationalities and sexualities.

Clearly I was wrong.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/16 20:18

TLJ wrote:

scunnert wrote:

From Monty Python:

Monty Python was 30+ years ago. I had thought we'd matured and now showed respect for other peoples' nationalities and sexualities.

Clearly I was wrong.

TLJ - the sketch was an attempt to satirize the attitudes that underly the use of racial/ethnic epithets. Clearly folks still harbour those kinds of attitudes, and resurrecting this little sketch, I thought, was a community service. However, if you are offended by it please feel free to delete the post(s). I won't be offended.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/16 20:30

scunnert wrote:

TLJ - the sketch was an attempt to satirize the attitudes that underly the use of racial/ethnic epithets. Clearly folks still harbour those kinds of attitudes, and resurrecting this little sketch, I thought, was a community service. However, if you are offended by it please feel free to delete the post(s). I won't be offended.

A misunderstanding between us, Scunnert. Thanks for the explanation.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by dws - 2008/06/16 20:39

TLJ wrote:

Monty Python was 30+ years ago. I had thought we'd matured and now showed respect for other peoples' nationalities and sexualities.

Clearly I was wrong.

Partly, Jambo, partly.

Would you be offended if someone called you "Jock" as a generic term for a Scot, if they didn't know your name?

I've seen my job go from bloody Jurassic (when I joined, "if you don't like it, F.Off!!") through the pink and fluffy stage (where no-one speaks for fear of offending anybody's sensibilities if they happen to be listening) to the stage we are at now (Limbo - what can I say to you without you taking offence, even if I don't mean to give offence?)

Humour can be used as a defence mechanism. Indeed, I've heard some really sick statements which in normal company would be truly out of place.

But

If you're scraping body parts up, and its a coping mechanism...is it wrong?

I wouldn't call German people Krauts, French Frogs or Arabs Rag-heads, but I don't condemn. I've used some choice language in my time and some of it I'm not proud of, but it wasn't racial hatred it wasn't deliberately inflammatory.

It's a pressure vent. If you can't curse under pressure, what's left?

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Levenax - 2008/06/16 20:57

If TLHeartoffMidlothianSupporter is annoyed by the use of what he considers to be inappropriate epithets he's quite right to object and I'm sorry if my flippant use of same has offended anyone. The French got their nickname from allegedly eating frogs legs and the Germans from really eating sauerkraut or possibly just plain cabbage and the inhabitants of Vale of Leven got their name of Jeely Eaters because they ate jeely pieces at lunch time. I must enquire of my many friends in the Vale, the Vale, the Beautiful Vale of Leven, if they think the term Jeely Eater is insulting.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/16 22:25

dws wrote:

TLJ wrote:

Monty Python was 30+ years ago. I had thought we'd matured and now showed respect for other peoples' nationalities and sexualities.

Clearly I was wrong.

Partly, Jambo, partly.

Would you be offended if someone called you "Jock" as a generic term for a Scot, if they didn't know your name?

I've seen my job go from bloody Jurassic (when I joined, "if you don't like it, F.Off!!") through the pink and fluffy stage (where no-one speaks for fear of offending anybody's sensibilities if they happen to be listening) to the stage we are at now (Limbo - what can I say to you without you taking offence, even if I don't mean to give offence?)

Humour can be used as a defence mechanism. Indeed, I've heard some really sick statements which in normal company would be truly out of place.

But

If you're scraping body parts up, and its a coping mechanism...is it wrong?

I wouldn't call German people Krauts, French Frogs or Arabs Rag-heads, but I don't condemn. I've used some choice language in my time and some of it I'm not proud of, but it wasn't racial hatred it wasn't deliberately inflammatory.

It's a pressure vent. If you can't curse under pressure, what's left?

Can I say that we can all have disagreements on here but in general I find the language used very respectful, although the debate is at times heated, but that's how it should be on important issues. Its healthy.

I recently witnessed another side to Scotsgait during Lydia's recent very difficult week where I believe most, if not all, of us were absolutely rooting for that little child and felt his loss acutely. I sensed Lydia took great comfort from our words of consolation and was myself deeply moved by that single episode which we all sort of shared in. I suspect I wasn't alone. I think for such a thing to happen takes a group of very decent people and I think that's what Scotsgait is. I respect all of you.

So, to return to the subject of language, while I am not completely comfortable with the names some have for the French or the Germans, and I hate, loathe and detest anyone referring to me as a "Jock" I can live with it for on other forums I haven't come across anything like we have here on Scotsgait. The appalling level of debate, the personal abuse, the vulgar language, the vicious attacks and vendettas and other vile features provided daily on forum sites belonging to "quality" papers like the Herald only make me more grateful for what we have here. Long may that continue.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Levenax - 2008/06/16 23:11

Clare wrote:

.....I hate, loathe and detest anyone referring to me as a "Jock" I can live with it for on other forums I haven't come across anything like we have here on Scotsgait. The appalling level of debate, the personal abuse, the vulgar language, the vicious attacks and vendettas and other vile features provided daily on forum sites belonging to "quality" papers like the Herald only make me more grateful for what we have here. Long may that continue.

Why does "Jock" bother you? Many jocular (oh dear) names are taken from what folk imagine an archetype of the denizen of the country might be called like of course Jock, or Paddy or Fritz or Stavros or Jomo etc. I don't think most people take it ill although I understand that you, being of a female persuasion, might not like Jock very much. Jockette, Jockina, Jockess, hmm, not quite right, eh?

I agree about the Herald Forum though on my occasional visits to the Hootsmon it doesn't seem to be so bad. Perhaps less sectarian, being of the east.

The old BBC Soapbox could get a bit heated although some of it was just so grotesque it was funny.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/17 01:05

From Japantimes:
Tuesday, June 17, 2008

A vanishing Europe and lifestyle

Europeans will see the dismantling of their welfare states and social security systems, and the cherished "European model" of pensions, health care and unemployment benefits, being replaced by the despised and widely feared "American model." This is not, needless to say, because Europeans crave the rigors of America's less cosseted social conditions, but because it's the only way that European governments will be able to stay afloat financially.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/eo20080617a1.html>

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/17 22:33

Royal Navy warships may form part of EU fleet
By James Kirkup, Political Correspondent
Last Updated: 8:52PM BST 17/06/2008

Royal Navy vessels could take part in a new "European Union fleet" being planned by France.

http://www.scotsgait.co.uk/images/fbfiles/images/navy_eu_404_679872c.jpg

An artist's impression of one of the navy's new carriers
The French proposal would see a British aircraft carrier placed at the heart of a new EU naval group.

The prospect of such close co-operation between two navies whose clashes include the Battle of Trafalgar is likely to outrage eurosceptics and is already said to have caused concern among British admirals.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2147016/Royal-Navy-warships-may-form-part-of-EU-fleet.html>

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by DoricMan - 2008/06/18 10:19

scunnert wrote:
Royal Navy warships may form part of EU fleet
By James Kirkup, Political Correspondent
Last Updated: 8:52PM BST 17/06/2008

Royal Navy vessels could take part in a new "European Union fleet" being planned by France.

The prospect of such close co-operation between two navies whose clashes include the Battle of Trafalgar is likely to outrage eurosceptics and is already said to have caused concern among British admirals.
I am sure that we will have to co-operate with our neighboring allies, such as the French if we are to face growing threats from all those we once enslaved or ruled in our past.
This is a proposal that should, at least, be explored.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/18 10:23

DoricMan wrote:
scunnert wrote:
Royal Navy warships may form part of EU fleet
By James Kirkup, Political Correspondent
Last Updated: 8:52PM BST 17/06/2008

Royal Navy vessels could take part in a new "European Union fleet" being planned by France.

The prospect of such close co-operation between two navies whose clashes include the Battle of Trafalgar is likely to outrage eurosceptics and is already said to have caused concern among British admirals.
I am sure that we will have to co-operate with our neighboring allies, such as the French if we are to face growing threats from all those we once enslaved or ruled in our past.
This is a proposal that should, at least, be explored.

Hi Doricman

Why? We are currently all members of the UN as independent countries. I am no Euro-sceptic but I would say the EU has more to worry about right now than starting to merge our military forces. They don't have a mandate to do that for one thing.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by DoricMan - 2008/06/18 14:18

Clare wrote:

DoricMan wrote:
scunnert wrote:
Royal Navy warships may form part of EU fleet
By James Kirkup, Political Correspondent
Last Updated: 8:52PM BST 17/06/2008

Royal Navy vessels could take part in a new "European Union fleet" being planned by France.

The prospect of such close co-operation between two navies whose clashes include the Battle of Trafalgar is likely to outrage eurosceptics and is already said to have caused concern among British admirals.
I am sure that we will have to co-operate with our neighboring allies, such as the French if we are to face growing threats from all those we once enslaved or ruled in our past.
This is a proposal that should, at least, be explored.

Hi Doricman

Why? We are currently all members of the UN as independent countries. I am no Euro-sceptic but I would say the EU has more to worry about right now than starting to merge our military forces. They don't have a mandate to do that for one thing. Hello Clare.
I am pointing out that problems on our Euro doorstep are better managed in co-operation with competent neighbours. I worked in the past with French and Germans, in similar areas of mutual interest, and have no problem in such co-operative matters in the future.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Jamrie - 2008/06/18 15:32

DoricMan wrote:

I am sure that we will have to co-operate with our neighboring allies, such as the French if we are to face growing threats from all those we once enslaved or ruled in our past.
This is a proposal that should, at least, be explored.

Nothing new here Doric, in this part of the world (Central Med) the EU fleet has been in operation for some time now, their task being mainly anti immigration and drug patrols.
At the moment the navies of Italy, Germany, Malta, and France are operating under instructions from the EU Frontex HQ which is based in Warsaw.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/19 05:40

How many of us really want Scotland to be part of a United States of Europe?

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by TLJ - 2008/06/19 07:11

scunnert wrote:

How many of us really want Scotland to be part of a United States of Europe?

A USE is a long, long, long way away. Not in my lifetime nor in yours. Nor, I suspect, in my great-great-grandchildren's. However future generations wish to work politically is for them to decide.

The EU is about joint decision making on issues which (a) make the single market single through common rules and/or (b) which require international co-operation.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by DoricMan - 2008/06/19 11:28

TLJ wrote:

scunnert wrote:

How many of us really want Scotland to be part of a United States of Europe?

A USE is a long, long, long way away. Not in my lifetime nor in yours. Nor, I suspect, in my great-great-grandchildren's. However future generations wish to work politically is for them to decide.

The EU is about joint decision making on issues which (a) make the single market single through common rules and/or (b) which require international co-operation.I agree TLJ. Let us co-operate with our neighbours, when it is advisable, and disengage when the task is finished. This then ensures that we remain independent.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Clare - 2008/06/19 19:17

DoricMan wrote:

Clare wrote:

DoricMan wrote:

scunnert wrote:

Royal Navy warships may form part of EU fleet

By James Kirkup, Political Correspondent

Last Updated: 8:52PM BST 17/06/2008

Royal Navy vessels could take part in a new "European Union fleet" being planned by France.

The prospect of such close co-operation between two navies whose clashes include the Battle of Trafalgar is likely to outrage eurosceptics and is already said to have caused concern among British admirals.

I am sure that we will have to co-operate with our neighboring allies, such as the French if we are to face growing threats from all those we once enslaved or ruled in our past.

This is a proposal that should, at least, be explored.

Hi Doricman

Why? We are currently all members of the UN as independent countries. I am no Euro-sceptic but I would say the EU

has more to worry about right now than starting to merge our military forces. They don't have a mandate to do that for one thing. Hello Clare.

I am pointing out that problems on our Euro doorstep are better managed in co-operation with competent neighbours. I worked in the past with French and Germans, in similar areas of mutual interest, and have no problem in such co-operative matters in the future.

Hi again Doricman

I have no problem either with neighbourly co operation. But I'd like this country to have its own voice, you know? With the other European countries obviously. I don't want that to change because our identities are important as individual countries. I think Europe is a real mess right now particularly when it comes to people moving all over the place and I think the EU needs to set out clear plans on that issue. They have ignored it for more than a decade now since the wall came down.

In this country right now we are almost certainly facing a full blown recession unless the government acts. Right now my main concerns are interest rates and fuel prices and how I'm going to cope with major rises in those major outgoings in my budget. Energy suppliers are announcing today 40% rises in gas and electricity. I'm sorry, I want the Government to tell them right now they are not doing it to us again! Their profits were announced earlier this year after the two major hikes they passed on to us last year and now another 40%? I am very, very angry about that and I KNOW Brown can get involved there. These companies are taking the you know what and it can't go on. I'm on my own, I have a mortgage and I am sick and tired of hearing about "poor families" unable to afford heating and how we must help them. Sorry again, I'm out working and paying my way and I want the government to kick ass at the fuel companies and I want recognition too because I am sick of "helping out" the poor with my pigging taxes while, when it comes to me, I'm expected to just get on with it. So really, sod Lisbon, sod Europe for the moment and lets get our domestic mess sorted.

=====

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by scunnert - 2008/06/19 20:11

It's a little off topic (sorry TLJ) but Clares post reminded me of this! pushed the button and elected him to office and a He pushed the button and he dropped the bomb
You pushed the button and could watch in on the television
Those m****r*****s didn't last too long

I'm sick of hearing about the have and have not's
Have some personal accountability
The biggest problem with the way that we are doing things is
The more we let you have the less that I'll be keeping for me

Well I use to stand for something
Well I'm on my hands and knees
Turning in my god for this one
and he signs his name with a capital G

Don't give a sh*t about the temperature in Guatemala
Don't really see what all the fuss is about
Ain't gonna worry about no future generations
And I'm sure somebody's gonna figure it out

Don't try to tell me that some power can corrupt a person
You hadn't had enough to know what its like
Your only angry cause you wish you were in my position
Now nod your head cause you know that I'm right..alright!

Well I use to stand for something
But forgot what that could be
Theres a lot of me inside you
Maybe your afraid to see

Well I use to stand for something
Well I'm on my hands and knees
Turning in my god for this one
and he signs his name with a capital G

Will post the video on Ceol.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by DoricMan - 2008/06/20 12:24

Clare wrote:

DoricMan wrote:

Clare wrote:

DoricMan wrote:

scunnert wrote:

Royal Navy warships may form part of EU fleet

By James Kirkup, Political Correspondent

Last Updated: 8:52PM BST 17/06/2008

Royal Navy vessels could take part in a new "European Union fleet" being planned by France.

The prospect of such close co-operation between two navies whose clashes include the Battle of Trafalgar is likely to outrage eurosceptics and is already said to have caused concern among British admirals.

I am sure that we will have to co-operate with our neighboring allies, such as the French if we are to face growing threats from all those we once enslaved or ruled in our past.

This is a proposal that should, at least, be explored.

Hi Doricman

Why? We are currently all members of the UN as independent countries. I am no Euro-sceptic but I would say the EU has more to worry about right now than starting to merge our military forces. They don't have a mandate to do that for one thing. Hello Clare.

I am pointing out that problems on our Euro doorstep are better managed in co-operation with competent neighbours. I worked in the past with French and Germans, in similar areas of mutual interest, and have no problem in such co-operative matters in the future.

Hi again Doricman

I have no problem either with neighbourly co operation. But I'd like this country to have its own voice, you know? With the other European countries obviously. I don't want that to change because our identities are important as individual countries. I think Europe is a real mess right now particularly when it comes to people moving all over the place and I think the EU needs to set out clear plans on that issue. They have ignored it for more than a decade now since the wall came down.

In this country right now we are almost certainly facing a full blown recession unless the government acts. Right now my main concerns are interest rates and fuel prices and how I'm going to cope with major rises in those major outgoings in my budget. Energy suppliers are announcing today 40% rises in gas and electricity. I'm sorry, I want the Government to tell them right now they are not doing it to us again! Their profits were announced earlier this year after the two major hikes they passed on to us last year and now another 40%? I am very, very angry about that and I KNOW Brown can get involved there. These companies are taking the you know what and it can't go on. I'm on my own, I have a mortgage and I am sick and tired of hearing about "poor families" unable to afford heating and how we must help them. Sorry again, I'm out working and paying my way and I want the government to kick ass at the fuel companies and I want recognition too because I am sick of "helping out" the poor with my pigging taxes while, when it comes to me, I'm expected to just get on with it. So really, sod Lisbon, sod Europe for the moment and lets get our domestic mess sorted. I agree with preserving our identity and working towards its enhancement Clare.

As for the EU and the UN my view is that they are both mess' in progress, and have much work to prove their worth to souls such as me.

Our problems with affording a reasonable standard of living for the majority of our people is a function of plunder and greed in markets, Fat Cats and the rest, and there is nothing we can do about it.

Sorry to be so dismal, now time to cheer up.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/06/20 21:28

TLJ wrote:

The EU needs reformed and the Treaty would have brought much needed change to the EU's institutions and it's back to the drawing board which is a shame because there's been so much crap thrown about regarding Lisbon.

The status quo is a no-no because the EU and its 27 (soon to be 29) Member States cannot function efficiently as it is currently organised. The UK leaving the EU is also a no-no (even under the Tories).

So, my question to those who are anti-Lisbon, given the above, what changes would you advocate instead of Lisbon ?

Honesty and fewer silly laws because they have nothing better to do.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by Bananaman - 2008/07/05 12:12

AS someone living in Ireland but not allowed to vote because it was a vote to amend the Irish Constitution I'll just make 3 points:

1) its difficult to imagine a campaign more designed to lose than the one the YES side ran, given that Fianna Fail (the party which wins 90% of the elections) was supposedly pro-Lisbon it makes me think either they knew it couldn't be won OR they didn't want to win it (which raise questions about their honesty and views towards their electorate). The campaign was half-hearted at best.

2) from talking to various people the reasons given for voting NO range from not wanting to be drafted into a European army to the anti-Mandlesson WTO stance, or anti-immigration, or loss of sovereignty or fear of being forced to accept abortion or distrust of bureaucracy. In other words there is no easy answer to why the Irish people rejected Lisbon the reasons are complex but point up a fear of where the European project is heading and a lack of grassroots ownership of the EU institutions.

3) bookies here are beginning to take bets on the date of the next referendum and the favourite is spring next year. Democracy my A--e.

I used to be pro-Europe and the EU if only because it moderates the excesses of the Home-counties elites that control wealth and politics in the UK and provides a balance to the domination of the US social model. However lately the powers behind the throne as it were in the EU have shown themselves in their true colours. They are profoundly authoritarian, anti-democratic and exploitative.

I do have concerns about the consequences if the EU fragments for the well-being of us all but I can no longer support the project in its current form or with its current rulers.

Re:Anyone exercised about the Eu\'s Lisbon Treaty?

Posted by dws - 2008/07/05 17:21

Bananaman wrote:

I used to be pro-Europe and the EU if only because it moderates the excesses of the Home-counties elites that control wealth and politics in the UK and provides a balance to the domination of the US social model. However lately the powers behind the throne as it were in the EU have shown themselves in their true colours. They are profoundly authoritarian, anti-democratic and exploitative.

I do have concerns about the consequences if the EU fragments for the well-being of us all but I can no longer support the project in its current form or with its current rulers.

Seconded.

The defence calls the Lithgae Jambo....;)