

Free Britain

Newspaper of the Campaign for an Independent Britain

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ANOTHER BLOW FOR BRITISH FARMERS

“Battery chickens” are a thing of the past in Britain, and millions of pounds have been spent ensuring that this form of egg production is well and truly eradicated in this country. But now it looks as if the EU, which helped to push through this policy in the first place, is no longer interested in enforcing it and will allow egg producers on the Continent to flout the law, thereby undercutting British farmers.

John Dalli, the EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, told the European Parliament’s Agriculture Committee recently that the Commission will no longer make any serious attempt to ensure that the battery cage ban is properly enforced or that consumers will

be made aware that they are buying battery eggs.

The Commissioner’s statement brought a furious response from committee member Stuart Agnew MEP, who is himself a farmer and a producer of free range eggs.

Mr Agnew has launched a campaign to ensure that eggs bought and sold in the UK from January 2012 onwards will be from approved sources and not from illegal battery farming. From 1st January, a ban on eggs produced from battery cage hens is due to come into effect, but despite being warned many times the European Commission has failed to take any serious steps to enforce the ban or

Helmer speaks out!

Former Tory MEP writes exclusively in Free Britain about why he feels the Conservative Party has let down Britain.

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Europe: A bad place to be a chicken...



to pressure member states to prepare for it.

Unfair competition

The biggest concern is with eggs produced in Eastern and Southern Europe, Mr Agnew said. “Five EU member states – Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Spain and Greece – have to date provided absolutely no information about their efforts to comply with the legislation. Mr Dalli told us that it is the responsibility of member states to ensure compliance, not the Commission, which is a total abrogation of responsibility for legislation it generated.

“This effectively means that British egg producers, who have invested £400 million of their own money to comply with the ban, are being abandoned and many could go out of business in the face of unfair competition from battery egg producers in other EU member states.

“It becomes more than ever vital that the UK Government takes urgent steps to ensure that imported eggs comply with the law.”

The UKIP MEP added, “In order to protect British egg

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New Chairman takes over

Mark Reckless MP (Rochester & Strood) has taken over the Chairmanship of the cross-party Campaign for an Independent Britain. Mark first stood as Conservative candidate in Rochester in 2005 and worked hard to win the seat from Labour at the 2010 General Election. An economist by profession, he is one of the most highly regarded members of the new intake of MPs and is seen by his Parliamentary colleagues as independent-minded and forthright. He regularly speaks in the House of Commons on Britain's relationship with the EU, was a prime mover in the campaign for an EU Referendum, and led the opposition to Britain's participation in international bailouts for Eurozone countries.



Editorial Comment

Has the countdown to Britain's withdrawal from the European Union actually begun at last? By rejecting the "Merkozy" plan to deepen the powers of the EU in the wake of the latest Eurozone crisis, Prime Minister David Cameron may well have fired the opening shot in the campaign to decisively change Britain's relationship with Europe. But did he mean to do this? Was he so shocked by the backbench rebellion over the EU in the House of Commons a few weeks before that he felt he needed to return to

his supposedly Eurosceptic roots? Perhaps his advisers had persuaded him that his speech against a referendum on EU membership had "not played well" with grass-roots Tories or the electorate? Or did he not quite realise the far-reaching implications of his decision to block the EU's latest power grab?

Certainly, when he went to Brussels his intention seems to have been purely to protect the interests of the City of London, rather than advancing the cause of nation-

al independence. Although the Downing Street spin-masters sought to project a Churchillian image of Mr Cameron "battling for Britain", in reality it seems more a case of his battling for the bankers – or rather for Anglo-American bankers as opposed to the German bankers whose interests Angela Merkel and her French crony Nicolas Sarkozy were busy championing.

However, it has to be said that whatever Mr Camer-

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The EU: Beyond reform

By Roger Helmer

I was first elected, bright-eyed and bushy tailed, to the European parliament in 1999. Back then, I still believed that there were benefits in EU membership, and that all it needed was a determined, Anglo-Saxon reform agenda.

Older and wiser now, and with a dozen years' experience in Brussels and Strasbourg, I realise that the EU is simply beyond reform. It deserves to be put out of its misery. As my colleague Dan Hannan says, the EU is making us poorer, and less democratic, and less free.

I still believe that there are benefits in membership – but none that could not be achieved with a simple free trade agreement, such as dozens of countries around the world have with the EU, with more being currently negotiated.

The trade benefits of being in the Single Market are less than 2% of GDP, while the regulatory costs exceed 5%. And those are not my figures, but quotes from EU Commissioners.

Undemocratic

Meantime the damage to democratic accountability, and to public trust in politics, is incalculable. Most of our decisions are made by people we didn't elect, and can't get rid of. Again and again we face diktats from Brussels, or

European Court decisions, that we (and our government) hate, but we have to accept anyway.

There is a view that we need to be in the EU "for trade", but of course we will continue to trade with the EU after we leave, just as Switzerland and Norway – and the USA and Japan – do very successfully.

We are a major net importer from the EU, and therefore in a very strong negotiating position. After we leave, Germany will continue to sell us BMWs, and Nissan and Toyota will continue to sell British-made cars to the continent.

The EU is an economic area in long-term relative decline. While the US will hold share of world trade, and the BRICs will grow, Europe lags behind.

It makes no sense for the UK to link itself primarily or preferentially to an area in long-term decline, while turning our backs on our natural partners in the "Anglosphere" – the community of democratic English-speaking nations.



▲ Roger Helmer, seen above at the Pro Referendum Rally outside Parliament, has represented the East Midlands in the European Parliament for the past 12 years. He is the Chairman of The Freedom Association.

All this was true a couple of years ago. But now we have the euro crisis delivering the coup de grâce to the EU economy. The eurozone is in melt-down.

Two key aperçus emerge: first, failure is built in to the structure of the euro. It cannot survive without massive, on-going fund transfers to the periphery, which are simply unacceptable to the German tax-payer.

While Merkel and Sarkozy look for a rescue formula, the truth is that no formula will work, nor be acceptable to national parliaments.

Break-up

Only an orderly break-up of the euro project offers any hope. And secondly, we see the totally dysfunctional na-

ture of the EU. Again and again they promise decisive action. But again and again they deliver too little, too late.

Cameron and Osborne say (rightly) that the euro crisis will harm Britain, but then argue (wrongly) that we should support euro rescue plans. These plans will fail. They throw good money after bad.

We should be distancing ourselves from Brussels and strengthening what defences we have -- not getting sucked into bail-outs. And it is morally wrong that we stand on the side-lines and demand that euro-zone states accept an emasculation of their independence which we would never countenance for ourselves.

I was a Conservative all these years because I believed we

were a eurosceptic party, and that sooner or later a Conservative government would sort out the problem. That view was getting very threadbare before Cameron's outrageous, damaging and pointless decision to apply a three-line whip against a motion calling for a referendum.

Cameron's pretence, adopted for electoral purposes, that he is a eurosceptic, is no longer credible. Like Macmillan before him, he is simply the London face of Brussels. Some are comparing him to Heath.

That's why I can no longer honestly sit as a Conservative MEP. I am looking forward to retirement, but I suspect I may not be able entirely to disengage from my commitment to the freedom and independence of our country.

Government says it wants “economic growth” – but not for British manufacturers

By Peter Gibbs

Coalition Government ministers continue to sing the praises of the free market and free trade. Recently on the Today programme, Innovation Minister David Willetts informed Radio 4’s listeners that “Competition is good for the consumer.” John Humphrys, the programme’s presenter, reminded Mr Willetts that “competition” in the energy sector had brought nothing but excessively high prices, cartels, and tens of thousands of people – particularly our pensioners – being thrown into fuel poverty!

Whilst supposedly committed to competition and economic growth, Mr Cameron and his ministers seem reluctant to allow British businesses the opportunity to compete on a level playing field. In fact they seem rather keen to award government contracts to our German competitors, as Derby-based railway engineers, Bombardier, found out to their cost. No doubt this is what Mr Willetts means by competition.

So what support is there for British companies trying to compete in the “global marketplace”? Is HM Government, with its commitment to “growth”, helping British manufacturing businesses when they are battling for exports?

One British company, which has exhibited three times at the Hong Kong Electronic Show, received a grant to cover 50% of the costs of its exhibition stand. This grant, however, was not from Britain’s Department of Trade

– but from the Chinese government!

Chinese aid

The stand was booked through the company’s China office, and it was Chinese officials who arranged for the payments. Not a bean, and not even a pound, was available from the UK (or should that be Yew-Kay?!) even though the company was selling British-made products to one of the toughest markets in the world.

It seems that the Chinese Communist Party understands the value of free enterprise and British export promotion, even if the British Government doesn’t.

Special arrangements have even been made for the Chinese Premier to visit the stand of this British company at the Electronics Show and to welcome the managing director of the British company personally.

How much in grants does the British Government award to



▲ The Government has awarded vital rail construction projects to German competitors, threatening the future of British manufacturers.

those who are following the Cameron exhortation to “go out and sell to the world”, e.g. to China and other “emerging markets”? Answer: zero. There were 9,000 exhibitors from all over the world at the Hong Kong Electronics Show. But only one British company – and its presence was subsidized by the People’s Republic of China, not the UK.

So much for the Coalition’s commitment to “competition” and “economic growth”.

Peter Gibbs is a freelance journalist and an adviser to small & medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

More bad news for farmers

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producers and consumers from illegally produced eggs, I am stepping up pressure on supermarkets to ensure that they will not be sourcing battery produced eggs after 1st January. I am also making sure that they are aware of the potential problem of illegal eggs coming into the country and/or being used in food products they are selling to British consumers.

“Fortunately, some consumers are waking up to the problem and, to date I have had nearly 400 emails on this one subject. I have replied to every one of them, supplying a list of 22 supermarket head office addresses

that they should write to and I have suggested that they should also write to their local MP, to get them to pressure the Government to ensure that businesses that trade in imported eggs are made aware of the need to avoid battery produced eggs. The response has been overwhelmingly supportive of my campaign.

“One other big lesson everyone should learn from this crisis,” said Mr Agnew, “Is that if we were an independent self-governing nation, we would never have allowed ourselves to get into such a mess.”

Euro “will collapse” says think tank

Respected economic think tank the Centre for Economics and Business Research says that the chances of the euro single currency lasting another ten years are only 1%.

The group also says that it looks likely that 2012 will mark the beginning of the collapse of the currency, with Greece looking “pretty certain” to leave the euro and Italy “more likely than not”, according to the

CEBR’s Chief Executive Douglas McWilliams. “It’s become clearer in the last year of the virtual political impossibility of doing the deal that would be necessary to make the euro survive,” he added.

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Further copies of *Free Britain* may be obtained by visiting www.euroseptic.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.

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The countdown begins...

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on's motives were in refusing to bend to Franco-German demands, those of us who believe Britain would be better off out of the EU can only rejoice at the effects of his actions. Indeed, the resulting political storm in Brussels - with Monsieur Sarkozy and Frau Merkel publicly rebuking the British Prime Minister, and with Mr Cameron's own deputy PM, Nick Clegg, criticising the Conservatives' supposedly "isolationist" tendencies - will have done more to bring closer our goal of UK disengagement from the EU than any other political development of the past 18 months.

So, I happily give two cheers for David Cameron, though not three. I will give the third only if and when the Conservatives show themselves capable of taking the next, much bigger, step towards the restoration of British independence. I see no sign yet of the Tories showing themselves willing to embrace the cause of withdrawal from the EU. But a referendum could soon be on the agenda.

We in the Campaign for an Independent Britain must make ourselves ready for the great battles ahead.

Andy Smith

"The world has changed, and the Germans want to run Europe. They failed to do it by war, twice. What is it? Is it the Fourth Reich?"

– Actor Sir David Jason, star of long-running TV comedy series "Only Fools and Horses", interviewed in the *Mail on Sunday*. Sir David believes Britain should leave the EU.



CAMPAIGN FOR AN INDEPENDENT BRITAIN

Campaign for an Independent Britain is a non-party political campaigning organization, supported by membership subscriptions and public donations. We uphold freedom of speech for all people of goodwill from all countries, races, and creeds who share our objectives and values. Our members are people from all walks of life who recognize that continuing British membership of the European Union poses grave threats to our liberties, independence, and economic prosperity.

If YOU believe that Britain should leave the corrupt, undemocratic, obsolete and fraud-ridden European Union – why not join us?

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Letter to the Editor

Blowing hot and cold

Dear Editor,

The European Union has been at the forefront of promoting acceptance of the idea of "man-made climate change". It uses "global warming" as the justification to extend its regulatory powers and to throw its weight behind the imposition of "green taxes". But what sort of "climate change" is really happening?

According to a recent issue of the journal *Nature*, we need to brace ourselves for another freezing winter with the return of La Niña, a climate phenomenon known to disrupt global weather. The warning coincides with research from the Met Office suggesting that Britain and Europe could be facing a return of the "little ice age" that gripped Britain three centuries ago – a period when ice fairs were often held on the frozen River Thames in London. This could bring us decades of bitter winters throughout Europe.

The prediction is based on observations showing a fall in the sun's emissions of ultraviolet radiation. Yet only a few years ago the Met Office was predicting "mild winters" ahead. In the event, temperatures plummeted. Ten years ago Dr David Viner, senior research scientist at the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia, said that within a few years winter snowfall would become "a very rare and exciting event" and that "children just aren't going to know what snow is."

Who and what are we to believe? Whether we should be bracing ourselves for a new Ice Age or preparing for a Mediterranean climate in England in the near future, the one thing that is certain is that the EU and the Government will continue to blame everything on "man-made climate change" and will use every excuse to attack and constrain British businesses and impose yet more "green taxes".

The time has come to expose this gigantic confidence trick. But it will be difficult, as the delusion has taken a grip on too many people already – and only a few brave souls have the temerity to stand up and point out that "the Emperor has no clothes"!

Yours,
Francis W. Spencer