



# Myths & Reality

## Why Britain must leave the European Union

By Gerard Batten MEP

### Euro Myth 1

*"The European Union has preserved the peace in Europe since 1945 and will prevent wars between European states".*

#### Wrong

The European Economic Community (the so-called Common Market) was only established in 1957. The post-war peace in Europe was preserved by NATO (formed in 1949) and the presence

of predominantly US and British forces to counter the external threat posed by the Soviet Bloc.

As a rule, democratic states do not make war on each other but seek to solve problems by diplomatic means. Since the end of the second world war, the re-establishment of democratic government in those countries that enjoyed it before the war (e.g. France, Netherlands, Belgium etc), and the establishment of democratic government in those countries that did not (e.g. Germany, Italy and Spain) has been the main

reason why peace has prevailed in Europe.

The greatest danger to continued peace in Europe is posed by the European Union itself: firstly, because as it removes democratic self government from member states and creates a corrupt and undemocratic centralized state like the old Soviet Union, which could in time degenerate into civil strife; and secondly, the ambitions of the EU to become a world power to rival the USA could cause international conflict.

The safest future for Europe lies in the peaceful coexistence of democratic self-governing states joined in an alliance like NATO to counter external threats.

### Euro Myth 2

*"50% of Britain's trade is with the EU and millions of British jobs depend on membership of the European Union".*

#### Wrong

Only about 10% of Britain's Gross Domestic Product is trade with the European Union; approximately 10% of GDP is trade with the rest of the world; and 80% of our GDP is purely domestic, being large, medium and small businesses that trade within the UK. Even so, none of our trade with the EU would be lost if Britain left the EU.

If millions of jobs in Britain depend on trade with the EU then even more millions of jobs on the continent depend on trade with Britain. The UK has a trading deficit with the EU: they sell more to us than we sell to them. If Britain left the EU then normal trading relations would apply since Britain is their largest customer.

The EU already has trading agreements with about 23 countries outside the EU, including Switzerland and Mexico. The EU is in the process of negotiating trading agreements with around 69 more countries. That makes 91 countries, almost half the nations of the world. If they don't need to be members of the EU in order to trade with it neither does Britain.

### Euro Myth 3

*"Britain benefits from being part of the European Union".*

#### Wrong

Every British government since Britain joined the EU in 1973 has steadfastly refused calls by Parliamentarians to have an independent Cost Benefit Analysis carried out. If membership is beneficial to Britain then surely such a study would prove it once and for all. So what are they afraid of?

In 2007 Britain will pay about £14.2 billion per annum as a direct gross contribution



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to the EU budget. Indirect costs include: The Common Agricultural Policy which is estimated to cost about £15 billion per annum; The Common Fisheries Policy is estimated to cost at least £1 billion per year; and over-regulation of business is estimated to cost at least £20 billion per annum; while payments to other EU institutions amounts to about £2.2 billion per annum.

That gives direct and indirect gross costs of at least £52.4 billion. Europhiles argue that the EU only costs Britain the net amount after adjustments for the rebate and money spent by the EU in Britain has been taken into account, but this is our own money that we hand over to the EU before they give it back us, or spend for us in our country on projects that promote the EU.

Think of the all the good uses that this money could be put to if it were not wasted on the European Union.

## Euro Myth 4

*"Outside the European Union Britain would lose influence in the world".*

### Wrong

Britain is the world's fourth largest economy (having overtaken France). It is a member of the United Nations Security Council, a member of the G8 Industrial Group of Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the Commonwealth, and many other international organisations. Far from being the small insignificant nation that the Europhiles would like to have us believe, Britain is still an economic, diplomatic and military power to be reckoned with. However the more Britain is absorbed into the European Union, the less influential it becomes. It is the intention of the European Union to take over Britain's role in these international organisations and present a single voice for the EU. Britain will eventually have less influence in the world inside the EU than it would outside.

## Euro Myth 5

*"Britain cannot survive economically outside the EU".*

### Wrong

For hundreds of years Britain has been an international trading nation. Britain has trillions of pounds invested outside of the EU and billions of pounds are invested in Britain every year by countries outside the EU. Britain has the world's fourth largest economy and outside of the European Single Currency Britain's economy has prospered while the countries that joined the European Single Currency have seen unemployment rise and economic growth fall. The question is not, could Britain survive outside of the EU but can we afford to be in it at all?

## Why Britain must leave the European Union.

### Loss of Democracy

Over 80% of Britain's new laws now originate in the European Union, and are not debated by our own elected MPs at Westminster, who have no control over them anyway. More and more legislative power is being passed to the European Union. Britain has surrendered democratic and accountable government for unaccountable government by the undemocratic institutions of the EU. The EU Constitution was rejected by the French and Dutch peoples in their referenda of 2005 but this was only a temporary setback to the European project. Large sections of the proposed Constitution are being implemented regardless, while undeterred European politicians intend to re-introduce the Constitution in another form in the near future. EU law already takes precedence over UK law, and the process of European political integration continues. Inside the EU Britain will eventually cease to exist as an independent democratic nation in any meaningful sense.

### Loss of Economic Control

Britain's membership of the European Union has delivered none of the benefits promised when we joined in 1973. We have an accumulated trade deficit of almost £255 billion since we joined, and membership has cost us £200 billion in gross direct contributions alone; the indirect costs are incalculable. Britain's trade has been distorted by protectionist EU measures, and in particular we pay extortionately more for our food because of the Common Agricultural Policy than if we bought it on the world market.

The Labour and Liberal-Democratic parties are in favour, in principle, of Britain joining the European Single Currency, and the Conservative Party will not in principle rule it out. While Britain remains a member of the European Union there is a danger that we might eventually join the euro. If that were to happen Britain would lose power over its interest rates, its external exchange rate, and its ability to set public spending borrowing requirements: all key levers of economic control. 'Tax Harmonisation' would also follow, and the British economy will no longer be run for the benefit of Britain but for the benefit of the European Union.

### We can't afford it.

The European Union is a grandiose political project to create an undemocratic super-state, that suits the interests of a European political and ideological elite and not the ordinary peoples of Europe. It costs Britain billions of pounds every year and those costs continue to mount. This money could and should be spent better in Britain by a British government elected by, and answerable to, the British people. Every country in the EU would be better off with its own independent democratic government and Britain must show the way for the future by leaving the EU.

Britain wants peace, friendship, trade and cultural links with the countries of Europe and the world, not to be subsumed into an undemocratic and economically uncompetitive **United States of Europe.**

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