

KASSANDRA



Once upon a time in Brussels...

There was little about the EU in the WikiLeaks cables. Perhaps this may change if the new brusselsleaks.com takes off. Please, don't forget to CC New Europe into your leaks!

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Poles Apart

The split in the Polish Law and Justice Party is getting wider. The hardline faction are trying to unseat ECR Group leader, Michal Kaminski at a meeting in Strasbourg next week. Should they fail, 11 Polish MEPs are threatening to join the eurosceptic EFD Group, with whom they have been holding secret talks for some time.

Sources say that the secretary general of EFD has offered a creation of a new conservative group for them, and that other disaffected members of the ECR may also join this group. In the meantime, Kaminski is said to be threatening to join ALDE

if there is a no confidence vote, but would they want him? Others are concerned about the fuss a deposed Kaminski could cause, nevermind the difficulty of choosing a new leader..

An EFD Spokesman said, "The EFD Group looks to welcome delegations which agree with the Group's political platform and are committed to the principles of 'freedom, democracy and co-operation among Nation States.' It is up to the Bureau of the EFD Group if a warm drink and big welcome is extended to those who knock on the door." How very festive!

Tilting At Windmills

'Green' Climate Policies:

- Probably unnecessary
- Certainly ineffectual
- Ruinously expensive

www.rogerhelmer.com

European Conservatives and Reformists Group

Giles Chichester MEP

Giles Chichester, the British MEP, has asked us to point out that he was not sacked by Conservative Party leader, David Cameron after breaking European Parliament rules by paying more than £400,000 for office services to a company of which he was a director. This newspaper had a relevant report in the previous issue. It was widely reported that he resigned after coming under pressure from Cameron. According to the Daily Telegraph newspaper, he resigned shortly after, "Caroline Spelman, Conservative Chairman, demanded that he opened his books to Party auditors, for a full explanation, within 24 hours".

Chichester claimed that he hadn't been informed of a rule change and had not benefited personally. This was accepted by the authorities, but he did admit breaking the rules in a TV interview, where he said, "It is embarrassing, not least because I have introduced a new code for my Conservative colleagues for expenses. Here I am leading that process for the last couple of months and - whoops a daisy - I am shown up to have made a mistake. OK, hands up, mea culpa, and I will put it right."

Roger Helmer (ECR, UK), who has often campaigned against the EU's wasteful use of taxpayers money, has just spent over €10,000 on a series of billboards, promoting his denial of climate change. This came from the ECR's 'Information Fund', provided by the Parliament.

The website, Conservatives in the European Parliament states clearly the party policy, "Conservative MEPs are committed to tackling climate change", and "Conservative MEPs unwaveringly supported the Climate Change Package adopted in December 2008."

Not all Conservative MEPs though. Helmer stands alone in the group on this issue, meaning that the €10,000+ was spent on one man's obsession and on information that party and group policy does not believe. Helmer responded by Twitter "Not Party policy" says CCO about my climate campaign. That's right. Just the view of most Tories I talk to.

The boards carry the slogan "Green Climate Change Policies: Probably Unnecessary, Certainly Ineffectual, Ruinously Expensive". One wag joked that the message, "describes Helmer perfectly".

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