

Policy Statement



OUT OF THE EU, INTO THE WORLD

A foreign affairs and
international trade policy
for an independent Britain

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Policy Statement March 2010

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Introduction

The world is changing rapidly. China, India and Brazil are experiencing substantial rates of growth and their political clout is growing as a result. Russia is geopolitically resurrected, and is leveraging its might in the fields of oil and gas, with the largest proven gas reserves in the world.

International trade is an important feature of everyday life, with goods from all over the world available in virtually every British high street. British companies are trading and investing around the world, continuing a proud tradition of Britain as a global trading nation. Despite this, the UK is denied its seat at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and British interests are sacrificed to the EU common trade position. The EU has repeatedly derailed world trade talks with its stubborn, protectionist stance.

The EU has ambitions to be a global superpower that can act as a ‘counterweight’ to the United States. In reality the EU is hostile to the US in terms of culture and ideology. At a time when Western nations need to pull together in the face of common threats, the EU is deliberately driving a wedge into the Atlantic alliance and NATO, which have secured our peace since the Second World War. The EU’s clumsy and destabilising attempts to rival the USA will have serious ramifications for the wider world. The EU already has its own Foreign Minister and Diplomatic service.

The English language is now the undisputed language of global trade, diplomacy and mass media. In the coming century, the Anglosphere giants of the USA, Canada, South Africa, India, Australia and others have tremendous potential to work together. In particular, the Commonwealth, our kith and kin, which comprises over 50 countries and one-third of humanity, is a benign force for peace, prosperity and the promotion of democracy and freedom. Released from the shackles of the EU, Britain can play a full and natural role at the heart of a revitalised Commonwealth.

One growing concern is the power of autocratic regimes. Russia, China and its Central Asian allies have formed the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO), described as a “Warsaw Pact for the 21 Century”, and they use openly threatening behaviour. It also routinely blackmails countries such as Ukraine with deliberate disruption of oil and gas supplies. China has rapidly armed itself with modern weaponry, used cheque book diplomacy to buy influence in Africa, is rapidly taking control of supplies of key natural resources, and continues to threaten democratic Taiwan. Also, fundamentalist Islam threatens moderate Muslim states as well as our own, and has as its objective the overthrow of liberal democracies.

The UK Independence Party has put together a policy paper intended to outline our vision of a new future in foreign affairs and international trade. We envision a world characterised by liberty and democracy, trade and friendship between all nations. We want a world where Britain, free from the political EU Superstate, can resume its place in the Commonwealth, seeking global horizons and abandoning regional constraints.

The problem: a changing, more challenging international scene

World trade talks end in collapse

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7531099.stm>

Stifling free media, arresting journalists, bullying its neighbours: Moscow is stamping on freedoms and the EU turns a blind eye - Guardian 23/2/10

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/feb/23/russia-europe-cosy-up>

AIMA fears EU protectionism - City A.M 17/2/10

<http://www.cityam.com/news-and-analysis/aima-fears-eu-protectionism>

Thailand, Brazil, Australia may take EU sugar case to WTO - The Nation 3/2/10

http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2010/02/03/business/business_30121708.php

EU defends shoe levy after China WTO complaint - AFP 4/2/10

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gUUNki0CcB5vXh1fVoR3hYV9bfCQ>

UK armed forces 'need coalitions' for future conflicts - BBC 3/2/10

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/8494547.stm

A major French arms sale to Russia will make the world a more dangerous place - Daily Telegraph 22/2/10

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamescorum/100026868/a-major-french-arms-sale-to-russia-will-make-the-world-a-more-dangerous-place/>

Iran leader orders new step in nuclear programme - 7/2/10 Associated Press

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iRqjZV1Meppj40hTs8IBOv4DdsQwD9DNGLG00>

US slates China's Taiwan response BBC 3/2/10

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8495316.stm>

UK 'should give up UN seat'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1559696/UK-should-give-up-UN-seat.html>

India forecasts growth of up to 8.75%

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c47ffb70-21ed-11df-98dd-00144feab49a.html>

Executive Summary

Britain: Global Player

Britain is a global player with a global destiny. Britain has an impressive 'portfolio of power', i.e. an impressive array of economic, diplomatic, military and cultural power. For example, it has one of the biggest economies in the world, a Permanent UN Security Council member and a key player in the G20.

Britain: Weakened by EU membership

Britain's economy and diplomatic and trade relations are mortally weakened by our continued EU membership. Far from giving Britain an advantage, the EU actually is a millstone around the neck of the UK. The EU now has its own President - Van Rompuy - and its own Foreign Minister - Baroness Ashton.

British influence in the EU, and EU influence in the world: the facts

The UK has minimal influence in the European Parliament, where less than 10% of MEPs are British. The 'British' European Commissioner is not allowed to put Britain first. In the Council of Ministers, British vetoes have been lost, and changes to voting formulae post-Lisbon Treaty have severely weakened the British national position.

The Anglosphere and the Commonwealth – Britain's real partners

In sharp contrast to the EU, the Anglosphere and Commonwealth are vibrant, dynamic and growing. It is into this international community that Britain most naturally belongs, and would most naturally thrive in. UKIP would make Commonwealth Day a new Bank Holiday. UKIP would set up a New Commonwealth Centre at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. UKIP would develop links with the Commonwealth, and defend poorer Commonwealth countries from EU economic bullying in its Economic Partnership Agreements.

International Trade and Trade with the EU post-withdrawal

UKIP would set up a Commonwealth Free Trade Area (CFTA). Given the extraordinary economic power of the Commonwealth, such a bloc would be a global economic sensation. It could also interlock with other trade blocs to enhance global trade and prosperity. UKIP would retain friendly and profitable trade relationships with EU countries after withdrawal. UKIP would sign a UK-EU Free Trade deal, similar to the free trade deals the EU has with over 50 other non-EU countries but as its largest trading partner.

Global Issues - Britain in the UN, WTO and NATO

UKIP supports Britain's continued membership of the UN, as we regard it as a useful forum for mutual, voluntary co-operation between states, as opposed to the involuntary, forced co-operation that is a feature of the EU. UKIP would retain Britain's Permanent Security Council seat. UKIP notes that Britain is denied the use of its own seat at the WTO by the EU. UKIP would withdraw from the EU, and thus reclaim our independent, influential seat at the WTO from which Britain could negotiate with other powers. We would continue to trade with the EU, and the rest of the world, under WTO rules. UKIP

supports Britain's continued membership of NATO. UKIP condemns attempts to create a 'Euro Army' under Franco-German control aimed at replacing NATO.

International Aid and British Overseas Territories

UKIP believes in trade not aid as a means to tackle global poverty and would reduce international aid over time whilst promoting trade. UKIP would gladly provide aid in the event of emergencies, such as the aftermath of earthquakes or tsunamis. UKIP stands by the British Overseas Territories. UKIP supports the wishes of the people of Gibraltar to be linked to Britain, not Spain. UKIP would defend the Falkland Islands with force if necessary. UKIP would vigorously safeguard all other overseas territories.

Global Issues - Asia and Africa

UKIP condemns China's authoritarian political system and its threatening behaviour towards Taiwan. UKIP wishes to see a single clear and realistically achievable goal outlined for British troops in Afghanistan so as to justify their continued involvement or would seek a negotiated withdrawal. UKIP supports the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state. UKIP rejects calls for Israel to be punished for defending itself from attack. Yet UKIP calls on Israel to continue to ensure its military actions remain proportionate and to pursue a political solution to a political problem. UKIP calls for the restoration of democracy in Burma, and the release from house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi. UKIP would support military action to destroy Iran's nuclear programme, but would not commit UK ground troops. UKIP wishes to see an end to the Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe. UKIP is concerned by farm attacks in South Africa. UKIP wishes to see an end to the Darfur conflict.

Global Issues - The Americas

UKIP relishes the prospect of reviving our links with Canada post-EU withdrawal. Canada should form an important part of the Commonwealth Free Trade Area. UKIP would support Latin American countries like Colombia to check the spread of Marxism in South and Central America.

Global Issues - Australia, New Zealand and Oceania

UKIP would revive links with Australia and New Zealand. UKIP supports the right of the citizens of these countries to reject whaling and nuclear testing in their territorial waters if this is what their citizens wish.

UKIP's Global Values - Democracy, free markets, personal liberty

UKIP wishes to see democracy, free markets and personal liberty for all peoples and nations. UKIP has concerns about autocracies such as China, Russia and their Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO). UKIP wishes to see an end to the persecution of religious minorities such as Christians in Muslim countries under Sharia law. UKIP also wishes to see an end to the prosecution and execution of former Muslims who leave the Muslim religion in certain Muslim countries.

4 Britain: Global Player

4.1 Britain is a global player with a global destiny. Britain has an impressive 'portfolio of power', i.e. an impressive array of economic, diplomatic, military and cultural power. Britain is the world's sixth biggest economy, and a key player in the G20 group of nations. Britain is one of only 5 of the 192 members of the United Nations to have a Permanent Security Council Seat complete with veto power. Britain is one of only a handful of the world's countries to possess nuclear weapons. Britain also speaks English, the undisputed language of global finance, trade, diplomacy and mass media. The City of London is the world's largest financial centre, and the jewel in the crown of the British economy.

4.2 This is not the power portfolio of 'Little England', rather it is the power portfolio of The United Kingdom. Many countries envy Britain's power and potential. It is tragic that successive Conservative and Labour governments ignore these positive realities, and have instead pursued a policy of submerging Britain into the European Union (EU) on the basis of an outdated and negative post-Suez, post-Empire mindset. Whilst for some of Europe's smaller, poorer countries EU membership makes good sense, for a global player such as Britain, it makes no sense whatsoever. In fact, far from expanding British power and influence, it actually significantly weakens and reduces it.

4.3 The EU prevents Britain from taking up its own seat at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as the EU Commission has sole competence to negotiate trade deals on the part of EU members. The EU is said to be moving similarly towards a common seat at the UN, which could spell the end of Britain's Permanent Security Council seat. Britain's excellent armed forces are on course to be dragged into an EU Army, under the command of foreign generals. EU regulations have spent decades strangling and dampening the British economy. The EU's recent moves towards regulating financial services, such as its AIFM (Hedge Funds) Directive, pose a very real threat to the City of London as a global financial centre. Already hedge funds have begun relocating to Switzerland (outside the EU) from London in anticipation of crushing EU regulation in this area, whilst New York is close to catching up with London as the world's leading financial centre.

4.4 This state of affairs is intolerable. UKIP has a vision of a strong, independent Britain that is fully involved in global affairs, not a regional bit player. We can only do this if our portfolio of power is liberated from the straight jacket of EU membership.

5 Britain: Weakened by EU membership

5.1 Britain should be a significant global force. Yet we have been shackled in the past four decades to an undemocratic, unaccountable remote EU. The EU is fundamentally corrupt, with hundreds of millions of pounds 'disappearing' from its budget every year. Its own Court of Auditors has refused to sign off the accounts for fifteen years to date. EU Commission officials include convicted criminals and fraudsters, and a blind eye is turned to widespread theft and misappropriation of funds by European officials. The EU's Common Agricultural Policy often pays out vast sums to politicians for their empty fields

which are laughably listed as 'farms' in expenses claims.

5.2 The EU is also decaying economically. Its social model is rigid, stifles job creation and entrepreneurialism and is unsustainable in the long term. The terms of the social model have been blamed for breathtakingly high levels of unemployment, in some EU states such as Spain it is topping 20% with youth unemployment of 42.9%¹ even in a good year. Yet powerful trade unions cause chaos through strikes and riots across the EU whenever reform is even hinted at. EU regulations crush small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which are the lifeblood of any economy. Its stated wish to 'downsize' the City of London through the AIFM Directive² and its vindictive attack on the UK and Ireland's flexible economies through the planned Temporary Workers Directive are clear signals. The Euro is totally unsuited to the demands of many EU nations' economies. At the time of writing, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Spain are in dire economic straits, which in the case of Greece, is especially pronounced with a need for an immediate €25 billion bailout with a potential liability of €55 billion by the end of 2010³. The Euro currency is in imminent danger of collapse - in part or in total.

5.3 The EU is also decaying demographically. On the eve of World War I, 40% of the world's population lived in Europe, and 8 of the 10 largest cities on earth were in Europe. In 2010, just 10% of the world's population live in Europe, and not a single European city is in the top ten most populated cities on earth. In fact, it takes until place 19 on the list for a European city to appear⁴. Ironically, this city (Paris) has around 40% of its population made up by immigrants from outside Europe. European women are now not having enough children to maintain the current levels of population, and by mid-century, many European countries will have suffered serious falls in population. The Europeans who are left will often be elderly, and thus economically inactive. In parts of Europe, such as Hoyerswerda in Eastern Germany, the population collapse is such that primary schools and maternity wards of hospitals are closing.

5.4 It can be seen that if Britain wishes to succeed and flourish in the 21st century, it cannot do so if its destiny has been chained to that of the EU. It is intolerable that a nation with such potential as our own should be shackled to this EU corpse. Whilst UKIP wishes to maintain trade and friendly links with our EU neighbours, we have neither the desire or the need to be part of the political structure of a corrupt, sclerotic and dying political entity.

6 British influence in the EU, and EU influence in the world: the facts

6.1 Europhiles frequently make the argument that 'little' Britain is not large or significant enough to make a mark on its own, and thereby must become ever more closely merged into a European Superstate. One of the concerns raised about British withdrawal from the EU is the fear that Britain will somehow lose influence globally if it is no longer a member of the EU. Needless to say, these fears are without basis in fact and are symptomatic of an out-dated defeatist mindset. Indeed, an analysis of the EU's three most important institutions (Commission, Parliament and Council) reveals that Britain's influence within the EU is actually minimal, at best.

6.2 In the European Parliament, there are currently 72 British MEPs out of a total of 736 MEPs. This is down from 78 MEPs in the last parliament, owing to changes brought in by the Lisbon Treaty. These 72 MEPs are drawn from 11 different British political parties. The chances that UKIP, Greens, BNP, Plaid Cymru etc. would all vote as one on any given topic is near zero. Even if all the British parties represented in the European Parliament did vote as one, they would still only account for 9% of the votes in the European Parliament. Thus, it is easy to see that British influence in the European Parliament is profoundly weak.

6.3 Some Europhiles allege that Britain has its own Commissioner, and this powerful role is in Britain's interest. Indeed, the Labour government applauded the appointment of Baroness Ashton to the EU Commission and then EU Foreign Minister as it would improve British influence in Brussels⁵. This is not the case. Commissioners, like all EU civil servants, are bound by a code of service which explicitly forbids them from taking instruction or influence from any nation state, and must explicitly reject any attempt to put their national interest first. Thus, British influence in the EU Commission is non-existent.

6.4 Finally, Britain is just one government amongst 27 governments in the Council of Ministers. The UK has lost many of its vetoes in the Council of Ministers, and can be much more easily overruled by Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) of its 'partners'. The Lisbon Treaty has taken away further British vetoes, and has also changed the mathematical formula for securing a decision on 'Qualified Majority Voting' (QMV), so that Britain can be overruled in 61 areas, over issues such as energy, health and foreign policy. British influence is profoundly weak in yet another key organ of the EU.

6.5 It is not just British influence in the EU which is insignificant. The EU, for all its bluster and pomp about its place in world affairs, is regarded as insignificant by most of the world's major powers. Perhaps the clearest example of this, was the way China and the USA held separate talks during the G20 summit. They did not invite the EU, as neither power believed the EU was of sufficient importance to invite⁶. President Obama could not be bothered to attend the latest EU-US Summit, interpreted correctly as a sign that the US ranks the EU as very low in its list of priorities. Russian diplomats have told the Centre for European Reform that they regard the EU as being nothing more than "...the place you fly over on the way to Asia"⁷. The EU was also greatly embarrassed by its failure to influence the rest of the world at the Copenhagen Climate Summit, and was excluded from the final deal-making. It even conceded that other powers were the key to any deal, such was/is its own position of weakness⁸.

6.6 The EU has also shown its inability to react to global catastrophes. Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the EU simply talked, whilst the US sent aircraft carriers, troops and helicopters to bring aid to the wounded. The embarrassing inability of the EU to act was noted by a number of commentators⁹. During the 1990s Balkan Wars, the EU arrogantly boasted that "the hour of Europe has come", yet did nothing for 5 years, as thousands were raped, tortured and massacred on their own doorstep. It took

outside intervention from the US to bring a rapid end to the genocide.

7 The Anglosphere and the Commonwealth – Britain’s real partners

7.1 The British have given the world four particular gifts; our system of democratic government, legal system, language and free trade. These have played a huge role in the lives of billions of people on every continent for centuries. This century is no different. English is now the undisputed global language of trade, diplomacy and the mass media. By mid-century, there will be more people who speak English as a second language than who learned it as their first¹¹, such is the pull and importance of the language. In a world that increasingly Anglophone, Britain clearly has a pivotal role to play in the fields of economics, politics and culture.

7.2 Alas, our membership of the EU prevents this. The EU is bitterly hostile to ‘Anglo Saxons’, a term of abuse the Francophone nations of the EU are particularly prone to use. In EU documents, Commonwealth countries are referred to as ‘third countries’. Commonwealth members who are currently in the EU (Britain, Cyprus and Malta) cannot sign trade deals with other Commonwealth countries, as the EU does not permit members to do so. In the sphere of immigration, EU rules also clearly insult Commonwealth citizens wishing to settle in Britain. EU nationals may come to Britain in unlimited numbers, with no questions asked. By contrast, Commonwealth citizens must wait in the ‘Non-EU Nationals’ queue at British airports, fill in landing cards and generally undergo EU enforced bureaucratic humiliation, simply for wishing to enter the Mother Country. Many British citizens trying to bring a Commonwealth national fiancé(e) or partner into the UK will be familiar with this double standard.

7.3 UKIP wishes to leave the EU, and immediately reaffirm our dedication to our Commonwealth kith and kin. It is with them that we have centuries of shared history, culture, language and sacrifice. There are 87 different Commonwealth cultural groups and networks such as judges¹². It is with them that we have fought and died in multiple wars across the world. It is with them that we are most willing and able to tackle the challenges of the century.

8 The Case for a Commonwealth Free Trade Area (CFTA)

8.1 The 53 countries of the Commonwealth contain more than a third of the world’s population and no fewer than 13 of its most dynamic economies, including that of India. It is estimated by Open Europe that by 2050, the Indian economy alone will be larger than that of all the current 27-member EU. India is now the second largest foreign investor in the UK¹³. If the UK were to help bring these diverse countries together in a Commonwealth Free Trade Area, and build on their own existing bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, this would provide a spectacular boost to the cause of free trade across the world.

8.2 The Commonwealth Business Council (CBC) estimates that a CFTA would account for more than 20% of international trade and investment, trade exchanges of more than

US\$1.8 trillion a year and direct foreign investment worth about \$100 billion annually. The demand for a CFTA already exists within the Commonwealth, many of whose members have for years been frustrated by the attitudes of the EU. The EU is viewed in such circles as an important barrier to the improvement or development of global trade¹⁴.

8.3 The EU's favourite tactic to bully and exploit the poorer countries of the world, including those in the Commonwealth, by way of EU 'Economic Partnership Agreements' (EPAs). Far from being partnerships, the terms are often little more than neo-colonialism. The Foreign Affairs Minister of Kenya, Raphael Tuju, accused the EU of ramming punitive policies down the throats of poor African nations¹⁵. In the South Pacific, states such as Commonwealth member Vanuatu are unhappy about EPAs which oblige them to change their export policies under threat of losing aid programmes if they do not sign the sort of agreement the EU wants¹⁶.

8.4 There is strong support for the creation of a Commonwealth Free Trade Area in both Canada – a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement – and in India, which needs free trade to underpin its rapidly growing economy.

8.5 The Canadian writer Brent Cameron has described the potential CFTA as “a trading relationship comprised of nation states belonging to the Commonwealth of Nations who wish to improve trade and commerce links to international markets, and are willing to subscribe to a basic Charter that sets out the responsibilities of membership.” The Commonwealth, says Cameron, “would provide the ‘critical mass’ necessary for a trade association to be viable, and be of sufficient scope and diversity to allow it a significant voice in the broader debates over trade liberalisation and the very nature of globalisation.”¹⁷

8.6 For Britain the advantages of a CFTA are obvious. As well as its obvious economic potential, it would promote the development of other markets in Africa and South Asia via the dynamic economies of South Africa and India. African countries are already co-operating in greater integration through organisations such as the revived East African Community and the larger Southern and Eastern Africa group in order to give themselves greater weight in free trade negotiations so they would see a CFTA as an extremely attractive prospect. Not only would the role of the UK be pivotal in such an organisation, but it would give Britain the chance to re-establish Commonwealth relations that have been seriously blighted by our membership of the European Union.

8.7 Furthermore, we share with the Commonwealth a common language, common democratic institutions, a fundamentally common judicial system and compatible commercial practices. As The Times noted, “the Commonwealth has a unique behind-the-scenes influence, based on shared history, a universal language and a common legal and educational heritage. The mix of great cultural diversity and shared values is unusual and useful”¹⁸.

8.8 The CFTA would further encourage growth in the developed markets, including those of Canada, Australia, New Zealand; it would help to reinforce the international

position of sterling and it would accelerate the process of substituting trade for aid in developing countries, with a dramatic, positive effect on both their economies and ours. And, as one Commonwealth academic has pointed out, “in return for access to the financial capital of the rich nations in the Commonwealth, the developing nations would provide multinationals in the developed countries access to their large emerging markets. That could prove very lucrative for multinational business since, for example, the large and growing Indian economy currently denies access to Western retail chains. This may change under a Commonwealth Free Trade Area”¹⁹. It would also allow poorer Commonwealth countries to break the bonds of the EU’s vindictive EPAs.

8.9 UKIP makes clear that the CFTA is not in any sense a return to ‘Imperial Preference’ or Empire. This is more than can be said for the EU which was gleefully described as an Empire by Commission President Barroso, as reported by the Daily Telegraph in July 2007. Already, the Commonwealth has welcomed in a former non-British, French-speaking nation in Rwanda (2009), and the Commonwealth is increasingly open to nations who did not share a British heritage, but wish to share the values, trade and comradeship of the Commonwealth.

8.10 Beyond the Commonwealth, UK withdrawal from the EU will also make it possible to conclude free trade agreements with other trading blocs, principally the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Both of these we are already involved indirectly through bilateral arrangements with, for example, Canada and Singapore.

8.11 In the case of Canada, the UK is already the country’s principal European trading partner as well as its second largest foreign direct investor after the USA. The market is very receptive to UK goods and services and 650 British companies already operate in Canada. The country would obviously be a major player in a Commonwealth Free Trade Area Agreement. Equally importantly, however, its membership of NAFTA could lead to completely free trade between the UK and the USA, the leading single market for British exports (15% of the total, worth some £30 billion annually) and the prime overseas destination for British investment. Under NAFTA arrangements this would also apply to Mexico, the UK’s second largest market in Latin America²⁰.

8.12 Similarly, a tariff-free arrangement would be possible with ASEAN (The Association of South-East Asian Nations), nearly all of whose members – not just Commonwealth members such as Singapore and Malaysia, but also Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and so on – are already significant and developing trading partners of the UK. Such an agreement could smooth negotiations for the establishment of free trade between Britain and the vast market of China. China is already working to eliminate tariffs with ASEAN nations under a new trade agreement - even as it continues to battle against the tariffs and quotas imposed on it by the protectionist EU. It is vital that the world’s next economic giant is fully integrated as soon as possible into the global trading system in the way that is clearly happening at a regional level.²¹

8.13 Steps such as these would be a clear endorsement of the principle of global free

trade. They would be supported by bilateral or multilateral free trade arrangements with as many other nations as would be willing to conclude them with the UK and/or the CFTA.

8.14 In summary, on leaving the EU, UKIP would immediately seek to put into practice (the until now hypothetical) Commonwealth Free Trade Area (CFTA), which would facilitate greater and easier trade between Commonwealth nations. Such an organisation would immediately be an economic behemoth, accounting for around 20% of global trade²². It would marry the economic power of giants such as Canada, Australia and Britain, assist emerging giants like India and assist developing countries like Mozambique. Many Commonwealth members are members of other international organisations. Canada for example, is a member of NAFTA. Thus, through the CFTA, the Anglophone world could interlock with other trade blocs to increase the prosperity of all its citizens.

9 Trade with the EU after withdrawal: the options for Britain

9.1 In order for Britain to become a global trading nation and an independent global player again, we must first leave the EU. Having said that, we wish to maintain cordial relations, and continue our trade-based relationship. What form this post-independence trade relationship would take is the matter of some debate. Essentially, there are three options: two within existing formal European agreement frameworks – the European Economic Area (EEA) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) – and one of negotiating a straightforward free trade agreement of our own direct with the EU as one of over 100 similar trade agreements between the EU and other nations around the world.

Option 1. The European Economic Area (EEA)

9.2 A predecessor to the EU, the EEA consists of the EU, as well as Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein. It allows non-EU countries to participate in the single market without having to necessarily become EU members, however, they are obliged to adopt EU rules in the single market. As a member of the EU the UK automatically has membership of the European Economic Area and there is no reason why, upon Britain's exit from the EU, the UK could not remain a member of the EEA. Certainly, to remain in the EEA would remove us from the European customs union and end our obligations to the CAP, the Common Fisheries Policy, and EU foreign, security, judicial and home affairs policy. However, we would still be required to make a contribution to the EU budget and to accept a large body of EU regulation, which UKIP opposes.

9.3 It would also mean however that Britain would have to continue to accept the free movement of labour from EU member states. Thus, while membership of the EEA might seem a safe alternative to full EU membership, there would be continuing substantial costs to the UK and little benefit in terms of trade and its deregulation. All we would be doing would be removing what little influence we had in EU councils while being forced to accept the non-political decisions taken there. This being so, UKIP will not seek post-EU membership of the EEA.

Option 2. The European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

9.4 This venerable organisation dates back to 1960 and the UK was a member of it until it joined the EEC as were other members before joining the EEC such as Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Portugal and Finland. The remaining members of EFTA, having chosen not to join the EEC/EU, are Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein. It might therefore be thought appropriate for the UK to join with these other northern European countries and to revive the free trade principles upon which EFTA was founded.

9.5 There is a problem, however. EFTA has become one arm of the EEA, with the EU members comprising the other part. This means that the EFTA countries make contributions to the EU budget and to certain EU programmes in proportion to their GDP and they are also obliged to accept the EU's rules as outlined above.

9.6 Switzerland, on the basis of successive referenda, decided to reject EU membership and also not to become associated with the EEA. They chose simply to remain as EFTA members and to negotiate their own bilateral free trade agreements with the EU. This, it was argued, would protect Swiss sovereignty, particularly in the matter of domestic laws relating to finance, which are at odds with the anti-fraud rules of the EU, and the concept of direct democracy, which is frowned upon by the undemocratic EU because of its reliance on the referendum. It would also exempt Switzerland from the requirement to accept unlimited numbers of workers from EU states, allowing it to impose quotas.

9.7 Switzerland's free trade agreement(s) with the EU include provisions abolishing customs duties and trade quotas on industrial and agricultural products. There are provisions to also allow Swiss citizens the right to live and work in EU countries and for EU citizens to live and work in Switzerland. There are provisions for Switzerland to be part of the Schengen passport-free area. The Swiss can be in the European Environment Agency, if they wish, in the EU's film and education programmes, and they can apply for EU research grants. There is cooperation on airlines, asylum and judicial matters. In short, they have all the claimed benefits of EU membership, but without the cost. It is true that Switzerland must pay CHF 600 million per year for access, but the Swiss Government reports savings for not being a member of the EU amounting to CHF 3.4 billion, a net saving of CHF 2.8 billion a year²³.

9.8 Under threat of risks to its bilateral trade agreements, Switzerland has been bullied into abandoning its migrant quotas and to sign up to the Schengen and Dublin agreements on open borders and the sharing of information on crime and asylum applications²⁴. Switzerland is also under constant pressure to harmonise its banking and financial laws with those of the EU. As the price of retaining its famous banking secrecy, it has been forced to introduce a tax on the savings of non-resident EU citizens, the bulk of receipts from which goes to Brussels.

9.9 More recently, the EU has accused Switzerland of unfair state aid because of low corporate taxes in some Swiss cantons. According to a report by KPMG, the average corporate tax rate in Switzerland is 21%, but in the canton of Obwalden it is 13.1%, and

16.4% in Zug, near Zurich. That compares with 38.3% in Germany and 33.3% in France. Some companies, such as Kraft Foods of the United States this year, have relocated to the low-tax cantons from the EU, allowing them to minimise the tax they pay in big European markets like France and Germany. In return for such “unfairness” Brussels has threatened to impose trade sanctions if Switzerland does not follow the EU line. Switzerland was also obliged to agree some time ago to make a financial contribution – not to the Brussels budget but to specific EU programmes. It is thus in danger of being bullied into becoming a member of the EU in all but name and influence.

9.10 While UKIP believes that membership of EFTA might be an attractive option for post-EU Britain, and would help to calm the spurious fears about EU exit promoted by the three main political parties, the Swiss experience suggests that it would have to be approached with caution so as to avoid our being left with the very worst aspects of the Union, such as all the restrictions on trade we seek to end. Were the EFTA course to be adopted, it would be necessary to seek far-reaching reform of EFTA’s organisation to avoid undue, negative influence from Brussels.

Option 3. A Direct UK-EU free trade agreement

9.11 In the absence of some form of institutional arrangement – such as EFTA – for Britain's future trade with Europe, UKIP would seek to negotiate an individual free trade agreement (or a number of agreements) with the EU, as appropriate. We repeat that the EU can only harm itself by refusing to deal fairly with the UK as its largest single export market. We are confident that in the unlikely event that the EU did take this self-defeating course in defiance of WTO rules, any resulting effect on exports would be more than compensated for by the creation of a Commonwealth Free Trade Area and the application of other free trade agreements outlined above.

9.12 In any case, as experts have pointed out, UK exports to the EU after withdrawal would be affected only by the application of the common external tariff, currently about 1.5%, since British goods would be unlikely to pose serious threats to EU industry so far as price was concerned. It is possible, however, that following withdrawal of the UK, the EU might impose higher sectoral tariffs (on agricultural products, for instance, to protect French farmers) but these would be in clear breach of WTO rules and be subject to arbitration and appeal there (for example the Airbus/Boeing case, or the famous "banana wars" dispute). These would also be counterproductive if there is such scope for reciprocal measures affecting what we imported from the EU. In the case of agriculture, this would present British farmers with a larger share of the domestic market (something to which they may in any case wish to pay greater attention in the light of looming world food shortages and price rises). At the same time, the UK economy would be boosted by the present net outflow that would no longer go to the EU in such a scenario and might spur a rapid and profound shift to Commonwealth and rest of the world imports.

9.13 The EU already has similar non tariff free trade agreements with countries such as the USA, China, India, Egypt, South Korea and Japan, and is currently negotiating with Commonwealth countries such as India, Canada and Malawi. As there have been no calls

for these states to join the EU, we believe we can have this same trading relationship without political union that comes through EU membership.

9.14 As we have already indicated, the size and world importance of the UK economy should ensure that Britain experiences little difficulty in negotiating agreements in a far greater spirit of genuinely free trade than any of those the EU has already concluded, or is in the process of negotiating, with half the countries of the world.

10 Global Issues - Britain in the UN

10.1 UKIP fully supports Britain's continued membership of the United Nations (UN), and would guard jealously our permanent seat on the UN Security Council. UKIP has no major problem with the UN, and rejects comparisons between the EU, which we wish to leave, and the UN, which we wish to remain a key member of. This is because the UN and EU are completely different types of organisation in both law, and structure. Primarily, the EU is an example of a 'supranational' organisation, whilst the UN is an 'intergovernmental' organisation. In the former, governments surrender powers permanently to that institution, which then runs its policy in that area (farming, trade etc). In the latter, governments meet as equals, and voluntarily co-operate on issues of the day, with no surrender of powers.

10.2 UKIP is concerned with the EU's attempts to set the agenda, priorities and policies of the UN. The Lisbon Treaty commits EU members to a Common Foreign Policy. This would include adopting a common position in international forums such as the UN. The EU currently has a 27 member bloc-vote. In addition to this, are an additional 109 countries which are part of what Leonard (2005) calls the 'Eurosphere'. That is, countries which are dependent upon the EU for trade or aid, and/or which have a history of being politically influenced by it²⁵. Added to the 27 EU members, this could in theory place the number of countries that are likely to vote the way the EU wishes at 136 states. When one considers that there are only 192 members of the UN, this means that the EU theoretically possesses an 'automatic majority' of 70% of all votes. This could grant the EU an 'automatic majority' in votes at the UN General Assembly, and with it, tremendous propaganda clout as its policies were endorsed by the 'international community'. Already, the EU is crowing about UN resolutions on the death penalty which its 'automatic majority' pushed through²⁶.

10.3 Having said this, it is clear that many UN members are becoming aware of this conduct, and are wising up to it. As a recent report by the European Council on Foreign Relations noted, the EU's power at the UN is actually dwindling over time. This is particularly pronounced when the EU attempts to table "human rights" based resolutions. Consequently, whilst the EU is cynically attempting to buy EU influence, it appears that it is a strategy that will ultimately fail. Nevertheless, its clumsy attempts to do so will harm international relations.

10.4 UKIP feels that intergovernmental institutions like the UN have an important role to play in the world. We deplore the attempts of the EU to seize working control of it as

contrary to the UN's proper aims and to the interests of nation states. The EU has spoken of its desire to have its own seat with a 'special' status, in that it would be able to sponsor resolutions in the General Assembly, but not have voting rights²⁷. Not that it would need them with its 'automatic majority' or servile member states and impoverished, dependent countries in the developing world. We reject the notion that the EU should have its own seat at the UN, and an independent Britain would resist attempts at the UN to create one.

11 Global Issues - Britain in the WTO

11.1 Britain is currently denied use of its own seat at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which forms the centrepiece of international trade and commerce. The UK remains a member but maintains an 'empty seat' policy when it comes to negotiations as this is a competence of the Directorate General of Trade in the EU Commission (previously headed by Baroness Ashton and Peter Mandelson). UKIP finds it reprehensible that a country with our mercantilist pedigree is denied its full role in such a forum by the EU. The EU has 100% competency in the area of trade. It represents its member states, including Britain, at the WTO. There is evidence that the common EU trade position is determined by policymakers in France and Germany in their regular meetings.

11.2 The EU's position at the WTO is demonstrably to defend the economic and trade interests of the Franco-Germans, not Britain. EU hostility towards the free-trade mercantilist nations of the Anglosphere, particularly the USA, is tangible at WTO talks. Indeed, particularly in the field of trade in agricultural produce, world trade talks have collapsed due to Franco-German stubbornness. Neil O'Brien, formerly of the independent think-tank *Open Europe* said, "The world trade talks will fail because the EU won't budge, the EU won't budge because France won't budge, and France won't budge because its farmers have it over a barrel". Claire Godfrey, Oxfam's Trade Policy Officer was even more scathing, saying "[France] is holding the EU budget and the WTO talks to ransom. The intransigence is unbelievable"²⁸.

11.3 UKIP supports genuine free trade based on fair competition and the application of equivalent high standards. We support membership of the WTO along with the disciplines that must be demonstrated in terms of tariffs, trade barriers, export subsidies and direct payments to producers. UKIP looks forward to playing a leading role in the WTO, and with our own seat at the top table, will be able to negotiate on terms that suit our economy and trade needs. Never again will the needs of the British economy be subservient to Franco-German interests.

11.4 Whilst we seek independence from the EU, we will trade fully with the EU, under WTO rules. In 2008, the CIA website described Britain as the third biggest economy in Europe, and the sixth biggest economy in the world, and thus the EU would have every desire to trade with us, regardless of whether or not Britain remained an EU member. This support for trade with our EU neighbours is a key plank of UKIP policy. After UK withdrawal from the EU it is vital that a truly sovereign UK plays a full and constructive role in the WTO, regaining its seat and negotiating actively our own trade deals direct

once more.

12 Global Issues - Britain in NATO

12.1 UKIP supports Britain's continued membership of NATO, which we regard as the best framework for security and defence on the European continent. The experience of the Cold War has proved the organisation's ability to deter aggression and bring together democratic countries in common defence. NATO provided a very real and credible deterrent to Soviet aggression, and it is only NATO, not the EU, which can credibly lay claim to having secured the peace in post-war Europe.

12.2 UKIP totally rejects the attempts by the EU to create its own 'Euro army'. Such an organisation would be wasteful, as it would simply duplicate many of the structures of NATO whilst using the same NATO resources. Also, it is a deliberate attempt to exclude valuable non-European NATO allies like the USA and Canada from defence decisions, an obsession amongst Europhiles who are hostile to the USA. Finally, a Euro Army would seek equipment procurement from primarily European (especially French and German) defence firms. This would cause a problem to British defence contractors, who would be squeezed out by the Franco-German firms. UKIP wants to explore substantial opportunities for common Commonwealth defence procurement based on a shared military heritage and would seek to establish small military bases in Australia, Asia and the Middle East.

12.3 UKIP would be happy to work alongside European allies in military ventures, providing the venture was under the control of NATO, not the Euro Army, and that the venture was felt to be in the British national interest. Needless to say, each military venture would have to be assessed on its own individual merits, as issues of this complexity cannot have a 'one-size fits all' policy. UKIP would also increase spending on defence by 40%, and increase regular troop numbers by a quarter so as to improve the capacity of the armed forces to meet their obligations (please see the UKIP Policy Paper on Defence for more details).

13 Global Issues - Britain and the struggle against international terrorism

13.1 UKIP agrees that radical Islam is a threat. It poses a threat to non-Muslims, as radical Islamist doctrine casts non-Muslims as 'kufr', fit only to be forcefully converted, enslaved or killed. Radical Islam also poses a threat to the majority of decent, moderate Muslims, whom Islamist doctrine casts as traitors, fit for the same treatment as non-Muslims. UKIP applauds the work of moderate Muslim regimes such as Egypt and Jordan in their fight against Al-Qaeda. However, Human Rights laws prevent the extradition of terrorists based in Britain to face trial in the Arab world. As a result, these Arab regimes look weak in the face of their enemies, a deadly state of affairs for any country fighting a desperate battle on radical extremists. London-based Islamist, Yasser Al Siri, was convicted in absentia of a grenade attack in Egypt which killed a child in a pram. Yet the UK Human Rights Act prevents his extradition. Abu Hamza (aka Captain

Hook) was also due to be extradited to the United States, but yet again, Human Rights laws were invoked which substantially delayed his extradition.

13.2 To assist the war on terror, UKIP would abolish the Human Rights Act, and review prisoner exchange treaties with countries in the Muslim and Arab world. We would then be able to extradite terror suspects to face trial in Arab countries where they have often committed acts of violence. This would also allow us to work more closely with our allies in America, Canada and the rest of the Western world, as we fight radical Islam together. The EU has repeatedly refused to assist other countries fighting radical Islam, often invoking alleged Human Rights concerns, although it is easy to interpret their actions as a passive-aggressive action against the United States and Israel, two countries of which the EU has an institutional dislike.

13.3 For British Muslims (both those born here and those born elsewhere but later granted citizenship or residency status), UKIP would invoke the rarely used Treason Act and seek to undermine the Act's provisions. UKIP finds it totally unacceptable that certain elements of the British Muslim community have made openly treasonous remarks, from attempting to attack British soldiers on parade, to openly stating their admiration for the despicable 7/7 bombings in London, in which 53 British people died. Individuals who made such remarks would be prosecuted under an updated Treason Act.

13.4 UKIP is gravely concerned about the spread of Wahhabi Islam, a streak of political Islam that is highly popular amongst violent extremists. The Wahhabis, who are heavily funded by the oil wealth of Saudi Arabia, have spread their tentacles of influence, both in the Muslim diaspora, and in moderate Muslim states like Turkey. The Wahhabis have been known to buy control of Islamic book stores which are then flooded with Wahhabist literature. Wahhabis have also bought control of mosques and Muslim community centres. Wahhabis have even been active recruiting in prisons. In countries like Bosnia, Wahhabi mosques have been attempting to radicalise the otherwise secular Muslim Bosnian population.

13.5 UKIP fully supports the work of Ahmadiyya Muslims, who champion a peaceful, tolerant and integrationist model of Islam.

14 International Aid

14.1 As a general rule, UKIP feels that international aid is often not reaching the people it is meant to help. Huge percentages of the money given in aid are often wasted in administration costs, or simply disappear into the bank accounts of corrupt officials. There is also increasing evidence that foreign aid hinders the development of the economies of poor countries, by disincentivising longer term investment, and fuels instability and corruption²⁹.

UKIP would therefore review all foreign aid, and seek to gradually withdraw direct aid in exchange for enhanced and more long-lasting trading arrangements, particularly through the Commonwealth Free Trade Area. UKIP finds it bizarre, for example, that the UK

taxpayer is still giving so much foreign aid to India, a country sufficiently rich enough to have its own space programme.

14.2 UKIP is wholly supportive of providing emergency aid in the event of "Acts of God". For example, natural disasters such as the Asian Tsunami or Haiti earthquake would cause UKIP to gladly commit urgent emergency food and medical aid, as well as rescue teams and skilled military assistance. UKIP feels it is important to help the innocent victims of events beyond anyone's control, and that more co-ordinated international action is beneficial for such events, where reaction times are so critical.

UKIP believes in the maxim of "teach a man to fish" rather than "give a man a fish". That is, UKIP feels that trade and economic links, with a view to diversifying and developing the economies of the world's poorest countries, are the best way to alleviate poverty and integrate the poorest parts of the world more fully into the global community of nations.

15 British Overseas Territories

15.1 UKIP has a strong affection for the citizens of British Overseas Territories, who are often deeply patriotic towards Britain. We are particularly concerned at present by developments in Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands. In Gibraltar, the people of The Rock have repeatedly and proudly stated their desire to remain a British Overseas Territory, and not be swallowed up by Spain. Referendum results in Gibraltar in previous years have show that the wish of Gibraltarians to retain their links to the UK is almost unanimous. In 2002, 99% of Gibraltarians voted to retain their links with Britain. UKIP would respect this right, and guard the rights of Gibraltarians, including providing enhanced military deterrence. Gibraltar is British, and should remain so. The sovereignty of these territories is non-negotiable unless the people of these nations desire it to be so.

15.2 UKIP is also concerned by the 2010 remarks made by Argentine President Kirchner concerning the Falkland Islands. UKIP stands by the wishes of Falkland Islanders to retain their links to the UK, forged in blood by the 1982 Falklands War. Whilst UKIP would stand 100% on the side of the Falkland Islanders in any dispute with Argentina, and would unquestionably use force to defend the islands if militarily threatened, we would prefer to maintain amicable and constructive relations with Argentina.

15.3 British Overseas Territories would be ideally suited to join UKIP's CFTA, which would dramatically reinvigorate their economies. This would be a particular boost for overseas territories, some of which do not have particularly strong or diverse economic profiles.

16 Global Issues - Asia

China - Tibet - Taiwan

16.1 UKIP has grave concerns about the present Chinese political regime. We condemn its occupation of Tibet, and the attendant destruction of monasteries and religious

artefacts. We also oppose its attempts to restrict the use of the Tibetan language, and its policy of ethnically diluting Tibet through state-sponsored Han mass immigration. UKIP applauds the conciliatory calls of Dalai Lama who wants greater autonomy for Tibet and respect for its ancient traditions.

16.2 UKIP applauds the tiny, democratic nation of Taiwan. Taiwan successfully made a seamless transition from military rule to multi-party democracy over the course of the 20th century. Whilst both China and Taiwan also became powerful economic tigers, Taiwan managed to do so without resorting to totalitarianism and mass murder. UKIP condemns China's continuous threatening remarks towards Taiwan, as well as its deeply provocative military exercises off the Taiwanese coast. UKIP makes no apology for standing with democratic Taiwan in the face of its larger, threatening, totalitarian neighbour.

Asia - The War in Afghanistan

16.3 UKIP fully supports our armed forces, wherever they are in the world, and whatever venture they are engaged in. We are grateful to the service men and women who serve this country with such honour and heroism.

UKIP is anxious to see a single, clear, and realistically attainable goal outlined for British forces in Afghanistan or we will seek to negotiate a withdrawal with our NATO partners. Whilst UKIP supports our engagement there, we reject the notion that British troops should be stationed there for decades to come in the pursuit of a multitude of objectives. UKIP is concerned about allegations of corruption in Afghan President Hamid Karzai's administration³⁰, and wishes to see independent monitors from the UN or OECD investigate these claims to the fullest.

Asia - Israel and Palestine

16.4 UKIP fully supports the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state and recognises the despicable anti-Semitism in European history, culminating in the Holocaust. Israel is surrounded by hostile states committed to its destruction. The tiny state has been the frequent victim of rocket attacks and suicide bombings from terrorist groups, almost all deliberately targeting civilians. Israel has every right to respond with proportionate force to these attacks, and a UKIP government would do the same were Britain similarly threatened. UKIP rejects the notion that Israel should be punished through sanctions or cancellation of trade deals (such as the EU-Israel Association Agreement) for defending itself from attack.

16.5 UKIP urges Israel to adopt a lasting solution based on a political dialogue and not just military strength. Political problems require political solutions. As with any genuine friend, UKIP reserves the right to be critical of Israel. We urge the Israeli army (IDF) to be proportional in its operations. UKIP is particularly concerned by the alleged use of white phosphorus on the battlefield by the IDF and by allegations of Gaza Strip

blockades which hinders reconstruction. Allegations that the Israeli secret service, Mossad, stole the identities of British citizens to forge passports for a hit squad that carried out an assassination in Dubai is also deeply concerning. UKIP is an ally of Israel, as is Britain, and if the allegations are true, it would be a damaging abuse of our friendship that Israel chose to abuse the identities of nationals of a supportive country.

16.6 UKIP calls for an immediate halt to the building of new settlements considered illegal under international law.

16.7 UKIP wishes to see a peaceful and mutually amicable settlement reached between Israel and the Palestinians. It is not for us to set the terms for these talks, nor the boundaries for any peace deal. This is an issue the Israelis and Palestinians must work out between themselves. UKIP would offer assistance if invited to do so by either party, based on the experience of the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

Asia – Iran's Nuclear Weapons

16.8 UKIP condemns Iran's attempts to secure nuclear weapons, and refuses to believe the Iranian regime's claims that it simply wants nuclear energy for civilian purposes. UKIP feels it is foolhardy to take the leaders of a totalitarian state at their word. The fact Iran is seeking nuclear materials is especially worrying at the same time it is developing medium- and long-range *Shahab* class missiles, capable of hitting British troops in Afghanistan and Cyprus. UKIP believes a nuclear Iran would simply be unacceptable, and would support efforts to eliminate its nuclear weapons capability if necessary, preferably through peaceful methods, but if no other means are feasible by targeted military means. However, UKIP would not support commitment of UK ground troops to such operations but would be prepared to lend strategic military support.

Asia - Burma

16.9 UKIP is concerned about the authoritarian rule of the Burmese junta, which is linked to the State Law & Order Restoration Council (SLORC). SLORC ordered the Burmese military to crack down on political opponents, chiefly Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), which had beaten SLORC in elections by winning 392 out of the 485 seats in the Burmese Parliament. UKIP calls for the restoration of Burmese democracy, and the release from house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi. UKIP is deeply concerned at the Chinese role in advising on methods of oppression within Burma.

17 Global Issues - Africa

Zimbabwe

17.1 UKIP feels a special connection to Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), as a Commonwealth country. Rhodesians served with great honour in both world wars in the British armed forces, and Rhodesia played a small, but significant role in the global

struggle against communism in the 20th century. UKIP deeply regrets that close friends to Britain were betrayed into the hands of the openly Marxist Robert Mugabe. Mugabe's tyrannical and ruinous reign has devastated the country, and 3 million Zimbabweans are now dependent upon food aid in a country that was once the bread basket of Africa. Inflation is the highest in the world, reminiscent of the hyper inflation in Germany in the inter-war years.

17.2 There are allegations that the killing of white farmers to drive them off the land was encouraged by the state, and Mugabe also launched Operation Murambatsvina, which translates into English as "Taking out the trash". This involved the forced clearance of poor Zimbabwean families from their homes. Mugabe's regime is also alleged to have rigged the results of consecutive elections, and to have allegedly arranged for attacks on prominent members of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

17.3 UKIP fully supports the Zimbabweans of all races working for peaceful, democratic government in Zimbabwe, calls on South Africa to apply more political pressure on the regime, and looks forward to the day that Mugabe is no longer in power.

Africa - Sudan and Darfur

17.4 UKIP deplores the Darfur conflict, which is related to the Sudanese government's ideology that casts non-Muslims and non-Arabs as worthy of enslavement or death. The 'Arab Gathering' is very influential in this area. UKIP welcomes the referendum on independence for Southern Sudan in 2011, as this would be an amicable divorce that would stop the violence. Concerning Darfur, UKIP has grave concerns about the humanitarian situation, and urges a peaceful solution. If the experience of Southern Sudan is shown to be successful, then a move towards an independence referendum for Darfur may be a suitable solution.

Africa - South Africa

17.5 UKIP welcomes the remarkable transition from apartheid government to universal suffrage South Africa has made, and celebrates the extraordinary forgiveness and peaceful leadership given by former President Nelson Mandela. UKIP values South Africa as a vital member of the Commonwealth. However, UKIP is concerned about South Africa's links to autocracies such as Cuba and China, the latter of which is particularly active in taking control of that country's vast gold and uranium reserves. These are highly lucrative and strategically significant resources for a country with China's totalitarian pedigree to take over. UKIP would urge the South African government to be vigilant regarding China's true intentions, and seek to offer viable Commonwealth alternatives.

17.6 UKIP is also concerned about the attacks on farmers in South Africa, which are even more numerous and deadly than those in Zimbabwe, yet underreported by comparison in the British media. UKIP is especially concerned at claims that these attacks may be occurring with the knowledge of local ANC authorities³¹ and could lead to a similar

collapse in the country's agriculture system as that of Zimbabwe. UKIP expects the ANC to investigate these claims fully, with the audit of an independent third party if necessary.

18 Global Issues - The Americas

USA

18.1 UKIP values and cherishes our relationship with the United States, and greatly admires its Constitution, democracy and positivity. UKIP also greatly admires the role the USA has played in defeating fascism and communism, and the role it is currently playing in taking the fight to international terrorists, and the outlaw rogue states which sponsor them. Having said that, our admiration of the USA is not uncritical, and like any true friend, we believe that it is healthy to express our concerns. Whilst we do not wish to be part of the European Superstate, neither do we wish to become the 51st American state. UKIP would maintain warm and productive relations with America, but would always put the British national interest first. Whilst UKIP would be happy to extradite terrorists to America without the obstructions current EU legislation imposes, we would nevertheless only extradite if the prima facie evidence was examined in a British court first, and felt to be deserving of extradition. UKIP would not interfere in American sentencing policy, which the EU has been doing by funding anti-death penalty groups which interfere in US Court cases and criminal trials.

Canada

18.2 Canada is a greatly loved member of the Commonwealth family. UKIP looks forward to setting up the CFTA, in which an economic powerhouse like Canada would be a key player. We recognise that Canada often feels a little overpowered by its Southern neighbour and would value a genuine and sustainable alternative to emersion in NAFTA. UKIP is keen to maintain military, economic and political ties with our Canadian cousins.

Latin America

18.3 UKP is concerned about the rise of the hard left in Latin America, championed by Hugo Chavez. Chavez is a tyrant, who makes no secret of his hatred of Western values and has recently backed the Argentine claim to the Falklands. Several countries in South America are now members of his 'Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas', which strengthens the hand of the crypto-Marxist left throughout the Hispanophone world. Given the oil wealth of Venezuela, and the not insubstantial economic clout of the other members, UKIP has serious concerns about the impact this organisation could have on the spread of democracy and free markets, as well as race relations. UKIP would work with Latin American countries like Colombia, which is an opponent of Chavez, to help check the spread of Marxism in Latin America.

19 Global Issues - Australia, New Zealand and Oceania

19.1 UKIP would use our independence from the EU as a golden opportunity to

reconnect with this great part of the Commonwealth family. UKIP bitterly regrets the way such loyal nations as Australia and New Zealand were slapped in the face by successive British governments. The result has been to push these countries into the economic orbit of autocratic China. Indeed, Kevin Rudd's first trip after being elected Australian Prime Minister was to China. UKIP does not wish to see a valued member of the Commonwealth forced into the orbit of an undemocratic China.

19.2 UKIP would immediately seek to re-establish our ties with Australia, New Zealand and other Commonwealth countries of Oceania. They would be asked to become part of the CFTA if that is their wish, which, as well as boosting their links to each other and the mother country, would shield them from Chinese ambitions and designs. It would also be a way of making up for the despicable way they were neglected by every British government from Ted Heath onwards. UKIP would look to strengthen trade, cultural and military links.

19.3 UKIP supports the right of the countries of Oceania not to allow whaling or nuclear testing in their waters, if this is what the people of their countries wish.

20 Global Values - Democracy, free markets, personal liberty, liberty to worship

20.1 UKIP aspires to see a world where all can enjoy democratic government, and protection of fundamental liberties. UKIP also wishes to see a world where nations live in peace, and have trade and other friendly relations with each other. All of these goals - peace and the enriching of trade and democracy - are threatened by the rise of powerful, assertive autocracies, particularly in Eurasia, but increasingly in Latin America and Africa as well. Constant work is needed to promote and defend democracy worldwide.

20.2 Russia is, geopolitically speaking, 'back from the dead'. President Putin's tough autocratic rule has seen Russia revive its ailing military, and flex its muscles. In recent years, Russian bombers have re-commenced mock attack raids on British airspace, with RAF jets being scrambled 20 times in 2009 to intercept Russian military aircraft trespassing into UK airspace.³² Russia has invaded tiny Georgia (though provoked) and sliced out its territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, turning them into Russian puppet states. Russia has developed the SS-N-22 anti-ship missile, which is specifically designed to beat NATO ship defence systems (see Appendix 1). Russia has also developed torpedoes specifically designed to sink American aircraft carriers³³. It has sold these weapons to its autocratic, anti-Western allies such as China and Iran. Indeed, Russia sold Iran a sophisticated anti-aircraft system so it could protect itself from action over its nuclear weapons programme, a programme in which Russian scientists are known to be heavily involved.

20.3 Russia is also a force to be reckoned with in the sphere of energy politics. Russia is a major exporter of oil, overtaking even Saudi Arabia as the world's top exporter of oil in 2009³⁴. Many countries depend on Russia for their energy supply, and Russia routinely disrupts supplies to countries which displease it, such as Ukraine. It also offers a steep discount to countries like Belarus which please it. Russia has also spoken of its desire to

set up a natural gas equivalent to OPEC. Given Russia has the world's largest proven gas fields, this would give Russia tremendous power in the sphere of global energy supply. In a world where oil supplies are dwindling, Russia's blackmail power would be greatly enhanced.

20.4 China has also shown it is a force to be reckoned with. In 2003, China sent a man into space, and aspires to moon landings. Its Olympics events were often spectacular. Chinese military hackers are reported to have been behind multiple attacks on NATO computers and aerospace companies in the West²⁹. China has repeatedly threatened its tiny democratic neighbour, Taiwan, with violence, and has repeatedly carried out highly provocative military exercises in the Straits of Taiwan. China continues to back North Korea, a despotic totalitarian state which starves its own people, and menaces democratic Japan and South Korea with its vast chemical, biological and nuclear arsenal. China's treatment of its Tibetan and Christian minorities is unacceptable, as is its extensive network of *lao gai* concentration camps. It carries out mass executions, often for non-violent crimes such as fraud, or vaguely worded crimes such as 'subversion'. It also has an organ transplant industry harvested from executed criminals, and strict censorship of the internet - such as banning the word 'democracy' from search engines.

20.5 China has also been very active in Africa. It has used its vast financial muscle to practise cheque book diplomacy. Through a mixture of debt cancellation, loans and investment, China has bought a toehold in over 100 African countries, including those rich in uranium and diamonds (e.g. South Africa) and those rich in oil (e.g. Sudan). Indeed, China's state energy firm, China National Petroleum Corporation, owns a 40% stake in Sudan's state energy firm, and CNPC has also bought the rights to explore oil fields across the world. The fact that China is so active in this area poses a challenge for any country that is likely to politically clash with it.

20.6 To consolidate their alliance, China, Russia and a handful of energy rich Caspian Sea states in Central Asia have formed the 'Shanghai Co-operation Organisation' (SCO). This organisation has been described by American international relations expert Robert Kagan as a "Warsaw Pact for the 21st century"³⁵. It conducts military manoeuvres, holds conferences and seems bent on securing the vast energy wealth of Eurasia for itself.

20.7 UKIP strongly condemns the violent actions of autocracies, and regards their behaviour and gestures as being openly hostile and threatening. UKIP will work closely with our democratic allies in the Commonwealth, USA and the wider world to check any bullying actions. UKIP feels that a 'League of Democracies' could be a useful forum in which these actions could be discussed and co-ordinated, but also concedes that such a forum is not the only, nor necessarily the most useful way to challenge the autocracies. UKIP may examine the case for a 'Commonwealth Defence Organisation'.

20.8 UKIP is also appalled by the growing persecution of Christians in Muslim countries. This includes the targeting of Coptic Christians in Egypt by Al Qaeda-linked groups, and the practise of executing Christians for perceived insults against Islam in countries like Pakistan. In Iraq, the Christian community has been savagely persecuted,

with priests and pastors kidnapped and murdered. The Christian community of Iraq, once large and booming, has dramatically declined as a result of this persecution. UKIP calls on all Muslim countries to defend the rights of religious minorities in their countries.

20.9 UKIP is concerned about the prosecution and execution of former Muslims who convert to other religions. In several Muslim countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan, converting from Islam to any other religion carries a death sentence, frequently carried out in public. The former Bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali, whose father was a Muslim convert to Christianity, has courageously spoken out against this. UKIP believes that freedom of conscience is a fundamental liberty for all people, and this includes the right to change one's religion without fear of prosecution and physical harm. Changing your mind should not be a death sentence.

21 Conclusion

21.1 UKIP rejects the notion that Britain is too small or insignificant to play a role in the world, and must therefore bury itself in the EU Superstate in order to achieve some fictitious 'influence'. As this paper has sought to demonstrate, Britain's influence within the EU barely registers, and the EU is an entity which is in terminal decline, unlikely to survive the coming century, yet alone be a major player in it. Britain must extricate itself from the European Union if it is to remain a global player.

21.2 By contrast to the EU, the Commonwealth represents a young, dynamic and economically vibrant and democratic community of nations. The UK has a very central role to play in its future development, and it is with our Commonwealth kith and kin that we can and will have our best opportunities for prosperity and global influence. By mid-century, just one Commonwealth nation, India, will have an economy larger than the entire EU. Were the other Commonwealth economic giants like Canada, Australia and an independent Britain added to this, the Commonwealth would dwarf the EU economically and politically. Free from EU membership, Britain could be a champion for free trade around the world. Britain could use its independent seat at the WTO, as well as its position in the CFTA, to gradually encourage other trading nations and blocs to lower then abolish tariffs, and reciprocally open markets for investment and job creation.

21.3 UKIP believes that Britain is a country that is ideally suited to be a major player in the 21st century and beyond. Our language is the global language. Our culture is inclined towards tolerance and working closely with others. Our economy is world class and, released from EU regulations, would be even more potent. Outside of the EU, Britain would become a major player in the WTO, UN and, above all, the Commonwealth, an organisation with almost limitless potential. We feel that the time has come for Britain to step up to its destiny, as a global nation with a global future. UKIP believes that it is time to get out of the EU, and back into the world.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Russia's SS-N-22 Missile is designed to avoid NATO ship defence systems. It does this by randomly changing its flight path, which throws off the ability of AEGIS defence systems to track and thus destroy incoming missiles. In order for the AEGIS to successfully shoot down a missile, it must be on a steady flight path for a minimum fixed period. Russia's missile continuously changes its flight path so as to avoid this.

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