

DAILY EXPRESS

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SPECIAL EDITION

GET BRITAIN OUT OF THE EU



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

THE Daily Express is a crusading newspaper. We speak out for our readers and for the people of Great Britain. We stand for fair play, for freedom and for justice. We believe that all these principles are being progressively and cynically undermined by the European Union.

From the very start, and long before in the planning, those behind the EU have been intent on one goal: the creation of a single political and economic European state with absolute sovereignty over the nations under its control. In pursuit of this end, the traditional rights and freedoms of the peoples of Europe have been systematically swept away with a ruthless efficiency that would have been the envy of Napoleon and Hitler.

At the heart of the EU lies an arrogant cadre of politicians and bureaucrats who scoff at democracy. Just look at the way that Ireland, after first rejecting the Lisbon Treaty, was humbled and forced to vote again in favour. Just look at the way in which our laws have been overturned time and time again by European judges, who are the judicial arm of the EU dictators.

I defy anyone to produce one single act or law of the EU and the European Court that has actually benefited Britain. We have paid untold billions to support wine and milk lakes, butter and grain mountains and an ever-swelling bureaucracy that meddles with our day-to-day lives on an increasingly pervasive scale. And still they want more.

Our own politicians pathetically insist that Britain is still an independent nation but they can't fool us. The sensible, ordinary people of this country know the truth and have known it for decades. No wonder the politicians have repeatedly squirmed out of promises to hold any referendum.

There is no point pretending that we can halt or even curb the EU superstate. If we don't pull out very

Why we must break free from the EU dictatorship

soon we shall wake up one day to find that we are completely under its iron thumb. Already the EU has established its own foreign ministry, with costly embassies throughout the world, undermining our own ambassadors. How long before our Armed Forces are completely under the command of EU generals?

And how long before Frankfurt supersedes Britain's now dominant, but progressively weakened, financial and economic hub? The writing is on the Stock Exchange wall. Britain certainly does not benefit from trading with other EU countries: we have a €50 billion trade deficit. Germany, on the other hand, has a €70 billion surplus. No wonder they are desperate to keep the EU going.

Ordinary people feel powerless as one by one our ancient freedoms are stolen away, freedoms for which countless thousands of our forebears have fought and died. Unlike the armed enemies we have faced and defeated, the EU plotters work secretly and insidiously. Instead of tanks and bombs, they employ a bewildering array of rules and regulations, every one of which is designed not to improve our lives but to exert greater control.

The British have no quarrel with our European neighbours. Thousands of us happily spend our holidays with them and trade with them and they cheerfully indulge our clumsy attempts to speak to them in their own languages. We firmly believe that all the nations of Europe, with their infinitely diverse cultures, would be better off out of the EU, restored to their proud and time-honoured ways of life.

Today we call on all our readers to support our crusade to get Britain out of the European Union. If you have not already signed our coupon, do it now and pass more of them to your friends and relatives (see page 21). There is no point hoping that our politicians can stem the EU tide even if they wanted to. It's too late. But no one can stop this country from leaving the EU if we are determined enough.

And that is what we must do.

Yours sincerely,
Peter W. Hill

A crusade for freedom

FIGHTING SPIRIT: Just some of the hundreds of thousands of coupons sent in to the Daily Express by readers

MORE than 150,000 people have signed up to the Daily Express crusade for Britain to quit the European Union. This newspaper has been deluged with overflowing mailbags packed with our special crusade coupons calling on David Cameron's Government to launch an orderly withdrawal from the EU.

Support hit the six-figure mark within days of the historic crusade being launched. The astonishing response is on course to become the fastest-growing campaign in newspaper history.

The colossal surge of support, a clear signal of public frustration at politicians' dithering, is a stark warning to Brussels that Britain has had enough of meddling and an ever-growing tax burden.

Tory MP Philip Davies, a member of the Better Off Out group of MPs, said: "This is an absolutely amazing response. It reveals the pent-up frustration among the public that none of the mainstream political parties is speaking up for what it believes in."

UK Independence Party peer Lord Pearson said: "This is a huge level of support from the great British public to the greatest British newspaper. The strength of feeling shown by Daily Express readers reflects the growing support across the country for withdrawal."

A survey by pollsters Angus Reid showed that 48 per cent of voters asked want Britain freed from the yoke of Brussels while 59 per cent believe EU membership has damaged the UK.

Support among Daily Express readers for withdrawal from the EU is overwhelming, with 99 per cent of the tens of thousands of callers who rang this newspaper's exclusive phone poll backing an exit. Reader

Stephen Beattie, a 69-year-old retired electrician from Leicester, said: "The Get Britain Out crusade is the best news I have heard in a long time. I hope everyone gets behind the lead taken by the Daily Express."

Brian Goldie from Stenhousemuir wrote to us to applaud our groundbreaking crusade and spoke for the silent majority by calling time on interference from Brussels.

He said: "In a move that will send shock waves through the eurozone and hopefully our own Parliament, the majority of British people who took part in the poll have declared enough is enough and it is time we returned to the business of trading with Europe instead of being swallowed by this relentlessly creeping abomination."

"While the faceless ones in Brussels oversee the catastrophe that is the single currency, we have to demand from our Government an answer to the question on everyone's lips: 'How far can we allow this fiscal mismanagement to go and how long can we continue to bail out countries in the currency to which we do not subscribe?'"



Brussels is a financial disaster

European unity has proved to be a flawed dream

By Lord Stevens of Ludgate

Former Chairman of Express Newspapers

EUROPEAN integration started seriously with the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951.

At the time it was clearly stated that this was "the beginning of Europe".

From this followed the formation of the European Economic Community in 1957.

Thus the great dream of some was instigated – namely the eventual total European political and economic integration of the continent

This policy has been pursued through both the front and back doors by the thousands of bureaucrats in Brussels ever since, even though our politicians have told us that we had entered a free-trade area.

The start of the euro 10 years ago was hailed as a huge success. It was, of course, no such thing. How could such a project succeed when its members are so diverse?

When Greece joined it was known that its economy did not meet the fiscal criteria laid down but the desire of the Brussels bureaucrats for more members overlooked the fact that their budget figures were inaccurate and the end result is there for all to see.

Britain, not even part of the euro, has been asked and has agreed to pay billions of pounds to bail out Greece and Ireland, both of whom will, I am sure, eventually have to renegotiate their debt.

It is very sad that Ireland is in such a mess but to agree that we must help them because we export more to there than we do to Brazil, Russia, India and China combined is strange logic. Ireland gets only six per cent of our exports – the other 94 per cent is far more significant.

The EU is an organisation so inefficient that its accounts have not been signed off by the auditors for 16 years. If I had run a company like that I know where I would be!

It is an organisation that makes more than 60 per cent of our laws, yes, 60 per cent. The European Commission, which makes all the decisions, is unelected. It is a body that dismisses employees when they expose fraud and can remove a



Picture: JOHN DOWNING

VOTE DEMAND: Lord Stevens

pension if an employee or former employee speaks against it.

I could go on. As the Better Off Out group, which consists of members of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, was told recently: "You really could not make this up."

Now we have the European External Action Service.

The EU is to open, indeed has opened, embassies all over the world. There will be 7,000 employees in 137 new embassies worldwide at a cost of £5.8 billion.

There will be 46 staff in Barbados, 92 in Morocco and 11 in the Solomon Islands.

Presumably Britain will be closing many of our embassies, thereby losing a great deal of influence.

The Government is still rolling over in the face of EU pressure. There are thousands of bureaucrats in Brussels whose main objective is to further European political and economic integration.

The only answer to this problem, in the light of continuing and persistent regulation that occurs every day, is for Britain to leave Europe as we know it before it engulfs us or perhaps implodes under its own contradictions. The majority of the population want to leave or renegotiate our relationship with the EU. Let us have a referendum now.

Why are our leaders so afraid of this? The answer is too obvious. But for how long do they have the right to ignore the wishes of what now appears to be a majority of British people?

Let the people have their say on whether we want to be ruled from London or Brussels.



By Ruth Lea

Economic Adviser at the Arbuthnot Banking Group

EU MEMBERSHIP is not a prerequisite for our prosperity. On the contrary, membership imposes costs that impede prosperity. The most obvious cost is our net contributions to the EU budget.

According to last June's Budget these amount to over £8 billion for the current financial year, rising to over £10 billion in four years' time.

By any standards these are sizeable numbers and represent a direct transfer of resources from the hard-pressed British taxpayer to Brussels, where much is wasted. In straitened times, when we are all being asked to tighten our belts, it makes even less sense to be writing large cheques for projects of dubious worth. Indeed it looks like folly.

But the direct contribution to Brussels' coffers is merely the tip of the iceberg of the economic drawbacks of EU membership. The ramifications of the EU's single market are surely more significant.

This may seem counter-intuitive at first. After all, how many times have we been told that the single market enables job-enhancing trade between ourselves and the other members of the EU some of which, but by no means all, are rich export markets?

Well, the problem with the single market is that it is more, much, much more than a straightforward free-trade area where countries can import and export without barriers to trade.

The single market comes with a big price ticket in the form of extensive and intrusive regulations intended to "harmonise" EU economies. These regulations range from the generalised employment and environmental regulations to industry specific rules.

They impose large costs on British businesses, putting them at a clear competitive disadvantage with businesses outside the EU. They make it harder for British businesses to grow and create jobs. If the costs are too great then businesses will either fail to thrive or simply move to countries where the environment is more business-friendly. Either way, they damage our prosperity.

Astonishingly, figures from the commission concede that the costs of the single market's regulations outweigh the benefits by a ratio of about two-and-a-half to one. We all accept that sensible, intelligent regulation is vital for business to function well (hopelessly inadequate regulation was a factor in the recent



POWERFUL: The City of London is still one of the world's main financial hubs

financial crisis) but when the costs significantly outweigh the benefits, something must be wrong.

Let us be clear. While we are in the EU we do not have the clout to change the situation. Only if we leave the EU can we repeal or amend those regulations that hinder business and damage jobs.

I sometimes wonder if the EU has an economic death-wish as it blindly proceeds with its regulatory agenda. The latest development is the

'The single market comes with a big price ticket'

European Parliament's support for an extension to maternity leave that would cost British businesses an extra £2.5 billion a year.

While I am aware of the sensitivities of family issues, it has to be pointed out that this is yet another cost, one of many that may be borne by British business that is simply not borne by non-EU businesses.

There seems to be a curious bubble-like mentality, a lack of

reality, to the EU's proposals and decisions. Europe is an ageing continent in relative decline. It seems determined to hasten its decline when countries as disparate as China, India and Singapore are entrepreneurial, thriving and forward-looking.

The second major problem with EU membership relates to trade with third countries. Because we are in the EU we cannot negotiate our own trade deals with favoured partners. We have not been able to do this since we joined the EEC in 1973.

This unhappy fact of life all too often is overlooked. Rightly, much is made of the savings we would make if we left the EU but far too little is made of the potential prizes if we were free to negotiate our own trade deals. Yet these potential prizes are the really exciting aspect of leaving the EU in the rapidly changing 21st-century global economy. The US, which is the UK's largest trading partner by a substantial margin and biggest investor in the UK by a mile, would be an obvious candidate.

So would be the Commonwealth nations whose economic potential is quite special, not least of all because of the Indian economy which is clocking up annual growth rates of 7-8 per



SCARE STORY: It's ridiculous to suggest firms like Mercedes-Benz would refuse to trade with the UK if we left the EU

cent. The Indian Diaspora, well represented here in the UK, adds to the excitement of the Commonwealth's economic prospects and its relevance to Britain.

The Commonwealth nations, taken together, are an economic colossus comprising some 15 per cent of world GDP, 54 member states and over two billion citizens.

The Commonwealth spans six continents and contains developed,

emerging and developing economies. In its richness and diversity it mirrors today's global economy in a way that the EU simply cannot start to aspire to. As the world changes, Commonwealth countries will grow in importance as the EU declines.

The Commonwealth model, which is built on modern non-prescriptive co-operation, is overwhelmingly preferable to the EU's old-fashioned and stifling diktats. Moreover, there

are distinct advantages to trading with Commonwealth countries. It has been estimated that the commonalities of language, law, accounting systems and business regulations can present a 15 per cent cost advantage over dealing with non-Commonwealth countries.

I have little doubt that leaving the EU would improve our economic prospects. There would be no more heavy payments to Brussels, we

could start repealing the worst of the EU's legislation and we could build better links with the 21st-century global economy.

There is one more issue to consider and that is whether we would be locked out of EU markets so "they would no longer trade with us and we would lose the jobs dependent on exports to them". This is a silly scare story.

It would make no sense for the other EU countries to refuse to trade with us as they, taken together, have

'Leaving the EU would improve our prospects'

a huge trade surplus with Britain. Last year it amounted to £37 billion (2.5 per cent of GDP), of which the UK deficit with Germany alone was £15 billion. The notion that German companies such as Mercedes-Benz would refuse to sell us cars, or indeed that the Irish people would refuse to buy our goods is frankly bizarre.

It is truly amazing this spurious argument has ever gained any traction. As someone involved in the

"save the pound" campaign some years ago, I felt frequently that the first casualty in any debates about EU matters was the truth. The truth, however, will "out" as eurozone members are now finding.

A final thought. There is yet another powerful answer to those who argue that, if we left the EU, we would be a powerless, isolated little country "bobbing about in the sea".

Leaving aside the fact that Britain's economy is still the sixth biggest in the world and we have unrivalled global commercial links, there is one country at the heart of the European continent that is extremely well integrated economically with its European neighbours and extraordinarily prosperous – and not in the EU. That country is Switzerland.

The Swiss people have always rejected the siren calls of their politicians for greater political integration with the EU. Switzerland has therefore negotiated free trade and other mutually beneficial bilateral agreements with the EU without losing its political independence.

It is a relationship that works for Switzerland and it is the relationship that would surely work for us.



BALANCING ACT: Staying with sterling has proved sound



BRAVE NEW WORLD: China is a thriving emerging market

Pictures: ALAMY

By Fergus Kelly

We were all misled from the very start

BACK in 1975 the European Union was still known as the Common Market. It was a name that suited the leaders of all our mainstream political parties who kept insisting that all we had signed up to when we joined two years previously was one big happy trading area.

Edward Heath, the Conservative prime minister who had taken us in, his successor in 10 Downing Street Harold Wilson and the Liberal leader of the time, Jeremy Thorpe, were unanimous in their approval, in much the same way as the likes of Tony Blair, Michael Heseltine and Charles Kennedy united a quarter of a century later to insist Britain would be better off in the euro.

Then, as now, inconvenient facts were sidestepped about the true aims of the founding fathers of what was already becoming known as the more supranational sounding European Economic Community.

Yet our fanatically pro-EEC political elite had been aware for a long time what membership really entailed. In the early Sixties, when Harold Macmillan's efforts to take us into the fledgling Community were rebuffed by Charles de Gaulle, Cabinet minutes since published reveal that in private ministers conceded the reality, agreeing to the Treaty of Rome's strictures would involve "a significant surrender of our national sovereignty".

They concluded "a major effort would be needed to persuade British people to accept these encroachments on our national sovereignty".

In 1975 that is exactly what happened. The June 5 referendum on our membership witnessed an unprecedented campaign by the government and establishment, from party leaders and TV bosses to leading industrialists, to browbeat the electorate into saying yes.

At the outset, hopes were high among leaders of the No campaign. Opinion polls indicated support for Britain's withdrawal. Perhaps that

'It was a country severely lacking in self-confidence'

was because many were already growing wise to the prevarications and distortions of politicians on the issue, such as Heath's avoidance of a referendum both when Britain signed the accession treaty in 1972 and again when we officially became an EEC member a year later.

Only when Labour under Wilson returned to power following two general elections in 1974 was a referendum conceded, the first and (until next May's poll on our voting system) the only such UK-wide plebiscite in our history.

Britain was very different then. It was a country severely lacking in national self-confidence, with the memories of power cuts and the three-day week still fresh in the collective consciousness. It was a time when avocado was the height of sophistication, whether it was a starter on a rare night out in a restaurant or the new must-have colour for your bathroom suite.

It was a time of price controls and the Social Contract (the dismal stitch-up between government and trade unions regularly unpicked by near-constant industrial action) that had led to us being branded the "sick man of Europe".

By contrast the EEC was merged in the public eye with the broader allure of Europe the continent (a confused notion Europhiles were at pains to encourage) as we sought sunshine in ever-increasing numbers as cheap package holidays boomed and learned of the German post-war economic miracle, which left us all wondering who'd won the last war.

While their leaderships were all pro-EEC, the main parties were divided by the referendum issue. Along with Wilson, Chancellor Denis



AYES TO THE RIGHT: Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher and deputy William Whitelaw were for continuing membership of the Common Market



OUT VOTE: Ex-government minister Barbara Castle, left, was in the No camp

Healey, Foreign Secretary James Callaghan and Home Secretary Roy Jenkins were in the Yes camp for Labour but as the party was so split, Wilson suspended normal Cabinet collective responsibility to allow ministers to campaign against one another. Michael Foot, Tony Benn (on the right side for probably the only time in his career) and Barbara Castle joined the No side.

In an unlikely alliance they found themselves bedfellows with Enoch Powell, the ex-Tory minister who had long headed opposition to the Common Market. However, most Conservatives also lined up for our continued membership, including

new opposition leader Margaret Thatcher and other party bigwigs like her deputy William Whitelaw.

What is most instructive to recall today is what the 1975 Yes campaign actually focused on: it was anything but the fundamental issues of our independence and sovereignty.

Instead, the government sent to every household in the country a pamphlet claiming the referendum was all about "food, money and jobs". It insisted that the Common Agricultural Policy worked for "the benefit of both housewives and farmers in Britain" and that the threat of economic and monetary union had been "removed". Thinly

veiled scare tactics were brought into full play. The pamphlet declared Britain "cannot go it alone in the modern world" coupled with the ambiguous assertion that we were already "a member of international groupings like the United Nations, Nato and International Monetary Fund". It claimed that "through membership of the market we are better able to advance and protect our national interests" and warned, "the Common Market will not go away if we say 'No'."

The last word in the pamphlet was as biased as it was unequivocal. "Their advice is for staying in," it read.

Just in case increasingly spooked voters were left in any doubt about the might of the establishment's support for the EEC cause, its view was backed by the panoply of broadcast media that then comprised BBC1, BBC2 and the ITV regions. More critically still, the Yes campaign was far more lavishly funded. Among its principal backers was the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), which helped pay for the campaign HQ in the Dorchester on London's Park Lane and its superior TV broadcasts.

Veteran broadcaster Michael Cockerell recalled filming at the Yes HQ and being told by one organiser she was sending "plane-loads of pro-European speakers of all parties across the country to be flown for briefings by top-level Eurocrats".

Thirty years later, Cockerell went back to ask that organiser where the funding for such expensive trips had come from. "From the European Commission," she replied.

"It was a sort of special dispensation. I don't know how they fixed it because one didn't ask too much. One just said, 'Thank you very much' and got on with organising it."

Such formidable funding and the support in high places put the result in little doubt as the referendum debate went on. As one leading member of the No campaign later put it: "We were operating on a shoestring compared to the Rolls-Royce operation on the other side."

Alistair (later Lord) McAlpine, Yes campaign treasurer, made few bones about the advantages they enjoyed. "The banks and the big industrial companies put in very large sums of money," he said.

The referendum saw 67.2 per cent of the electorate vote to stay in the EEC, with 32.8 per cent against (the turnout was 64 per cent). Since then Britain has had the chance to repent that decision at leisure and learn the hard way what politicians always knew (but in 1975 were too scared to tell us), that the Common Market/EEC/EC/EU, whatever they called it, was always a political project designed ultimately to end our independence. No wonder they have not granted us a referendum since.

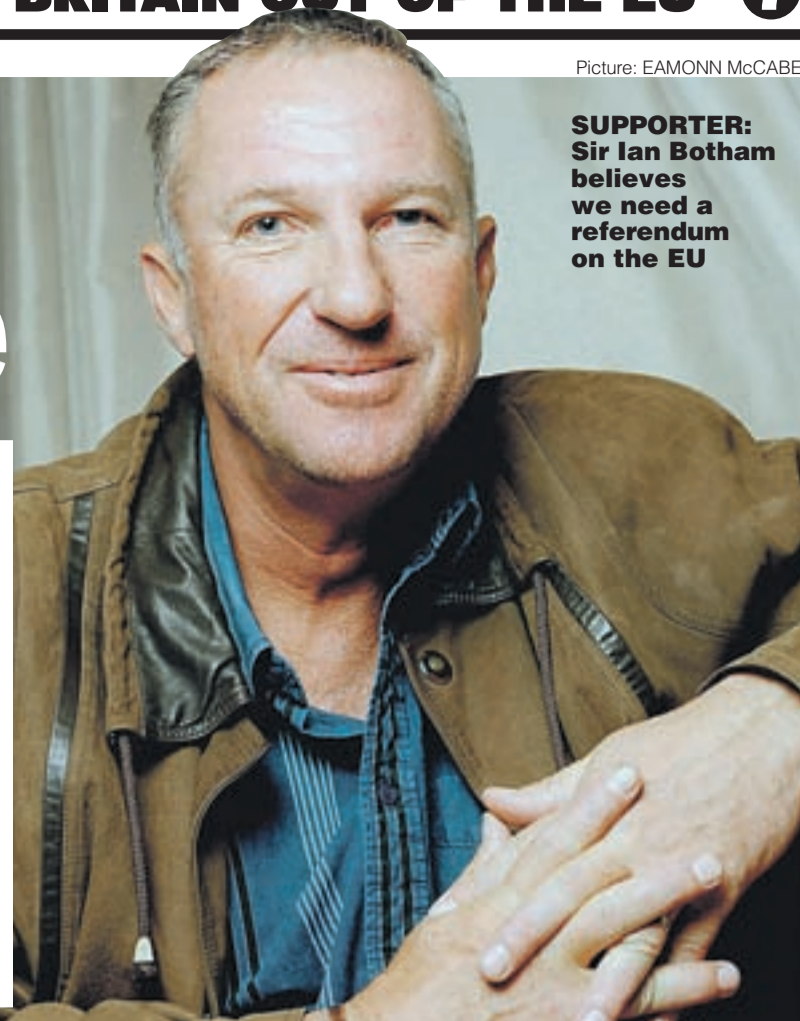
'Big companies put in very large sums of money'

Picture: POPPERFOTO

Picture: KENSTONE

Picture: EAMONN McCABE

SUPPORTER:
Sir Ian Botham believes we need a referendum on the EU



Botham backs our drive for public vote on Europe

ONE OF Britain's greatest sporting heroes has thrown his weight behind the Daily Express crusade for a referendum to get Britain out of the European Union. Fresh from commentating on England's Ashes success in Australia, Sir Ian Botham said he supported the crusade "100 per cent".

Sir Ian, now almost as well known for his inspirational money-raising walks for charity and his broadcasting as for his skill as a world-class cricketer, has also spoken out about the need for Britain to stay out of the European single currency.

Speaking from Australia he said: "I support the Daily Express campaign for a referendum 100 per cent. To me it's a no-brainer. We

should be in charge of our own destiny." Asked recently what he would like to change about the financial system, Sir Ian unleashed another salvo against the EU.

"I certainly wouldn't want to get any more embroiled in the euro," he said. "We shouldn't be committing ourselves as a country any more than we already are. It's horses for courses. Half of Europe is bankrupt and I don't want us to go down with them. We're throwing good money after bad which baffles me."

The support of Sir Ian, 55, is a major boost to our crusade as he is held in such high public esteem and in his charity work has demonstrated time and again his ability to galvanise popular support. The England cricketing legend is seen as embodying timeless British values of hard work

and fair play. In a Test career spanning 15 years he scored 14 centuries and took 383 wickets.

The high point came in the 1981 Ashes series when, after stepping down as team captain, he turned the series back in England's favour with stunning performances in the last three Tests. He was named man of the series after scoring 399 runs and taking 34 wickets.

He has raised more than £12million for charity with Leukaemia Research one of the prime beneficiaries. Sir Ian was knighted in 2007 in recognition both of his cricketing achievements and remarkable efforts on behalf of charity. In 2004 he was presented with a lifetime achievement award at the BBC Sports Personality Of The Year, having won the individual award in 1981.

By Patrick O'Flynn
Chief Political Commentator

THERE was a time when the impact of European Union membership on Britain's immigration system was limited despite its law allowing free movement of people across its entire domain. However, that all changed when Brussels decided to "enlarge" its empire.

Previously there had been a modest net inflow of people from other EU nations to Britain. While the EU was confined to industrially advanced countries with similar living standards and levels of welfare provision such as Germany, France and Holland, the scale of the influx was small.

But when the EU began to expand southwards and eastwards absorbing countries with much lower standards of living the inevitable happened with the populations of those countries beginning to migrate in very large numbers to the richer EU member states of Western Europe. Since many had English as a second language Britain became their destination of choice.

In the run-up to the massive EU enlargement of 2004, which absorbed most of the nations of Eastern Europe, the Daily Express warned repeatedly that Britain would be inundated with migrants.

The last government insisted this newspaper was scaremongering and predicted only 13,000 incomers would arrive. In the event as many as a million Poles, Czechs and other Eastern Europeans pitched up in Britain, just as we had warned. Since then the even poorer nations of Romania and Bulgaria have joined the EU, allowing their citizens to settle in Britain, too.

Yet all our so-called "mainstream" political parties are now supporting the bid of Turkey to join the EU. Such a move would give 70 million mainly Muslim foreign nationals the right to live and work in Britain. Even if only a small fraction took up the opportunity, immigration could still soar by millions, swamping many of our towns and cities.

Countries currently in the EU are already busily issuing passports to people from outside it, entitling them to settle in Britain. When the Dutch issued passports to large numbers of people who had arrived from Somalia, around 20,000 used their new status to move to Britain.

Time to close the border to immigration

Picture: STEVE REIGATE



MARCHING IN: Asylum seekers in the French port town of Calais looking to find a way across the Channel to Britain

Meanwhile, Hungary is offering passports to millions of ethnic Hungarians who live outside its borders, while it is estimated that a million Moldovans have already been given passports by Romania. In effect, Romanian and Hungarian politicians have more say over who can come to the UK than do British MPs.

A report by the left-of-centre

Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) found the Conservatives will not be able to fulfil their pledge of reducing net immigration from the hundreds of thousands to the tens of thousands because of an expected upsurge in migration from other EU countries.

The IPPR forecasts that the net level of migration is unlikely to fall much below 200,000 over the next

12 months as more people arrive from struggling European countries such as Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Greece. There will also be a continuing inflow from Eastern Europe, including the Baltic states of Lithuania and Latvia.

"If you want the British people to decide who comes to live, work and settle in this country then the choice is clear, we must leave the EU," said

UKIP leader Nigel Farage. "With the failing euro we will continue to see the trend of the past few years, non-EU migration falling and EU migration rising. The immigration that we have absolutely no control over is the very area we need to control and yet the Government seems unwilling even to discuss it."

Philip Davies, Conservative MP for Shipley, added: "Any attempt to tackle immigration, asylum or to maintain the independence of our justice system is spitting in the wind while Britain remains a member of the EU. We simply have not got control over our own borders and will not regain it unless we leave the EU."

With unemployment in Britain having risen sharply and vacancies having fallen in the recession, many British youngsters are struggling to find work and face beginning their adult life on the dole. A new wave of EU migration will further harm their prospects of finding a job.

The same is true of long-term benefit recipients due to be moved back into the workforce under government plans for welfare reform.

In 2007 a poll conducted by ComRes found that 80 per cent of people would vote to leave the EU if it meant Britain could once again control immigration.

Last month the Open Europe think tank warned that EU bureaucrats aim to snatch even greater control over Britain's immigration system.

Proposals being discussed in Brussels at the moment envisage a "Common European Asylum System" that could lead to Britain being forced to accept a new quota of asylum seekers under plans for "burden sharing" across the EU.

The European Commission is committed to "establishing a mechanism to review the member states' national asylum systems and identify issues related to capacities which will enable member states to support each other in building capacity," says one EU document.

Open Europe's report warns that "the creation of a burden-sharing mechanism for the reception of asylum seekers would fundamentally alter the UK's control over its borders and in practice would be almost impossible to reverse".

In the coming years it seems inevitable that public disquiet about excessive immigration will become a prime source of criticism of the EU.

Only by pulling out can Britain properly address the issue.

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LOVE THE CONTINENT, ABHOR THE TYRANNY



By Frederick Forsyth

MANY years ago there was a regular panellist on BBC's Brains Trust called Professor Cyril Joad whose catchphrase when faced with a ticklish query was: "It all depends on what you mean by..." He meant let us not talk at cross purposes. So let me follow the good professor's advice.

It is extremely rare to be a true anti-European, even though that phrase is thrown around like confetti by journalists who should know better. It is of course pejorative and is deliberately used by right-on EU-lovers to denigrate those of the same opinion as the Daily Express.

Apart from being derogatory, it is grossly inaccurate. You cannot be "anti" Europe any more than you can disapprove of Antarctica. Why? Because Europe and Antarctica are continents and you would be crazy to be opposed to a continent.

The EU by contrast is a political project (indeed, everyone in Brussels only ever refers to "Le Projet") and you can certainly and honourably oppose a political project, even more so when it is exposed daily as incompetent, profligate, anti-democratic and corrupt.

Now it happens I do not know Antarctica but I have an intimate and 60-year-old knowledge of Europe and I have enormous affection for the place. To call me anti-European is to invite the Yankee riposte: that dawg won't hunt. To touch upon my

'I developed a lasting affection for France'

first acquaintance with Europe, one has to go back a long way. But as my wife Sandy, the CO, often says, I do! You'd have to think of July, 1948, (if you can) and of a nervous short-trousered Kentish schoolboy on the old Maid of Orleans ferry, watching the White Cliffs of Dover fade and the cliffs of Cap Gris Nez approach.

I was nine and my parents had taken the unusual step of sending their only child abroad for the school holiday to live with a French family who spoke not a word of English.

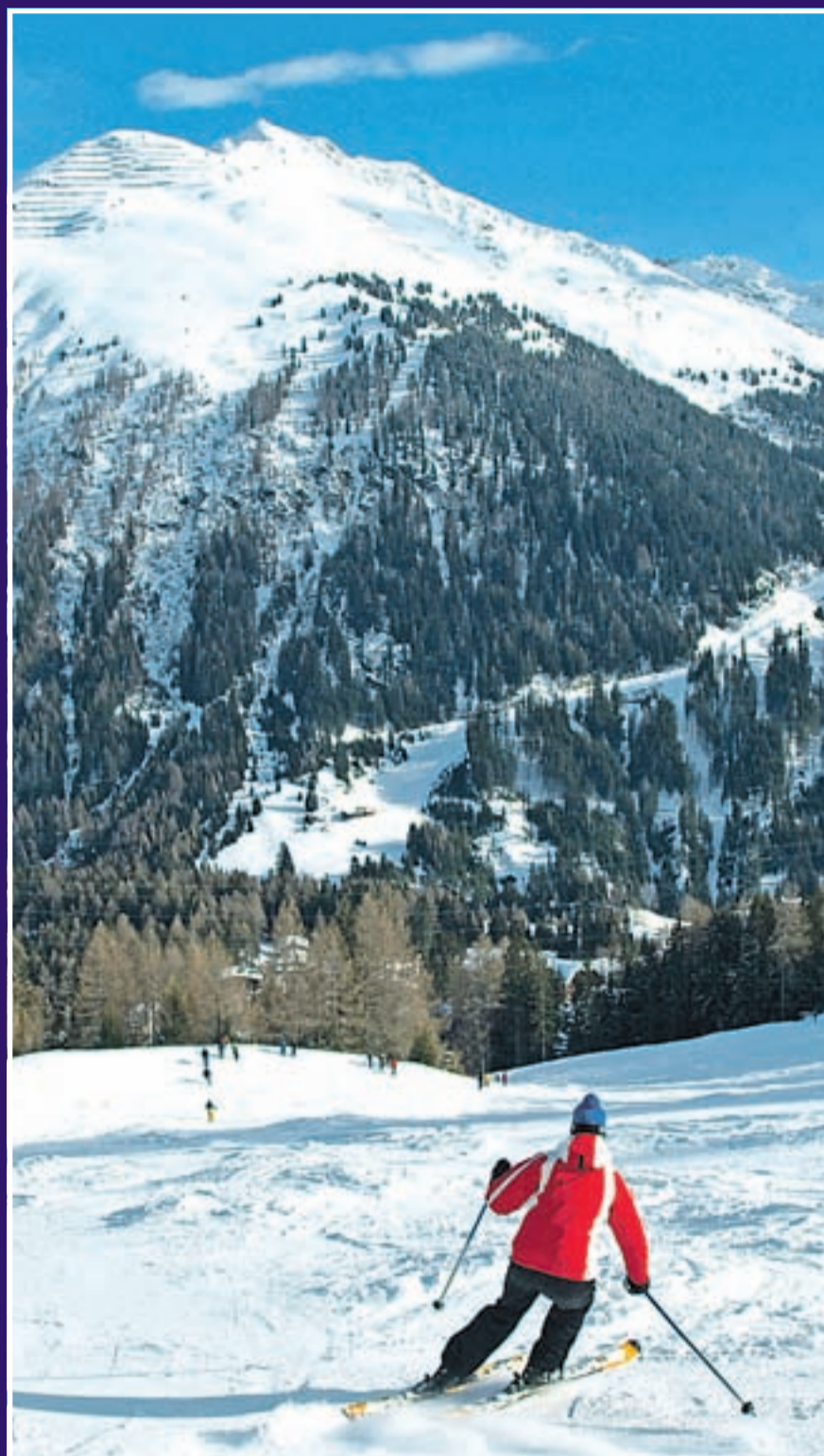
I spent each summer for four years with the family of Docteur Colin of Amiens. There was not a syllable of English to be heard. By 13 I was bilingual and could pass for French among the French.

I not only learned the lingo, the slang, the mannerisms, the customs and attitudes; I developed a lasting affection for France.

In 1952 I went to Germany, also to stay with a family, and did this for three consecutive years. By 16 I could pass for a German boy and I have never lost my knowledge of Germany and the Germans.

As a teenager just out of school and with time to kill before National Service I went to Malaga and in three months became rapid in Spanish. Later, as an inveterate traveller and foreign correspondent the languages and the knowledge of Europe were invaluable.

Over 60 years I have probably made 200 visits and spent 10 years



SNOWY PEAKS: Europe's mountains are a magnet for skiers



HOLIDAY HOTSPOT: Millions of Britons have enjoyed a summer holiday on Europe's warm and friendly shores



BEAUTY: Bruges in Belgium is spectacularly pretty



HISTORY: Rome's Colosseum is an ancient wonder



CULTURE: Paris is a city of great cuisine and iconic landmarks

ago chancellor Gordon Brown abandoned his commitment to abide by the Conservative spending levels he had inherited. The weakling Blair allowed him to go on the biggest spending spree in economic history, first with money we had, then with almost a further trillion we did not.

Our debts are horrendous, our Government a fragile coalition dependent on a small party that will fight to head off the referendum we have every right to. (While preaching democracy, of course).

Can we recover, will we recover? I have great faith in the British. Not the idle and greedy fat cats; not the blithering incompetents who have run the Ministry of Defence so long; not the nest-featherers of the giant utilities and "service providers" but in the real British.

I have faith in the small businessman and honest trader; in the craftsman and surgeon, haulier and farmer; in the trawlerman and plumber, builder and carpenter. These are the people who will bring us through, if they are allowed to.

No nation will ever be disregarded, isolated, ignored or treated with disrespect if it has four things.

One, it must be big enough. We are more than 60 million people, a leader of the Anglosphere, champion of the 54-nation Commonwealth. Two, it must be wealthy. We are not that just now but can and will be again, if only the Government will stop kowtowing to Brussels and let us get on with the job.

Three, it must have good democratic government. There are reforms going through and if they are impelled against the squeals of vested interests and embedded bureaucracy they will be good ones.

'Who has the right to choose our destiny? We do'

sending some of the stolen power back to the people at last,

And four, that nation must have armed forces that make an aggressor think twice. That is why I am immeasurably sad that Downing Street decided to pour billions into the Third World, Brussels and the propping up of the euro but stripped our armed forces to the bone.

The menu above is no 10-minute programme. But first things first. Who runs this country? Brussels or Westminster? Whose law is supreme within our borders? The EU's or ours? Who depends on whose money? We on theirs or they on ours? We all know those answers.

At the start of this new decade the destiny of our land, our way of life, our people and our constitution all lay as a gambler's chips on the green baize. Who has the right and the sole right to choose that destiny for ourselves, our children and our children's children?

We do. We the people of Britain. We have fought the wars, we have done the work, we have brought home the harvests, we have paid the taxes. We have the right to be consulted. So let every single MP of every single party, and every peer, be required to answer.

No more mumbly excuses, no more platitudes and no more euphemisms. Where does your primary loyalty lie?

Here or across the Channel? And if here, give us our referendum.

residing in four foreign EU countries. My travels have taken me from Bantry Bay, whose Irish fishermen stare daily at the pounding Atlantic, to the eastern valleys of Slovakia.

These are not the hallmarks of a Europhobe. So you may understand my irritation when silly snooties who have been nowhere, seen nothing, done nothing and experienced nothing of the lives of the real people of Europe try to lecture me about being "anti-European". I sometimes feel I have forgotten more about that wonderful continent than the EU-fanatics ever knew.

And wonderful it really is. A thousand years of slow development, 10 centuries of wars (true) but also trade, culture, art, music, philosophy, science, invention, statesmanship, cuisine, architecture, sport, learning and high endeavour.

Only a barbarian would turn his back on all this. So what is the beef with the European Union of today? Quite simply, the modern EU is

failing. It fails because its self-appointed mandarins, along with the new class of professional politicians and bureaucrats who have taken over the national governments of most of the EU, have turned their backs on the broad masses of the continent's people in the sure belief they can now treat us with the contempt they feel we deserve.

If the complete unification of this continent was ever to succeed it could happen only on the basis of six simple words: with the consent of the people.

Recall Lincoln at Gettysburg: "Government of the people, by the people and for the people." His definition of democratic rule. Probably the best ever. Now let me offer you another true quotation but not so well known. It derives from a man's private writings and was probably not meant for publication. But not much remains secret nowadays.

"Europe's nations should be guided towards the superstate with-

out their people understanding what is happening. This can be accomplished by successive steps, each disguised as having an economic purpose but that will eventually and irrevocably lead to federation."

WHAT the gentleman was proposing to his followers and they have obeyed him to the letter, was government by deception. Normally there are four ways of achieving great change. Brute force, vast sums in payment or bribery, persuasion by reasoned debate and democratic vote, or raw deception.

He was proposing the fourth and so far it has almost worked. But who was he? Some saboteur of the fine ideal of Le Projet? Some rogue seeking to undermine this noble concept? No, the writer was Jean Monnet, the founder of the EU. We

are told repeatedly by those in high office who have deceived us for so long that all talk of any superstate is poppycock and that "ever-closer union" and "complete federation" do not mean a united states of Europe at all.

Yet it is only in wary, cautious, hard-to-convince Britain that the people are told this. In Brussels the true insider and perhaps our real rulers, celebrate each and every step nearer to their lusted-for promised land: a single federal country called simply LEurope.

Permit me a few glances at history. In 1956, the year before the signature by the founding six of the Treaty of Rome, Monnet was officially appointed chairman of the action committee for the European superstate. Yes, it is in the record. The concept of the one-day superstate, to be achieved by deception, goes back that far.

In 1919, in Petrograd, watching Lenin's revolution unfurl, a glibble

American journalist wrote: "I have seen the future and it works." He was half right. He was watching the birth of world communism but it never worked. It brought 70 years of cruelty, injustice, famine, massacre, war, forced labour and pogroms.

In its time millions (but never the numerical majority) believed that they too had seen the future. They became dedicated, passionate communists, convinced they had the right to carry out any infamy because all is justified to enable the decreed future to happen. What they could not accept was that they might have been wrong.

The vision of a mighty state from the Irish shore to the Polish marshes, centrally governed with more than 100 developed regions was what inspired Monnet and his followers of 60 years ago and still inspires the passionate devotees of E-Unification today. But they have two problems. Even if it seems not to work, even if it probably is not working,

they cannot concede they might have been wrong.

The True Believers have put in too much political and intellectual capital over too many years to admit their minority vision of the future might be mistaken after all.

Their second problem is simple: they cannot, must not, dare not consult and listen to the broad masses of the people. That is you and me, Daily Express reader, whom they quietly hold to be dim, stupid and devoid of their purity of vision.

That is why true EU-believers fight tooth and claw against any consultation with us, such as a referendum. To ask us if we truly want their vision for our continent and above all for our country, could and probably would result in a rejection. We have come to distrust them all, the so-called "democracy gap" is too wide, we have been lied to too many times and we know it.

One last quote, if I may, from Lenin himself. You cannot carry out

a successful revolution, he told his disciples, on the basis of a small core of true believers. You have to have millions of what he termed "useful fools". In Russian the word can also mean "dupes". These are the masses who have swallowed the propaganda hook, line and sinker.

IN BRITAIN today we do have these millions. Many have really succumbed to the myth that the EU is about preventing war in Europe again, that all these years the EU kept the peace. (No, the threat was the USSR and it was Nato that kept the peace.)

Others swallow the fiction that EU members would no longer trade with us if we were no longer obedient to Brussels. (No, the EU has a £30billion a year trade surplus with us. We keep our heads above water only by having a trade surplus with

ROW, rest of world). The timid believe the lie that 3.5 million jobs depend on the EU and would be forfeited if we threw off the expensive yoke of Brussels. (No, there are five million EU jobs that depend on us. A trade war would be mutual suicide).

A big bogeyman is that out of the EU we would be isolated. No influence in council, you see. (It is a simple fact the man at the table with the least influence on events is the one whose outvoting or capitulation is a foregone conclusion. That is Britain in the EU and has been for many years, at least since Margaret Thatcher finally let the scales fall from her eyes and said No, No, No.)

That was when the mandarins trembled and crumbled. Remember the huge rebate on our ruinous payments into France's grossly inefficient agriculture? It is the British cheque book, you see. We close that and their golden palaces crumble.

We are entering the second decade of the new century. Ten years

Forget the EU, we must forge stronger links with the Commonwealth

By Winston McKenzie

Former boxer, London mayoral candidate and UKIP spokesman for Culture, Media and Sport

ARRIVED in this, the mother country, from Jamaica in 1961 when I was five years old. Commonwealth countries have a specific attitude towards the mother country. We adore our Queen and the hospitality and attention offered by Commonwealth nations is known to be warm and welcoming. Seldom do you hear the English complain that they did not feel welcome on holiday within the Commonwealth.

The night I set foot on British soil with my brother Clinton we were on a mission to join the rest of the family in London. We boarded the coach taking us to the airport "acceptance area" where we would meet my father Dudley for the first time. As the coach slowed I saw this man waving wildly at me. I was petrified. "What does he want?" I asked.

My dad held my hand but I bolted. If you thought Linford Christie was fast you should have seen me run.

Eventually I was collared by a beautiful blonde stewardess. "Hello," she said, "And where are you going?" I replied in my patois accent, "I'm running away from that man." Tears were streaming down my face. The lady was kind and I thought "Wow!" I have loved blondes ever since.

I grew up in Croydon in a family of six brothers and one sister who was as tough as any of us. We were all alpha males and my dad ruled with a steely attitude.

To this day I am proud of my father. He and my mother Daphne gave me the start I needed to face life's ups and downs. They produced four champion boxers and a second generation Premiership footballer.

WHEN I joined the UK Independence Party (UKIP) people would often ask, "Why? It is a single issue party." But the general public is not informed of the issues. UKIP has since held two leadership elections, the second quite recently in which I was a candidate and I have now been appointed spokesman for Culture, Media and Sport.

I commend the Daily Express for having such foresight to launch its anti-EU crusade, as this is a fight for freedom and must be open to public debate.

It is a fight that must be won. In boxing terms, they say "jab and move or you'll be hit".

I believe that one day this country and all its inhabitants, with our vast knowledge of survival, skill and resilience, shall be free from the domination of the EU.

Recently I have been diagnosed with cataracts: a constant thin cloud blurring the vision. It can be corrected with a simple operation that is over in minutes. This nation's vision is clouded. We need new lenses to see the issues clearly.

Having survived two world wars we now find ourselves under a dictatorship with some 72 per cent of our laws being created by Brussels. The imposing might of faceless bureaucrats, who appear like thieves in the night, is costing the British taxpayer some £8.2 billion net per annum.

What happened to democracy? This once great nation will very soon find itself bringing up the rear with no drive or ambition to win.

Commonwealth nations share a common language, legal and democratic systems and account for



BORN FIGHTER: Former boxer Winston believes Britain needs to hit back

a third of the world's population and a quarter of world trade.

Some of the world's largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries make up the Commonwealth and are home to over two billion citizens of all faiths and ethnicities.

It is a voluntary organisation of 54 countries that were supposed to support each other and work together towards shared goals in democracy and development.

It is UKIP's policy to establish an alternative to the EU, a Commonwealth Free Trade Area (CFTA) that would enable all countries to

trade freely with Britain without the exorbitant tariffs imposed by the EU.

It is vital that trade deals between Britain and the Commonwealth are reinvigorated. Jamaica, which prides itself on its bananas and sugar cane, and Ghana, for its tomatoes, are losing their livelihoods to the subsidised policies of the EU.

The Commonwealth Business Council estimates that a CFTA would account for more than 20 per cent of all international trade and investment, facilitating annual trade exchanges worth more than £1.1 trillion and direct foreign investment



GOOD TIMES: The recent Indian Commonwealth Games point the way forward



BANANAS: The EU hurts Commonwealth nations like Jamaica

worth £64 billion. Why has the Commonwealth been so shamefully neglected and betrayed by British governments? India, an aspiring and great Commonwealth nation, will soon become the second largest world economy. We should be proud.

Britain should not be tied to the dead weight of the European Union. There are more than 125,000 EU directives and regulations in force in the UK, including the European Court of Justice and EU Arrest Warrant, which beggars belief.

Our Queen's silhouetted head printed on postage stamps and the Royal Mail are part of our sovereignty and way of life. Legislation to pave the way for a sell-off (more than likely to Germany) must be abandoned with immediate effect.

The original concept of the then Common Market was just that. A friendly trade agreement between neighbouring countries, joining

together in peace after the Second World War. This has turned into a complete takeover of our way of life, a United States of Europe. What happened to the Commonwealth?

We should be doing more to promote sporting events. The Commonwealth Games is the third largest multi-sport event in the world. They are known as "the friendly games" and are seen in the eyes of many budding sportsmen and women of all nations as the starting block to greater things.

Sport would benefit immensely from the knock-on financial effect of the reinvigoration of trade between Britain and the Commonwealth. Dignitaries from the latter that I have interviewed recently insist they need: "Trade not aid".

We must champion our Commonwealth. We have so little to gain but so much to lose by being a member of the EU. Yet our ties with the Commonwealth are diminishing.

Those who originate from the Commonwealth are not aware of the implicit damage the EU has caused to their native lands. We are running out of time. Soon we'll be running scared in our own country.

It takes a revolution to make a solution.

By Patrick O'Flynn
Chief Political Commentator

Scrap the laws that put the wicked first

A SERIES of scandals about soft treatment of criminals can be traced directly to Britain's subservience to European justice.

Britain's membership of the European Union compels us to remain signatories of the European Convention on Human Rights and to accept the rulings and jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights that enforces it.

The court recently ordered Britain to give prisoners the vote despite massive public opposition to the idea. David Cameron has just announced that convicts serving sentences of less than four years will indeed be given the vote, despite criticising the idea during the election campaign last May.

The Prime Minister told MPs last year that giving any prisoner the right to vote in elections made him feel "physically ill" but that he had no option other than to comply because attempting to fend off the demands of the European Court could result in massive compensation payments having to be paid to many prisoners on its orders. Many saw that as further stark evidence of the loss of British sovereignty over law and order to Europe.

Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe is also expected to take a case to the European Court to try to get a release date. Mass-murderer Sutcliffe's human rights challenges to his whole-life tariff have so far failed in Britain. However, if the Strasbourg court orders it then one of the worst serial killers in British history will have to be released back on to the streets.

Last month Sutcliffe's lawyers told the Daily Express that the 64-year-old was prepared to take his fight for freedom all the way to the European Court but a TaxPayers'

'European judges dictate who we can and can't lock up'

Alliance spokesman said: "If this case goes all the way then it will mean interfering EU judges once again getting the chance to dictate who we can and can't lock up."

Street thug Learco Chindamo, who murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence, used the human rights guaranteed by the European Convention to prevent his deportation after being released from jail. He successfully argued that deportation would interfere with his right to a family life.

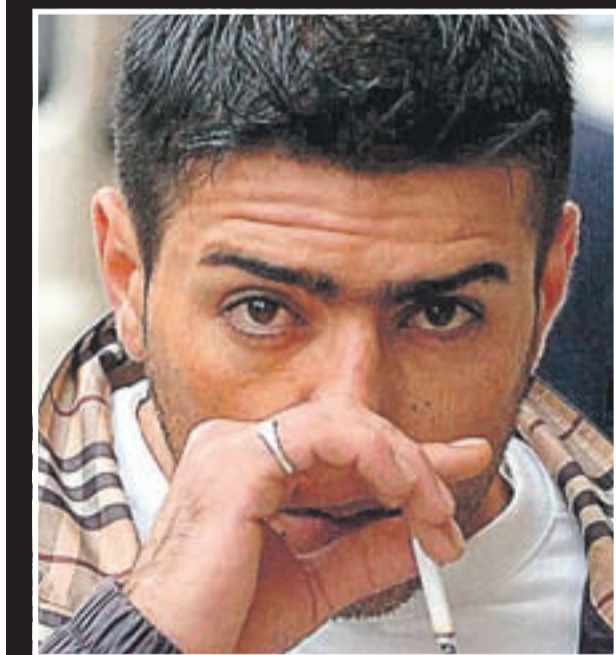
Failed Iraqi asylum seeker Aso Mohammed Ibrahim last month used the same argument to win the right to live permanently in Britain even though he had committed a string of crimes including leaving 12-year-old Amy Houston to die under the wheels of his car after running her over.

These notorious names form just the tip of the iceberg where criminals use the European human rights regime to win outrageous concessions. Government figures show that 350 foreign criminals are evading deportation every year on grounds that their human rights would be infringed.

Scores of Islamist terror suspects have evaded deportation or detention by the same human rights route.

Recent research shows that complying with European human rights laws is costing British taxpayers £2billion a year. The total cost of abiding by judgments under the European Convention on Human Rights has topped £17.3billion.

Research by Dr Lee Rotherham, a policy analyst for the TaxPayers' Alliance, reveals how the convention has been used to shape British laws and has reached into almost every walk of life, from how our prisons are



Picture: LONDON MEDIA

APPEAL:
Killer Sutcliffe wants EU law to grant him freedom

STAYING:
Failed asylum seeker Ibrahim, left, let girl die

SAFE:
Chindamo, right, used 'human rights' to avoid deportation

Picture: WARREN SMITH

run and how our soldiers fight wars to how we police our streets.

Labour claimed the introduction of the Human Rights Act in 1998 was going to stem Strasbourg's influence by allowing rulings on European law to be made in British courts.

Yet appeals to the Strasbourg court have increased since the Act came into force and three-quarters of British rulings have been overturned.

The research brands Labour's Human Rights Act a failure and concludes: "Attempts to remedy the clash between the courts have merely confirmed the existence of a higher legal authority than that of the British courts."

The convention has also led to Islamic terror suspects successfully

fighting deportation orders and the halting of the removal of genocide suspects to face trial in Rwanda.

It has also allowed employees like Muslim hairdresser Bushra Noah to sue her employers over a dress code that did not allow her to wear a headscarf.

Soldiers have been required to apply convention rulings to the way they operate at war while police forces have had to advertise the fact they have vehicles fitted with cameras in high crime areas.

Since the Strasbourg court was created in 1959 it has passed 418 judgments affecting Britain.

A quarter of its judgments have overturned UK court rulings outright and three-quarters have seen partial losses for Britain. Eighty

per cent of the judgments Britain has lost, a total of 331 out of 418, have occurred since Labour passed the Human Rights Act.

Introduced by Tony Blair's government in 1998, the Act allowed individuals to bring cases under European laws in British courts, fuelling a wave of compensation claims for apparent breaches of human rights.

Dr Rotherham said this had left Britain facing more claims in British courts, where compensation is higher and more appeals to Strasbourg.

He suggests either replacing the Human Rights Act with a British Bill of Rights, withdrawing from the convention altogether or at least agreeing some opt-outs. He said: "It

is hard to see how any member state or member of the commission could argue that the UK would be in breach of its obligations, whichever option it took."

However, for many years the EU has required all members to be signatories of the convention as it seeks to override the legal sovereignty of the nations of Europe.

The only way to be sure of restoring the supremacy of British courts over British justice is to leave the EU and at the same time pull out of the convention and the jurisdiction of the European Court.

A new British Bill of Rights could then balance basic human rights against the need to retain public confidence in the law and protect law-abiding people.

By **Martyn Brown**
Political Correspondent

ATROUPE performing the Smelly Foot Dance, dog gymnasiums and hip-hop awareness classes may sound like the latest offerings from a reality show but they are, in fact, some of the countless ways in which Eurocrats squander your hard-earned money on senseless projects every single day.

These examples of Eurotrash highlight the relentless juggernaut of EU excess that saw £8billion of British taxpayers' money frittered away last year alone.

Bureaucrats in Brussels have already increased their bloated budget by 2.9 per cent to €126.5billion (£108.4billion), a move that will cost British taxpayers an extra £450million this year.

David Cameron fought to limit this increase to 2.9 per cent after the European Commission pushed for a six per cent hike. However, last year's catalogue of waste will make uncomfortable reading for millions of UK households who are worse off year after year because of the EU's carefree spending.

Absurd projects littered across the continent in the past 12 months included €411,000 (£352,000) to a Hungarian IT firm to "improve the lifestyle and living standard of dogs". Meanwhile, the European Parliament paid €5.25million (£4.5million) to a limousine company to chauffeur MEPs around Strasbourg.

Eurocrats in Luxembourg enjoy benefits ranging from an exclusive restaurant to Scottish Highland dancing and wine-tasting in a "culture club" bought for them last year for €5million (£4.28million).

In Austria, the European Agricultural Fund contributed €16,000 (£13,720) to increasing Tyrolean farmers' "emotional connection with landscapes".

OTHER examples include €900,000 (£771,799) to develop a golf park and "wellness hotel" in Germany, where Chancellor Angela Merkel has been a guest and a bizarre "virtual language pool" that sought to inspire EU citizens to learn languages using swimming.

Some £43,000 of taxpayers' cash has also gone to a "hip-hop laboratory" in Lyon, France, to address the "lack of co-operation in European hip-hop".

Details of the frivolous spending were exposed by the think tank Open Europe a day after auditors refused to give the EU's accounts a clean bill of health for the 16th year in a row. Spokesman Stephen Booth said: "The EU budget is a relic of the past. David Cameron

'£351,000 has gone to improve dogs' lifestyles'

must use 2011 to get a better deal for UK taxpayers, not only by cutting the money we send to Brussels but by improving how it is spent."

Not surprisingly the European Commission has tried to turn a blind eye to the claims of waste, even saying it was not considered to be "credible research".

However, Matthew Sinclair, director of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "Every time you think bureaucrats in Brussels can't dream up a crazier scheme or a more egregious waste of money, they prove you wrong."

"It would be a laughing matter if our contributions to the EU weren't costing British taxpayers millions of pounds every day. Politicians need



EUROLAND: A place where farmers connect, dogs get fitness training, hip hop is unified and office chairs cost £800

How our taxes are wasted on potty projects

to start standing up for taxpayers' interests and refuse to bankroll the ambitions and incompetence of the Eurocrats."

It's not just potty projects where taxpayers' money is wasted. The EU spends hundreds of millions on white-elephant buildings to house its army of Eurocrats in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg. Senior Eurocrat Baroness Ashton

resides in palatial Brussels offices costing taxpayers more than £8million. While Britain may be in the grip of swingeing public-sector cuts the EU's new £26million "embassy" in London opened last year to reveal rooms equipped with £800 office chairs and £400 Italian designer lamps. Brussels spent £20million buying the building at 32 Smith Square.

Renovating the building, including buying designer wares for the 68 Eurocrats housed there, cost £5.6million. All staff have Herman Miller Mirra office chairs, and Artemide lamps. The building is also fitted with a new wood-decked roof terrace.

Elsewhere, the building contract for the lavish headquarters of the European parliament in Brussels

has been awarded without a public tender, despite the fact that it is costing the taxpayer hundreds of millions of euros.

Brussels' waste is not confined to Europe. Details show that Baroness Ashton will spend up to £33million on more than 150 armoured cars for EU embassies across the globe, including in countries such as Sudan and Fiji.

Currently there are more than 130 EU representations, as the embassies are called, and their number is expected to rise to 200.

Then there are the EU's vast capital projects which involve huge sums being paid out, often with very little benefit.

So far the EU has spent an eye-watering €8.5billion to help Sicily catch up with the rest of Italy and Europe, with very little discernible progress.

That is far from the only example: €5.5million has gone to Hungary to build a "beach city" 45 miles from Budapest. Research also shows UK households are nearly £600 a year worse off because of disastrous policies on farming and fishing.

STUDIES by the TaxPayers' Alliance say the "lunatic, flawed and corrupt" flagship policies are costing the country £13billion a year: almost double the savings expected from recent welfare cuts.

The new studies suggest Europe's £48billion Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in particular is a costly "disgrace" which has failed to stop the decline of British agriculture.

Critics say the scope for corruption is almost limitless. Investigations are under way into grants allegedly claimed in Sicily for non-existent orange groves and "phantom farms".

There have also been "double-counted sheep" in Italy and "pasture" in Greece that aerial photos showed to be largely forest and rocks.

Campaigners claim the system discriminates against British farmers and reforms will just create new ways to work against them. The vast CAP system costs each UK household about £398 a year, according to the TaxPayers' Alliance.

It puts the cost to Britain at about £10.3billion a year in everything from increased food prices to regulatory burdens.

The "inbuilt lunacy" of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has also been laid bare by its own

'The scope for corruption is almost limitless'

experts. They admit that next year more North Sea cod will be killed and thrown back in the sea than are caught and taken to market, all in the name of conservation.

Under current proposals about 32,000 tonnes of cod will be caught while 39,000 tonnes of edible fish will be thrown back dead, or "discarded", because the catch would take trawlermen over their EU quotas.

The TaxPayers' Alliance puts the annual bill to Britain of the CFP at £2.8billion, including discarded fish worth £130million. This includes 60,000 tonnes of cod, haddock and whiting discarded in the North Sea alone: enough to keep London's Billingsgate Market stocked for two and a half years.

End this gravy train

Politicians who reap the rewards in their Brussels retirement home



ALL ABOARD: Former Members of Parliament Chris Patten, Peter Mandelson and Neil Kinnock have all enjoyed the lifestyle that comes with being a leading member of Europe's political elite

THE EUROPEAN Union is living proof that, for failed politicians at least, there is an after-life.

Numerous politicians who have seen their careers die at Westminster have found a gilded existence in Brussels as members of the European Commission and other senior Eurocrat posts.

Given the lavish taxpayer-funded rewards to be snaffled up, those who make the journey into EU bureaucracy must sometimes feel like they have died and woken in paradise.

Lord Kinnock and Lord Mandelson are perhaps the most notorious examples in recent years.

The Machiavellian Mandelson was twice sacked in disgrace from the Cabinet and the ludicrous Kinnock was overwhelmingly rejected by the voters in two general elections.

Both harboured ambitions to be prime minister and were, mercifully for the nation, thwarted.

Yet both won sweeping powers to meddle in the lives of British citizens by securing superannuated jobs as European commissioners. They did so without winning a single vote.

Those who see the EU machine at close quarters are struck by the cohorts of failed politicians.

"Seeing all the political retreats reliving their former glories in the fleshpots of Brussels and Strasbourg brings home what the European

By **Macer Hall**
Political Editor

Union is: a retirement home for failures, has-beens and never-weres," UK Independence Party leader and Euro-MP Nigel Farage said.

Brussels is a bloated anti-meritocracy where the mediocre inherit the earth. Few beyond the most studious addicts of political trivia will recall Bruce Millan, Arthur Cockfield, Ivor Richard, Stanley Clinton Davis and Christopher Tugendhat. Ring any bells?

They were all MPs who failed to climb far up Westminster's greasy pole, yet went on to become European commissioners.

The rewards for failure have grown vastly. EU commissioners command six-figure salaries, lavish expenses for travel, accommodation and entertaining, chauffeur-driven limousines, subsidised restaurants and massive pensions.

Lord Mandelson, with his penchant for fine living, is estimated to have been paid up to £1.2million in salary and expenses during his four-year stint as European commissioner for trade, according to think tank Open Europe. His annual salary was £182,500 in his final year.

He is expected to receive a further £1million in allowances and EU pension payments in the years ahead.

Lord Kinnock's 10-year stint as transport commissioner was also marked by a sky-high salary. His lifestyle at the expense of taxpayers is all the more infuriating given that his early career was marked by firm opposition to Britain's membership of the Common Market.

Those views were forgotten by the time he reached Brussels. Indeed, the failed Labour leader's family has benefited from the wealth and privilege available to the Euro-elite.

His wife Glenys has been a long-serving Labour Euro-MP while their children Stephen and Rachel have

'Six-figure salaries and lavish expenses'

both worked as research assistants in the EU. Stephen Kinnock's wife Helle was also a Euro-MP.

Lord and Lady Kinnock are estimated to have received around £10million in pay, allowances and pension from the EU. The figure, calculated by Open Europe, included £1.85million in wages for Lord Kinnock and £277,000 in allowances.

His wife earned £775,000 in her 15 years as a Euro-MP. She claimed the

controversial daily allowance, currently worth £270, which is available to MPs who sign a register in the European Parliament.

Even though the Kinnocks shared a house in the Belgian capital they both were able to claim accommodation allowances. In their retirement, they benefit from five publicly funded pensions worth an estimated £4.4million and paying around £180,000 a year.

Despite the huge sums, Lord Kinnock's decade in Brussels is best known for a failed attempt to force every motorist in Europe to drive with their headlights on in daylight.

Indulgence has not been confined to Labour politicians. Former Tory ministers Leon Brittan and Chris Patten, now Lord Brittan and Lord Patten, were both high-flying Cabinet ministers who became EU commissioners. Brittan had quit the Cabinet in the row over Westland helicopters while Patten lost his seat at the 1992 general election.

Many critics believe the gluttonous rewards-for-failure culture is to blame for growing disenchantment with the Eurocrat elite.

Stephen Booth of Open Europe said: "Brussels has made many politicians millionaires. It's no wonder there's such a huge divide between public and political elite opinion."

It is not just greed which angers

voters in Britain and the other 26 nations in the EU. The appointment of politicians who have been rejected by their own national electorates is seen as an affront to democracy.

Tory backbencher Douglas Carswell, the Eurosceptic MP for Clacton, said: "It is as if we promote people who have been rejected by the voters to cash in at our expense."

The clearest example yet of the EU's contempt for democracy was shown by the appointment of British quangoocrat Baroness Ashton to the post of European foreign affairs supreme last year, commanding an annual salary of £270,000 despite never having won an election.

A former Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament employee, her path to Europe's ruling class included a series of quango appointments and a seat in the unelected Lords.

She now heads the EU external affairs established under the Lisbon Treaty, a vast diplomatic bureaucracy with a staff expected to rise to around 7,000 civil servants and a budget of around £5.8billion a year.

Her rise without trace is a symbol of the perverse culture of the EU.

In Greek mythology the dead crossed the River Styx to a new existence in the underworld. In politics those who have suffered career death board the Eurostar gravy train to Brussels.

Time for a referendum on our fate

By **Jon Gaunt**
Official spokesman for the EU Referendum Campaign

NO SUBJECT illustrates just how out of touch our politicians are with the people than the question of the EU. A recent ComRes poll for the EU Referendum Campaign showed that 75 per cent of the British public want out of the EU but still our out of touch political masters of all parties refuse to give us a straightforward referendum.

Blair, Brown and Cameron are the political equivalent of the three monkeys who can see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil when it comes to the EU.

However the British people are not deaf, dumb or blind. They can see what is happening as the euro crashes and burns. They don't want to suffer from the most draconian cuts in history while we bail out economies such as Ireland's. They don't want to lose their jobs and homes while foreign aid is not only ring-fenced but increased and they don't want students rioting and cuts in welfare of £7billion while we promise exactly the same amount of our cash to Ireland.

You have to ask the question: just what is the real agenda of the political elite? Why won't they give the people of the UK the right to vote on whether we stay in the EU or not? Just what are they afraid of?

These are the reasons why I, and tens of thousands like me, have joined the EU Referendum Campaign.

At this point let me stress the EU Referendum Campaign is not about persuading people to vote one way or the other.

What the campaign and I are clearly demanding is a referendum, a simple "in or out" vote on our continued membership of this superstate. As The Clash (almost) used to sing: "Should We Stay Or Should We Go?"

In just three months we have built up the largest database of supporters of any Eurosceptic group and rather than play to the Westminster village and their cronies we are taking the battle to and with the people.

We have been joined by loads of grassroots groups who are fed up with the EU interfering with their lifestyles and business, whether they are bikers, alternative health practitioners or hedge fund managers.

We are not affiliated to any political party and we reject the outdated idea of Left and Right. However, we have written to every single MP to find out if they would support a referendum and we intend to name and shame them if they don't.

The professional politicians have failed the British public and it is time for the people to seize the initiative and demand a referendum on our great country's future.

That is why it is so brilliant that the Daily Express has come to the conclusion that the answer will not and cannot come from the political elite in Westminster or Brussels but from the people.

So if you agree with me please sign our pledge and demand a vote on our country's future at www.eureferendumcampaign.com



Yes, of course we can prosper outside the EU

THE European fanatics are utterly shameless. They told us their treasured project of monetary union would lead to an era of prosperity, growth and stability. But now we can see that the single currency has achieved the opposite of its objectives. The economies of its member states have been gripped by recession. Debts have spiralled out of control. As Ireland joins Greece on the slide towards bankruptcy the very existence of the euro is under threat.

Yet in response to this crisis the zealots have stepped up their campaign for European unity. Far from learning lessons from the catastrophe, they argue that even tighter control from Brussels is the answer.

Europe's solutions, according to their twisted logic, lie in handing over more power to the EU. It is like an unhinged doctor demanding sickly patients be given ever greater doses of the very medicine that is killing them.

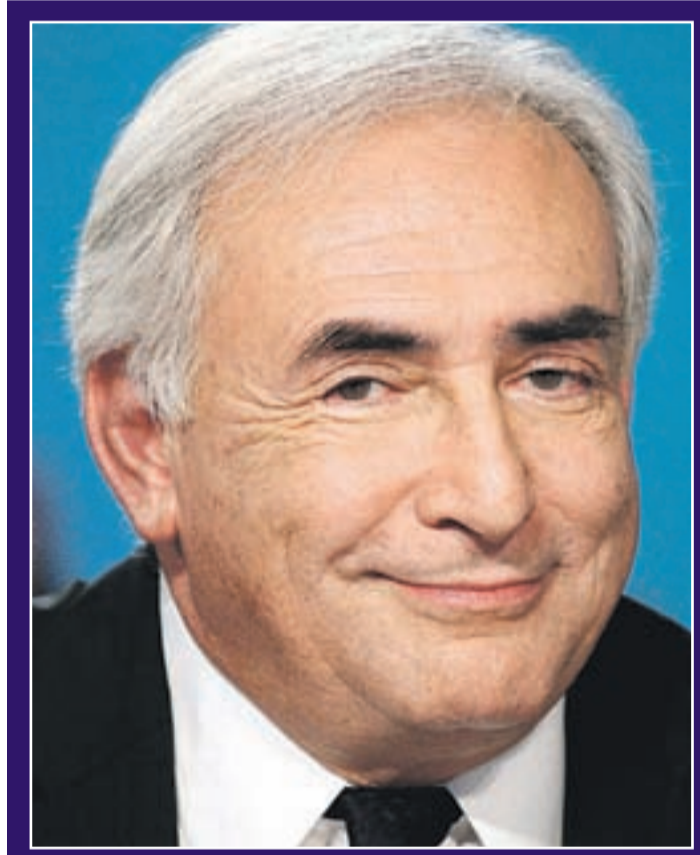
The EU's President Herman van Rompuy has claimed it must be strengthened to save Europe's economies. That hysterical demand has now been echoed by the Left-wing French politician Dominique Strauss-Kahn, head of the International Monetary Fund.

He has declared Europe needs "greater integration" and less independence for member states. Using sinister language that displayed contempt for democracy and national sovereignty, Strauss-Kahn said that "the centre must seize the initiative in all areas key to reaching the common destiny of the union".

Moreover, he also called for more immigration to Europe, which he maintained would "boost" long-term growth.

STRAUSS-KAHN is a classic of the political type that predominates in Europe. Just as the current President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, was a follower of Chairman Mao in his youth, so Strauss-Kahn was a leading communist activist as a student, going on to a career in French socialist politics before finding a comfortable berth at the IMF in 2007.

As his speech shows, revolution still lies at the heart of the EU agenda, built on



FEDERALIST: IMF boss Dominique Strauss-Kahn



Leo McKinstry
Daily Express columnist

destroying national identities, transforming the demography of Europe and governance by a self-appointed, unaccountable cadre of ideologues. The real purpose of the single currency has always been political rather than economic, its endgame being the creation of a centralised superstate.

But the results of this radical programme, for which no one in Europe has ever voted, have been disastrous. As borders are removed, social cohesion and solidarity collapse in the face of uncontrolled immigration.

Bloated welfare systems and the remorseless expansion of bureaucracy mean ruination for public finances. While

unemployment has soared, governments are no longer able to adopt economic policies that suit their national needs.

That is precisely what has happened in Ireland. Trapped in the straitjacket of the euro, the Irish couldn't raise interest rates to prevent their economy overheating. The consequence has been meltdown and humiliation as the Irish government is forced to accept a bailout from the IMF and EU.

The Irish move only further reveals the arrogance of the EU elite. There were alternatives available to Ireland, such as withdrawal from the euro and consequent devaluation but EU bosses are so desperate to

maintain their project of integration that they would not contemplate any other option.

In their dogmatic mindset the euro has to be propped up at any cost. Yet such an approach defies economic reality. Given the scale of the indebtedness right across Europe, endless bailouts and borrowing are unsustainable. In fact they only add fuel to the flames of crisis.

British eurosceptics have been proved right about the euro. For years they were mocked as bigots for refusing to embrace the EU's dream. But it turns out that they had the interests of the European peoples far closer to heart than the evangelists for change did.

AS WILLIAM HAGUE predicted at the launch of the euro in 1999: "One could find oneself in the economic equivalent of a burning building with no exits." That is a vivid description of Ireland's dire predicament.

Britain should take the initiative now. The Greek and Irish crises show how weak the European Union is behind all the high-blown rhetoric from Brussels. The EU needs Britain far more than we need the EU.

Over the past four decades our membership has brought us nothing but misery. We have lost control of our economy, our laws and our frontiers. We waste £12billion a year on our contribution to Brussels for the privilege of being bossed around by autocrats who despise us. It is the modern equivalent of Danegeld, the payment Britons once made to Viking conquerors.

We should rebuild our national independence by leaving this failing institution. All the arguments against such a course are bogus. We are a great trading nation and one of the world's biggest economies.

It is absurd to think that we cannot prosper outside the expensive shelter of Brussels. Departure would galvanise the nation by liberating our enterprise and public life from the stifling grip of the EU's politically correct regime.

Opponents of the EU are often accused of being extremists but the real extremism is found in Brussels. The nation state is the greatest engine for democracy, freedom and prosperity ever created by mankind. Its demolition within Europe must be halted.

'This country should take the initiative now'

Picture: PHOTOSHOT

By Peter Cunliffe
City Editor

AS one of Britain's most successful businessmen Stuart Wheeler has seen at first hand how commerce and industry in this country has been strangled by EU red tape and interference.

A fierce critic of the Brussels bureaucracy, he is not alone in worrying that Britain's competitiveness in world markets has been damaged by the burden of regulation brought on by membership.

From the smallest of family businesses to the biggest boardrooms, there are concerns at the amount of management time and expense soaked up by complying with the blizzard of rules that come from across the Channel.

It has been calculated complying with EU regulation costs the UK £75billion a year, while the boss of a typical small firm spends 37 hours a month filling out the paperwork that is involved.

Wheeler, the founder and former chairman of spread-betting firm IG Index, believes EU membership has brought few benefits to the UK.

He also thinks that it has smothered our ability to compete with the emerging economies such as China, Russia and Brazil.

He said: "It has been an absolute nightmare. We have to co-operate with our European colleagues but there is not the slightest reason why we should be bossed about by the EU. In fact, all it has given us is disadvantages.

"It's been bad for free trade. We're not allowed our own tariff barriers. The EU discriminates appallingly against poor nations, especially those in the Commonwealth."

'It is wonderful that we are out of the eurozone'

Increasingly tough EU regulation of the financial services industry, in which London is by far the biggest centre in Europe, has raised fears that banks, insurers and hedge funds could be driven away.

Wheeler said: "The public may not like hedge funds but they produce enormous amounts of foreign exchange for this country. With the way EU regulation is going, a lot of them will simply go abroad."

He points out the UK bought £40billion more goods from the EU than member countries bought from us and notes that the TaxPayers' Alliance has calculated that EU membership costs this country £125billion a year, equivalent to £2,000 for every man, woman and child in the country.

"That is an absolutely staggering figure," said Wheeler.

Even among the severest critics of the EU, though, there are worries withdrawal could be complex and costly, but Wheeler dismisses those fears. He believes that the UK could disentangle itself either through the repeal of the 1972 Act by which we joined or through the Treaty of Lisbon.

"Once the will is there to come out then we can come out. A lot of legislation would have to be repealed but basically this country would be better off out of the EU," he said.

He also believes the UK's decision not to join the single currency was a wise one, adding: "If we had joined the euro we'd be in the same difficulty as Ireland is now.

"It is wonderful we are out of the eurozone but we need to be out of the EU itself.

"I am retired from business now but we spent an enormous amount of time dealing with EU regulations. "Red tape was a big burden then but it's much bigger now and it's getting worse."

Another prominent businessman who dislikes the single currency and

Pictures: ASHLEY ASHWOOD/ REX



AT ODDS: Wheeler is opposed to the EU

BITTER TASTE: Wetherspoon chairman Tim Martin believes that EU regulation has made Britain less competitive

Euro red tape is strangling UK enterprise



CITY FEARS: Buik believes EU bank regulations could impact on London

the EU is Tim Martin, chairman of pubs group JD Wetherspoon.

He stops short of calling for withdrawal but strongly believes that there should be root and branch reform, warning that it has gone way beyond its original goals of improving the flows of trade and labour within Europe.

Martin said: "Where it does go wrong is when we give up our own sovereignty by taking power away from Parliament and handing it to Brussels.

"I believe that the grandiose ideas of Lord Mandelson, Ken Clarke and Leon Brittan and the rest of the pseudo-intellectuals who proposed greater European integration have been extremely damaging for this country."

Martin, who worked in France as a teenager and is delighted to have French, Germans and Poles working



behind the bars of his pubs, insists the issue is not at all about being anti-European.

He said: "I would say get out of the EU in its present form. I would be happy for it to be a free trade area

with free movement of labour. You don't need the EU for that. It should remain a Common Market. It has got ideas above its station.

"I think that Britain has become less competitive and costs have become excessive because of employment regulation from the EU. It is completely crazy. It is very difficult to plan for the future because of the burden of regulation."

Martin also predicts that the European Union faces huge problems as the single currency buckles under the strain of the conflicting needs of its member countries.

"It's inevitably going to collapse, it's just a matter of when," he said.

"We are already suffering because Britain needs a prosperous Europe but it will be less prosperous because of the single currency."

David Buik at broker BGC Part-

ners is one of the City's best known and respected analysts. He says of the European Union: "I have nothing positive to say about it at all."

Although he does not advocate withdrawal because of the possible costs, his verdict on membership is: "I think the cost of being part of the EU has been catastrophic. It would have been far better for us if we were not in it.

"I think what is proved beyond doubt is the inability of European leaders to find common ground to run the EU and make it work.

"To think you can practically join 27 countries up and make them sing from the same hymn sheet is simply laughable."

Buik is particularly worried about the impact of European Union regulation on London's standing as a major global financial centre.

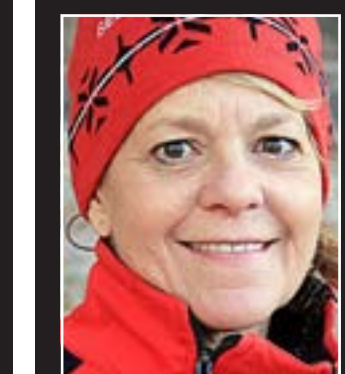
He said: "London is light-years ahead in banking and finance. What concerns me greatly is that we have handed banking regulation to the EU which could be the biggest mistake in 25 years.

"If bank regulation remains too draconian we could be handing our prowess to China and New York. Most people in the financial sector are extremely sceptical of the EU."

We must all stand proud and put the Great back into Britain



Susan McKendry, 24, is a nurse from Ballymena, Co Antrim
Britain is losing too much money and giving away too much control. I don't like the idea of giving away control to a central body. Britain should retain its identity.



American lobbyist Allyson Harte, 44, from Minneapolis, says she has travelled in Europe extensively and seen countries deteriorate as a result of the EU

Countries lose their cultural identity when they join the EU. I think it's really important for a country to stand on its own. There's a loss of accountability too as people don't always get to choose exactly who makes all of their decisions.

YOU have flooded the Daily Express with your messages of support for our great crusade to take Britain out of the EU. Your verdict on the EU is damning. The vast majority see Brussels as a bureaucratic monster that swallows our taxes, takes liberties with our laws and way of life and provides little of substance or benefit in return

YOUR crusade will not only rid us of the EU yoke that is around our necks but will honour the memory of those who gave their lives in two world wars for our freedom.

We have suffered too much under the heel of an undemocratic Brussels. Enough is enough.

Tom Collins, Stansted, Essex

THANK you for your front-page headline and leader ("Britain must take back control of its destiny", November 25).

The Daily Express has summarised what many of us know to be true but many of our arrogant politicians and bureaucrats refuse to accept. Referendums on major national issues would lead to better decision-making all round. Those in authority don't have a monopoly on good sense. Let's hope that your crusade develops the momentum to get us out of the EU.

David Carrington, Chester

GOOD luck with your crusade to get Britain out of the EU. Now the Daily Express needs to muster an enormous groundswell of public support and opinion and adopt an aggressive (though non-violent) attitude in its dealings with our elected leaders so that they sit up and take notice.

This issue should be debated and our hopes and fears aired, as from the time of Edward Heath through to the present day, successive governments have ignored our opinions.

I suspect the coalition Government will keep on surrendering our nation bit by bit to the EU instead of

standing up to it until there is no UK to govern as an independent entity.

Peter Morrison, Bedford

I WOULD like to add my thanks to the Daily Express for having the courage to speak out over Britain and the EU.

What a state of affairs when it's left up to a national newspaper to do what is necessary because our MPs simply don't possess the courage to stand up for their constituents.

The sooner we get out of the EU the better and I am sure the majority agree with me.

In addition, I am appalled that five major transfers of power to Brussels have taken place since the coalition Government came to power in May.

Under the EU Bill the Government will not have to hold a referendum on the transfer of power to Brussels if ministers consider the changes as being "not significant".

This is unacceptable given that the Labour government reneged on a promise to give us a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty.

Marie Norminton, Middlesbrough

GOOD work by the Daily Express for launching your call for Britain to quit the EU.

Maybe now, at last, the people of this country can get the politicians to scrap our membership of this corrupt, inward-looking organisation that offers us no discernible benefit and has never done so.

Let us follow the example of Norway and Switzerland and instead become only trading partners with Europe.

I believe this country would then undergo a renaissance in



Doctor Protu Atang, 69, a retired surgeon from Kingston, Surrey

For years Britain has been isolated anyway. I don't see what we gain by being in the EU.

We're paying more out when we should be concentrating on our own country, and the human rights regulations are barmy. When you look how cushy prisoners get things now it encourages crime. I think we should come out and stand on our own.

David Carrington, Chester



Ian McGurk, 27, a telecommunications worker from Liverpool

We should stay out of Europe. The taxes are too high and Britain will lose too much money if it joins the euro. I think it has damaged global trade relationships.

We used to do a lot of business outside Europe but now we only focus on the EU. We have enough problems at home without being dragged into European issues too.

various areas, including justice, social cohesion and fiscal responsibility.

Terry Spooner, Harlow, Essex

THE elephant in the room has been revealed and we implore you to tell all in Government that it is time to remove their rose-tinted EU spectacles,

make haste to get us out of Europe and commence negotiations for a Commonwealth free trade area without delay.

Chris Watkin, By email

I WAS near delirious with joy to see that a national paper has had the courage to

publish the unprintable: that the EU is the root cause of all our woes.

Hopefully others will follow suit, in particular the BBC. It will give heart to UKIP to continue and may force the other parties to take notice of anger against politicians.

W McGeary, Dumfries

I'VE only recently returned to the UK after nearly 40 years spent overseas.

Could somebody please explain to me the advantages (if any) of us being in the EU?

It seems to me, as a comparative outsider, that we're throwing vast amounts of money into a system which is giving us nothing in

return except totally irrelevant regulations.

Davie Kerr, Lochaber, Scotland

IT is unbelievable that Brussels bureaucrats are pouring billions of pounds of taxpayers' cash into helping countries such as Turkey and Albania join the EU. Please

tell me this is a joke. We are facing drastic cuts in our country and many people are struggling to survive.

When will David Cameron have the courage to pull us out of Europe?

Ann Masters, By email

WELL done to all at the Daily Express for championing the cause of democracy and fairness for the taxpayer with your crusade to pull Britain out of the EU.

Investment in public services is hamstrung by political correctness and all its attendant bureaucracy inflicted upon long-suffering British taxpayers through continued membership of the EU.

Freed of the deluge of regulations from Brussels we could prioritise spending on healthcare, policing,

defence and education and do so efficiently and economically.

We would regain our right of self-governance and return prosperity to this once-great country of ours.

T Dowdall, Rotherham, S Yorks

BRILLIANT! At long last a national newspaper, the fantastic Daily Express, is willing to stand up and speak out for the people of this country.

Maybe now those in power will sit up and take notice.

The money saved by quitting the EU would go a long way towards helping our own poor and needy, including pensioners faced with the upsetting prospect of selling their homes to get the help to which they should be entitled.

Keith Patrick, Bristol

BRITAIN'S membership of the EU has been a disaster. Why does a country need two parliaments with all the bureaucracy involved?

The cost is enormous and even the auditors of the EU accounts can't find where all the money, billions of pounds, disappears to.

However, we blindly ignore this and ever more increase

our contributions to help keep the juggernaut rolling.

Our economy has never been in such a poor state in peacetime, so being a member of the EU has not helped and we have to borrow money to help make our massive contributions. The money goes into supporting the thousands of employees of the EU with no obvious advantages to the UK.

The petty regulations that the EU feel they must make to justify themselves, from employment law to food, we could and always have made ourselves and don't need interference from outside.

J Jessop, Chester

I WOULD like to congratulate you on your crusade against membership of the EU.

How refreshing it was for a national newspaper to remind us of the dictatorial, costly, interfering and thoroughly unpleasant nature of the EU.

I can think of nothing in the political world that would make me, and I suspect millions of others, happier than a British withdrawal from the EU.

Good luck with the crusade you have launched.

James Connelly, Leuchars, Fife

COUNTLESS opinion polls tell us that most voters want this nation permanently out of the EU, a demand ignored by successive arrogant "we know best" British governments since 1972.

Political union with the rest of Europe, no. Healthy trading partnership, yes.

With the Daily Express leading the growing resistance movement we can only look forward to victory in Europe.

Roger Prescott, Plympton, Devon

DAILY EXPRESS
 How Bruno Tonioli beat the bullies to become Strictly's sharpest wit
 Big freeze will last two weeks

99% OF YOU SAY: GET US OUT OF EUROPE

GET BRITAIN OUT OF EUROPE

DAILY EXPRESS CRUSADE



DAILY EXPRESS
£5 OFF WHSmith
 It's over! Ann dances off into the sunset

FURY AT EU'S GRAVY TRAIN

- Diplomats living the high life
- £188k pay ● 15 weeks holiday

Farewell Katia... Russia's foxy spy in the House



DAILY EXPRESS
 We can still bring the World Cup home to Britain

EURO COURT COULD FREE RIPPER

Killer asks human rights judges for release date

Snow brings the whole of UK to a stop



THE BATTLE FOR BRITAIN

THE Daily Express has become Britain's leading and most fearless campaigning newspaper, pursuing a whole series of crusades that have attracted massive support in recent years. More than a quarter of a million people signed up to our campaign against the crippling inheritance tax regime, leading to major concessions from the Government over the payment threshold.

Way back in 2000 we also led the uproar against Gordon Brown's decision to uprate the state pension by just 73p: the price of a bag of peanuts. We called for a "pensioners' tennor" increase.

Again, more than 250,000 Daily Express readers supported the cause and the following year the pension was raised by £7.50 with measures put in place to ensure that never again could pensioners be short-changed to the degree they had been.

This newspaper has shown it is prepared to tackle whoever is in power in the interests of its readers.

Where other newspapers have tried to cultivate close friendships with leading

Patrick O'Flynn
 Chief political commentator

lights in the political class we have always sought to hold them to account for their actions.

Our crusade to take Britain out of the EU sets an objective that runs counter to the policies of the leaderships of all three main political parties.

None will find it convenient and all will try to resist but polls have shown that by a margin of almost two to one the British public wants out of the EU.

Amid the troubles of the euro and poor economic performance across the EU this number seems likely to grow in coming years.

To judge by their letters and phone calls, readers of the Daily Express are already overwhelmingly of the view that Britain would be Better Off Out.

After carefully investigating the matter we have concluded that the readers are

correct and the political class is wrong. The response to this, our greatest ever crusade, has been even bigger than to our crusades over death duty and the state pension. We received well over 100,000 campaign coupons in the first month, with tens of thousands more backers signing up online.

The objective of taking Britain out of the EU is the most ambitious this newspaper has ever set for one of its crusades but we believe the weight of public opinion can be harnessed to force all the main parties to pledge a new referendum on EU membership.

The extent of the surrender of sovereignty since the 1975 referendum on the "Common Market" and the contortions the political class has gone through to keep the issue of Europe out of successive general elections means that democratic accountability has been thwarted for more than 35 years.

This has had a catastrophic impact upon trust in the political system.

When the 1975 referendum occurred Labour leader Ed Miliband was just five years old, Prime Minister David Cameron

and his deputy Nick Clegg were both eight. Nobody under the age of 53 has ever been able to vote specifically on Britain's relationship with the EU.

Before the last general election Mr Clegg called for a new referendum on EU membership but since being made Deputy PM he has gone quiet on the matter.

It is time that all the party leaders were made to put their case on the EU before the British people.

If they are so confident about the benefits of continued EU membership then they should be able to persuade most middle-of-the-road voters during the course of a referendum campaign.

Their unwillingness to offer one can only lead to the conclusion that they know the case for continued membership is threadbare and that only those on board the EU gravy train are benefiting.

With your help we believe this Daily Express crusade can be every bit as effective as its forerunners and secure a famous victory that helps to return to the British people power over their shared national destiny.

DAILY EXPRESS
 Prince Andrew 'was so rude to everybody'
£5 OFF BOOKS AND STATIONERY AT WHSmith
 TV James Nesbitt's amazing new look

EU BAIL-OUT BOMBSHELL

Now we have to find billions for Portugal, Spain and even Belgium

GLOBAL WARMING? IF ONLY...



DAILY EXPRESS
 GET YOUR DAILY EXPRESS FOR JUST 30p
 GIRL AGED 14 DIES AFTER CANCER JAB
 FOR EVERY READER STAY AT A TOP UK HOTEL FOR £10

EUROPE SPIES ON YOUR PAY AND SAVINGS

Jail my £400million husband, says wife



DAILY EXPRESS
 Cameron on the threshold of Downing Street after a total triumph in the big TV debate

EURO COURT HANDS OUR BENEFITS TO TERRORISTS

Controls on wives' handouts scrapped

Cleared: Teacher who battered boy with a dumbbell





Join our crusade

An overwhelming response

By Geoff Marsh

EVERY day more sacks of coupons supporting our crusade to get Britain out of the EU are arriving at the offices of the Daily Express. We will hand them over to Downing Street and demand a response from the Government.

While we expect ministers to initially refuse to bow to the demand for a referendum on EU withdrawal, pressure on them will grow during the course of this Parliament.

As more and more voters let their representatives know that they will only support candidates at the next election who promise to back a referendum the weight of popular opinion is certain to tell.

And with more EU bail-outs likely later in 2011, along with another

phase of poor economic performance and another wave of job-destroying Brussels regulations, those convinced Britain is Better Off Out will swell in number. So don't just fill in a coupon yourself, hand the spare ones printed on this page to your friends and relatives and encourage them to get involved in the Daily Express crusade.

Another way to participate is online. Tens of thousands of you have signed an e-petition at Express.co.uk and left messages of support.

Hundreds more flooded our popular Have Your Say message boards to vent their frustration at Brussels meddling in Britain's affairs.

Jenny 601 posted: "We must get out of the EU. Thanks to the Daily Express for supporting a withdrawal. We have to govern ourselves and take responsibility for Britain's future."

Barbara3 agreed: "We all have relatives who fought and died for this country but still our MPs have the arrogance not to ask the people what they want. This campaign gives us a chance to express our feelings."

Michael67 said: "I wrote to my MP and said that I would like him to support us. He replied that whilst a Eurosceptic, he is not yet ready to leave the EU. If he won't vote for me, why should I vote for him?"

That is a question many more MPs must be made to ponder in the months ahead.

DAILY EXPRESS GET US OUT OF THE EU

To the Prime Minister

"The Daily Express is crusading to end Britain's membership of the European Union. I call on the Government to arrange for an orderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU either by means of an enabling referendum or directly so that the British people are once again placed in charge of their own political destiny."

Signed:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

We will pass on your voucher to No 10 Downing Street
Please complete and send to: GET US OUT OF EUROPE,
News Desk, Daily Express, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN

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PATRICK O'FLYNN

CHIEF POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

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Pictures: AP; ALAMY

WHAT do you do when you see that an emperor has no clothes? The answer that most of us would like to give is that we would point it out, as the Daily Express has done in the case of the European empire.

But that is to underestimate the power of conventional wisdom, particularly within political elites and among vested interests. In the Hans Christian Andersen story *The Emperor's New Clothes* it took an unruly child to break the spell that had bound his elders by loudly declaring of his potentate: "But he isn't wearing anything at all."

In the intellectually stultified atmosphere of British politics it has lately been the role of the Daily Express to perform a similar public service.

This newspaper was the first to point out that the immigration and asylum system had run out of control and to demonstrate the disastrous impact of that upon everything from housing and jobs to race relations and pressure on public services.

At first we were roundly condemned and ridiculed by the political and media elite. The BBC's *Newsnight* programme was a particular source of state-sponsored attacks on the prominence we gave to these issues.

Yet slowly but surely the many downsides of mass immigration became apparent to more and more until after the last general election even the Labour Party admitted it had messed up on the issue and the BBC began to cover it a little more even-handedly.

The Daily Express was also in the vanguard of those warning that public spending and borrowing had become excessive - back in the days when David Cameron and George Osborne were still signed up to matching Labour's expenditure plans. It was Emperor Brown, the man who claimed to have "ended boom and bust", who was in our sights then.

When the political elite proposed taking Britain into the single currency we were there to argue against that proposition too, thankfully as part of a powerful media and political chorus loud enough to convey to the public the economic perils that euro-membership would entail. The over-mighty BBC was also on the wrong side of that argument.

AND now this is the first national newspaper to point out that the economic case for Britain's continued membership of the European Union has totally fallen apart.

Back in the early Seventies the mainland European economy was seen as being far more successful than the British one. We were frequently described as the "sick man" of Europe, held back by terrible industrial relations, continual

balance of payments crises and bouts of excessive inflation.

Since then it is the economies of mainland Europe that have become sick through a disastrous combination of over-regulation, excessive taxation and currency union.

Brussels has promoted these prosperity-busting changes at every step of the way.

For decades now the EU's member states have been stuck in the slow lane of the world economy, trailing far behind dynamic, low-tax, lightly regulated rivals.

At the same time Britain has been a massive and growing net contributor to the EU's coffers as the poor nations of Southern and

Eastern Europe have been admitted to the club and seen funds channelled towards them.

But the European countries that stayed outside the EU, notably Switzerland and Norway, have become the most prosperous on the whole continent, able to negotiate free trade deals with Brussels yet unencumbered by most of its red tape and interference.

Once the economic case for British membership of the EU disappears there is no case left at all.

For the British public never had any latent desire to become part of a united states of Europe. On the contrary the overwhelming majority are intensely proud of their country

and its history and wish to retain its political integrity.

They are also keen that it should sustain good relationships with America, the countries of the Commonwealth and other powerhouses of the 21st-century global economy as well as with mainland Europe.

When it comes to defence our mutual interests are co-ordinated by Nato rather than the EU and only France has significant forces anyway. Were Europe ever to be invaded again it would need America to come to the rescue.

So Herman van Rompuy and the other European emperors have no clothes. As Danny Kaye once sang in the film of Andersen's tale, they

are in the altogether and are altogether as naked as the day that they were born.

Their empire is holding Britain back economically and undermining public faith and pride in our political process.

Now the Daily Express has followed logic through to its conclusion and then voiced that conclusion in a straightforward and forthright manner.

In doing so we are taking on the conventional wisdom of the political class and its media allies. Going by previous experience we can expect hostility and ridicule from them in return - until the day they admit they got it wrong after all.

Oh look, our European emperor's wearing no clothes



NAKED: How European Union President Herman van Rompuy might try to preserve his modesty as voters across the EU notice his predicament

Self-governing Britain will again hold its head high

By Nigel Farage, Leader of the UK Independence Party

IS it time to leave the European Union, would we be "Better Off Out"? As the Daily Express courageously insists: of course we would.

Over the past 20 years I have been promoting the very simple idea that our country would be doing itself, its people and the rest of the world a great favour by returning to self-governance.

This is why. We would be Better Off Out financially by not paying the £48million a day to the EU. This would be better spent at home with priorities set by our elected representatives rather than returned in part with European conditions.

We would be Better Off Out financially minus the dead weight of regulation that makes the life of our businesspeople a misery. From small businesses to

the City, all are hidebound by EU regulations. We would be Better Off Out politically. We could regain our democracy and the liberty to hire and fire the politicians who make our laws.

Today, with about 75 per cent of our laws made in Brussels, that is just impossible. Millions of Britons have fought for that freedom and the Daily Express is joining that noble fight.

We would be Better Off Out because we would regain self-confidence as a nation. We would not have laws dictated to us by those who know us little and care about us less. We would no longer be

ordered by foreign judges to give prisoners the vote. We would once again be a nation that could hold its head high, govern ourselves and trade with the rest of the world. By leaving the European Union we could ditch the failed ideas of the 20th century and embrace the 21st with hope and confidence.

We are a trading nation, ready to take our place in the competitive world. This should not faze us, it should enthuse us. We have the ingenuity, the people and, given our freedom, would have success.

I welcome the few isolated figures from the Conservatives and Labour who share this view. But I must point out only UKIP has steadfastly held the line which the Daily Express is now championing. It will be a long, hard fight. But it will be won.



EUROPEAN BATTLER: UKIP's Nigel Farage



The wind of change is now blowing

LORD TEBBIT

THE RESPECTED PEER SAYS IT IS TIME TO STAND UP FOR BRITAIN

THE Daily Express has long been a great campaigning newspaper. That is why I started to read it while I was delivering newspapers as a boy, more years ago than I care to remember.

Now it has begun its greatest crusade, to free this kingdom from the stranglehold of the elite which is determined to create a European republic bigger than any European empire since the days of Rome.

That elite knows that for nearly a thousand years it has been Britain which has frustrated the ambitions of would-be European emperors

and dictators alike. The fate of Ireland is a terrible warning. Having struggled to free itself of rule from Westminster it is now to be treated like a colony of Brussels.

Our own Government, which is in hock to the Europhiles led by Mr Clegg, many of whom seem more loyal to Brussels than Britain, seems unwilling to stand up for our country. The Daily Express must become the rallying point for all of

us, from any party or none, who believe that this kingdom should be governed only with the consent of its own people.

We are not anti-European. We are not isolationists. We acknowledge that much is better done together than separately. We have no wish to impose our ways on them.

We simply want what the peoples of these islands have always wanted and for which we have often fought,

the right to govern ourselves, to make our own laws, to elect and dismiss our own governments.

I am sure the decision to come out for the Eurosceptic cause was taken because the Daily Express believes in that cause.

No popular newspaper could sustain a campaign which would lose readers by cutting across what they believe.

Twenty years ago it would have

been suicidal for a national newspaper to proclaim that Britain would be Better Off Out.

Now, this great national newspaper has scented the wind that is beginning to blow through the country and it has recommitted itself to the cause of freedom. That wind must become a hurricane to blow away the posturing Europhile politicians and the fat cats making money by siding with Brussels against their own country.

Politicians beware. Not just the Daily Express but its readers who are your voters will want to know where you stand.

CROSS WITH EUROPE: A EUROSCOPTICS' CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Eighth European Commission President who promised the TUC that Europe would require national governments to implement pro-union laws (7,6)
- Absolutely nothing – as some might say we get from the EU (3)
- Meeting, sometimes brief, unlike in Brussels (9)
- Dry, lifeless, unproductive – not unlike the EU (4)
- (and 17 down). Politician soundly rejected by British voters who fell in the sea and became a European Commissioner (4,7)
- Regret, as many of us now feel towards Europe or just a street in France (3)
- (and 16 across) What we used to call the EU (6,6)
- See 15 across
- Land of ___, a hopeless dreamworld like the EU (3)
- Formal test, like those the EU has failed (4)
- Turn your back on or ignore, as we should perhaps do to Brussels (4)
- Home for parentless children, not lost causes like the EU (9)
- What good British acorns grow into (3)
- Troublesome fellow – like 1 across, some might think (8-5)

DOWN

- Military-style, unaccountable ruling group – not unlike the EU's some may say (5)
- Chemical element that helps build strong bones and a good constitution, unlike that of the EU (7)

- Profitable means of employment – of which you might think the EU has fewer and fewer (4)
- One who has been fooled, as we seem to have been over EU membership (6)
- Aussie bird gives us a plan for a single European currency (3)
- British mammal or Cockney improvement in the weather? (5)
- The sort of overproduction that creates wine lakes and butter mountains (7)
- “Half a ___” – Margaret Thatcher’s dismissive description of an offer of a slight reduction in Britain’s net contribution to the Brussels budget (4)
- Treaty of ___, the original 1957 six-country treaty to found the EEC (4)
- Toe the line, follow rules, losing individuality, as we have been doing in Europe for too long (7)
- See 11 across
- Nigel ___, leader of the UK Independence Party (6)
- Takes in, fools, pulls wool over eyes, as the EU does so well, you may think (5)
- The EU may take its slice of our daily bread but this chap makes it! (5)
- The place for David Cameron to be at, steering the British ship of state, rather than having 1 across at this (4)
- Cause of much trouble for Britain earlier this year, not from Europe but Iceland (3)

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ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1 JACQUES DELORS; 8 NIL; 9 ENCOUNTER; 10 ARID; 11 NEIL; 13 RUE; 15 COMMON; 16 MARKET; 19 NOD; 21 EXAM; 22 SNUB; 25 ORPHANAGE; 27 OAK; 28 MISCHIEF-MAKER; 29 DOWN: 1 JUNTA; 2 CALCIUM; 3 USES; 4 SUCKER; 5 EMU; 6 OTTER; 7 SURFEIT; 12 LOAF; 14 ROME; 15 CONFORM; 17 KINNOCK; 18 FARAGE; 20 DUPES; 23 BAKER; 24 HELM; 26 ASH

DAILY  EXPRESS

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BRITAIN

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