

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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'BRITAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION'

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1. Introduction – About the UK Independence Party (UKIP)

Mr Chairman, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Thank you for the honour of inviting me up to Leeds University. I know
Leeds to be a thriving City and a fun place to be.**

**It is unusual to have the opportunity to speak for quite some time - 45
minutes or more.**

**What I intend to do is to cover three sections: firstly, to explain briefly
about our party UKIP and 'independence', then to explain what we**

believe is wrong about Britain being in the European Union, and thirdly to articulate what we call a 'positive vision' of an independent Britain, a Britain that has left the EU and is trading and acting freely again in the world.

So just to begin with the party, UKIP, which we are now terming 'independence' for short. Just a few pointers:

- We do not hate Europe, as Norway and Switzerland do not hate Europe. But neither of those two countries are in the EU, yet they trade happily with it whilst being the richest countries per head in Europe – what does that tell us ? We just want Britain to be the same.
- Wishing to leave the EU is not right wing, left wing, nor... centre wing. We are a national coalition party with members from the Liberals, Labour and Conservative Parties – what we call the 'LibLabCon' parties. The current Prime Minister Tony Blair was elected to Parliament in 1983 on a manifesto of leaving the European Union. He may be right wing, but Michael Foot the then Party Leader was certainly of the Left.
- UKIP is a non-racist, non-sectarian party, but one that still believes in merit and ability, and not in placemen and women, nor quotas and certainly not political correctness.
- We are not just about Europe, but believe in greater independence and freedom from the faceless bureaucrats and their diktats at

every level – not just from Brussels, but those in Whitehall, and the town hall. This will make it worth voting again. We want schools and universities and you students to be independent and to run your own lives, and for hospitals and policing and councils and care homes also to be genuinely democratic and independent in terms of management and funding. We are pro-referendums and against red tape. We are against unelected, unaccountable Regional Assemblies and regional quangos which now cost us a million pounds a day and have some delegate councillors paid up to £93,000 each to attend, Assemblies like your North West Assembly now have major planning powers – and are EU-imposed. We are basically pro-democracy anti-bureaucrat.

- Finally, we have 10 Members of The European Parliament led by Nigel Farage MEP, our Party Leader, two Lords and many councillors, with members in all four home nations. A recent Sunday Times poll puts us on 5 to 7% of voters nationally. In 2004 we obtained 2.6 million votes and 16% of the vote.**
- Even if we do not win MPs this time, with such a share of the vote in the situation of a Hung Parliament, UKIP could determine the outcome of the next General election. It is calculated that UKIP cost the Tories 27 seats at the last election, and that with less than 3% of the vote then. We could hold the balance of power.**

2. What's wrong with Britain being in the European Union ?

If that explains a little about our party and what we are about, why is it that UKIP wants to take Britain out of the European Union ?

2.1. UKIP's 3 key messages

There are 3 key, overriding points we make:

- 1. Firstly, that the European Union has imposed over 120,000 directives and regulations on this country and around 3,500 are added every year. Some of these I will illustrate shortly, but they are regulations like the ones that destroyed the Bowland Dairy with the loss of 26 jobs, despite the UK Food Standards Agency saying their cheeses were safe.**
- 2. The EU is now responsible for 70% of our laws in Westminster (and actually 80% of German federal laws).**
- 3. The EU costs Britain over £52 billion a year – made up of our £14.2bn membership contribution a year, the sum after Tony Blair surrendered £7 billion of our rebate, plus £2.2bn for EU institutions, £15bn in Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) payments to farmers, £1bn for Common Fisheries Policy payments, and £20bn at least in red tape on our businesses and people. That equates to £100,000 a minute or £873 a year for every man, woman or child in the UK. We believe there is much more cost hidden in the system too.**

2.2. The supposed benefits of being in the EU

Now, fans of the European Union, the Europhiles, maintain that the EU is a happy group of nations without which there would be wars, nations wouldn't otherwise speak to each other, and there would be no jobs, no trade and no grants to build roads and improve lives without being in the EU. Really ?

And yet when we ask the Government to do a cost-benefit analysis revealing what the positive net benefits apparently are of being in the European Union – a reasonable request you might think – do you know what their answer is ? They refuse to do this on the grounds that the benefits are “self-evident”. Now I wouldn't suggest you use that answer on exam papers – ‘the benefits of my passing this exam are self evident’. No, it won't wash.

Then Geoff Hoon, the Europe Minister, was pleading last Summer for the 'benefits' of the EU to be taught as part of the compulsory national curriculum in our schools. So we all obviously need educating in these benefits !

And the overwhelming question is this: what benefits do we gain in return for all those financial costs and costs in terms of the serious loss of control and freedoms involved, that we would not still enjoy if we were like Norway and Switzerland – free trading, independent countries with free trade area or bilateral deals with the EU, and with

negotiated agreements over the free movement of peoples and capital ?

Well, what about all this lovely money from the EU – all those EU grants available, all those EU billboards by the side of the road or next to shiny new developments ? Well, it's actually our own money - because we are one of the few net contributors. The French, for example, only started making any net contribution to the EU in the last year.

And this money comes back with strings attached: you don't get your own money back unless, you've guessed it, you match the funding with yet more UK money. So every £1 we receive back from the EU costs Britain £2.60 to get back. And now the UK qualifies for very few grants at all. Great deal yes ? No. So why not just keep the pound and save the £1.60 too ?!

2.3 How the EU effects Britain at home

Now we get at UKIP a lot of people saying we “bang on about Europe” too much. Dave Cameron is one. They ask, aren't we just a little paranoiac about the EU – seeing ‘Reds under the bed’ – that sort of thing ? Many people think that ‘Europe’ can be put in a separate and distinct box and does not effect our lives here at home. But where do you imagine all those 120,000 directives and regulations are going ?

Let me give you some examples of the effect of EU laws, and these are just some of the most recent, to show what is often not seen or not reported or not understood, or all three:

- *Bird Flu in Britain* – nothing to do with the EU, surely ? Wrong. In the small print of news about that recent outbreak in Suffolk was hidden the fact that the Minister responsible was relieved that the outbreak had been contained ‘without breaking EU rules’. What he meant was that if we prevented turkeys being freely imported from Hungary, an EU country, or elsewhere in the EU, the EU Commission could punish us. In short, the British Government was prepared to risk the health of the British nation with potentially a very serious pandemic just to follow EU rules on trade. And funnily enough, when some British beef is infected with BSE, countries like France got away with a beef ban, even months after our beef was proven to be free of BSE.
- *Closing rural post offices* ? Nothing to do with the EU ? Well, take a look at Article 88 of the Nice Treaty, one of the six treaties like Maastricht this country has signed. It prevents Britain subsidising post offices more than £150 million a year, even if every political party in the country agreed we should. So 3,000 post offices must close because we cannot break EU rules. At the same time it is EU Postal Directive 97/67/EC which

has forced us to change the whole system of postal sizes, to advantage Royal Mail competitors.

- *Immigration and migration into Britain? Why is immigration so out of control in Britain ?* A BBC Analysis last year estimated that 1.425 million people have arrived in Britain since May 2004. That's equivalent to twice the population of Leeds arriving (715,404 – 2001 census), and does not include the self-employed or visitors or obviously illegal workers. This is the largest inflow ever in our history. Now I stress that it's not that immigration per se is bad, because immigration can indeed bring real benefits and most immigrants are decent, hard working people. But it is the case that unmanaged, uncontrolled immigration can and does overwhelm our housing, the NHS, schools and transport. These levels of immigration are directly related to the loss of our national borders under EU rules dating from 1994.

The number of asylum seekers is now also an EU matter not a UK one. We no longer know who goes in and out of the UK from the EU, or why. A senior Home Office official admitted he didn't have "the faintest idea" the numbers of illegal immigrants. A Government leak showed it expected 50,000 criminals to arrive from Bulgaria and Rumania after their accession this year, but was powerless to stop it. Another leaked Government dossier found that 85% of cash machine

crime was from Romanian-organised gangs and there was a warning of increases in crimes like sex trafficking, street violence and fraud. Is this what the EU means by increased economic activity, I ask mischievously ?!

Yet another leaked letter, from Miss Ryan the Home Office Minister involved in the criminal records row, admitted: "The UK Immigration Service is unable to routinely access details of an EEA [European Economic Area] national's personal information or criminal record in their country of origin."

And a consequence of uncontrolled immigration has been a substantial rise in UK unemployment to 1.7 million, with the biggest annual rise for more that a decade – 242,000 – according to official statistics. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research regards the impact as being a huge economic 'shock'.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) concluded that the massive increase in cheap foreign labour had driven up UK unemployment rates from 4.8 per cent in 2005 to 5.6 per cent in 2006, and predicts a rise to 5.8 per cent this year. That would put the UK above the average for other industrial nations. The UK Treasury denies there is any

link to job losses. But then they are the same people who regarded the EU's benefits as being self-evident.

The OECD also found that the scale of this immigration had put greater demands on limited housing stock, saying: "More recently, the easing of restrictions on immigrant workers in 2004 led to a rise in the demand for accommodation, partly offsetting the impact of tighter monetary policy on real house prices."

- ***Dangerous lorries*** ?The EU is requiring British lorry drivers under the EU Driver Training Directive to undergo 35 hours retraining and take a medical every 5 years. This one directive, described as a 'bombshell' will cost Britain £700 million, despite the Road Haulage Association saying "We already have a better road safety record than most of the other EU countries."

In contrast, the BBC One's Real Story 'Lethal Lorries' reported a police chief, Chief Superintendent Geraint Annyl, claiming that foreign lorry drivers are putting lives at risk by overworking, by using vehicles with serious faults, and by overloading their trucks. 400 people are killed in UK accidents involving lorries every year. Annyl said that EU expansion had made the situation worse. He said: "This is a very serious issue and lives are at risk here. As we've seen accession

countries coming into the EU, the offending rate is getting greater and greater."

An unnamed Polish driver spoke is recorded saying, "I didn't understand the English road signs. I still don't. I came to the conclusion that sooner or later I would fall asleep behind the wheel killing somebody or killing myself."

But the EU bans any national control over foreign lorries. A proposal by the Tory Party, which was embraced by the Labour Government – the 'Britdisc' – aimed to charge foreign lorries for using UK roads, which travel now for free by not buying any fuel in Britain. But that was ruled illegal by the EU.

- ***Earl Grey Tea* ? How could the EU be at all involved over this elegant form of tea ? Well, EU rules will make the production of the citrus fruit, bergamot, the oil of which gives the tea its flavour, uneconomic for the small family Italian farmers who grow the majority of it - costing them £35,000 each. After 200 years, the EU now thinks Earl Grey tea dangerous ! The EU is also threatening to wipe vitamins and herbal medicines off the chemist's shelves by draconian new regulations which favour the big drug producers.**

So there you are: Bird flu, post offices, immigration, dangerous lorries and Earl Grey Tea – just a recent sample of the

comprehensive range and impact of the EU's 120,000 laws on our domestic way of life in the UK.

But if these seem minor to you, may I draw your attention to the deeper and more serious underlying threat the EU represents ?

Fundamentally the issue is about who runs our country. For the EU now so profoundly effects our laws, freedoms, identity, taxes trade and society, that we are no longer able in Britain to represent the democratic wishes of the people. No wonder that 18 million do not bother to vote and 65% say 'None of the Above' to the traditional political parties (You Gov Telegraph poll Feb '07).

2.4 What you didn't know about the EU

2.4.1. Creating a country by stealth

Now the European Union is predicated on a simple, naïve and outdated notion: that nation states cause wars. So, the logic goes, by destroying nation states like Germany and the United Kingdom, and by replacing them with strong European central government and with strong EU regional government, you will prevent war. Accordingly, nothing must stand in the way of the creation of a dominant and overriding United States of Europe (USE). This is what is now being taught through propaganda in schools. 'This price is worth paying for of peace', they say. It matters not that our collective sovereignty, independence, freedoms, cultures and democracy are sacrificed along the way.

The founding father of the European Union, the master bureaucrat, Jean Monnet, had a contempt for democracy. He said this: "Europe's nations should be guided towards the superstate without their people understanding what is happening. This can be accomplished by successive steps each disguised as having an economic purpose, but which will inevitably, and irreversibly lead to federation". The destruction of Britain and other nation states must be done through deceit and subterfuge.

One day we will wake up and realise that our country is gone, and we now live in a country call Europe. And then it'll be too late.

That's the intention.

2.4.2 The EU's institutions – working for integration

To achieve this end, the EU uses a bureaucratic machine – the European Commission – to drive integration. Its ideas come from integrationists and lobbyists, who feed off its lack of democratic checks and balances to force through proposals friendly to big business.

There is a European Parliament, but it is a sham Parliament. It has no real power. It has never voted down a Commission proposal which hasn't been brought back again for consideration. Do you know what the longest speech time is ? 3 minutes ! Most are 1½ minutes. Votes are often with a show of hands at such a speed

that UKIP MEPs have challenged votes and found they were the wrong way round.

The Council of Ministers does deals that effect your lives and your futures in secret – you can never know what was negotiated away.

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) drives through integration through overriding and legal and national sovereignty.

The EU system is the equivalent of Whitehall coming up with all our laws and policy ideas, with Westminster and the parties then meekly revising those proposals. It is profoundly undemocratic and dangerous.

2.4.3 The dangers of a 'Country called Europe' - Soviet echoes

But where does this country called Europe take us ? Will it increasingly seek to rival the United States, and how far will it go in doing that ? There have nearly been trade wars already, and the European Parliament's recent Extradition Report was vehemently anti-American in tone, as the largest MEP Group pointed out.

The Airbus 380 was proudly launched by EU leaders as if it was a political statement of equality in its rivalry with America and the Boeing company. The USA has made it clear that the EU's new Galileo satellite system, which aims to rival the USA's GPS satellites, will be shot down if it becomes a threat. The US has

held back its stealth technology from British aircraft carriers because of our closeness with France, so threatening the special relationship, because France is working on weapons with China, which now owns a 20% stake in Galileo. Galileo is the same satellite system that is intended to work satellite road pricing which proved so unpopular on the Number Ten website. 1.8 million names, and that was before they knew the Chinese regime might be the ones watching !

I recently debated with the former French Socialist Prime Minister, Laurent Fabius in Dublin. He is indicative of the EU's thinking. Mr Fabius is on record calling for a "Real Europe" - a Europe that will be stronger and able to challenge the USA. He opposed the EU Constitution, because, I quote, "The world cannot be dominated only by the United States of Europe" and there must be a "question of a powerful Europe being able to intervene in the international setting". Would this be like Napoleon or perhaps Charles Fifth of the Holy Roman Empire, who was the last to have a common currency ? They all did a lot of intervening.

Will this stronger, more social, Real Europe, a political state not a free trade zone, merely act to challenge the USA for world supremacy – becoming a new Socialist European Union that replaces the Soviet Union as the enemy of America ? And does

that lead to greater peace, freedom and stability for us, which the whole EU concept is meant to guarantee ? I don't think so.

It's actually democracy and NATO that have kept the peace in Europe. But that very democracy is being undermined to such an extent in this pursuit of a European country, that if the European Union applied to join itself, it would fail the democratic test.

The Soviet Union also indulged in destroying national culture, feelings and identity, and in encouraging the abandonment of ethnic customs in order to embrace the federation. Stalin blew up superb cathedrals in Ukraine and crushed its nationalism through enforced famines. A Russian rebel we know, Bukovisky, who spent time in the gulags, remarks: "I have seen your tomorrow, it was my past".

2.4.4 – Only countries need constitutions - the EU Constitution

In much the same way, the onus of the EU is to make us all 'Europeans' at the expense of our national identities – the EU constitution indeed introduces the notion of EU citizens.

The reality is that integration means one European Country – and that means one flag (which the EU has, and was flown at the Ryder Cup against the USA), one anthem ('Ode to Joy', Beethoven's ninth), one currency (the Euro, run from Frankfurt),

one President (which it has, and which will shortly be made permanent), one Parliament (sort of), a constitution (retired hurt, which is set to return under the Berlin 'Solemn Declaration' in March masquerading as 'Basic Law'), a single army (in that constitution), a single set of embassies (acting in whose national interest – France's ?), a single Foreign Minister and a single Defence Minister (both in the Constitution), a single set of laws (it won't be our shared common law but the Napoleonic Code and Corpus Juris – one of our members spent a year in jail in Spain without any charges: they don't have Habeus Corpus there, and nor would the EU), a single European power grid and energy regulator, and a single European transport and aviation network – our major transport routes are already under EU control and the Commons Transport Select Committee recently branded the new single European Aviation Safety Agency as an "accident waiting to happen". All of this will be underpinned by one set of harmonised taxes (that means much higher taxes for us).

And if you don't believe this, then try ploughing through the 465 pages of the proposed EU Constitution, written in Orwellian doublespeak, and which is most unlike the American constitution - which is 16 pages, clear and understandable.

Article 1-6 gives the EU primacy over the law of member states. 1-10 establishes EU citizenship. 1-12 gives the EU major powers – such as over defence, and states that member states must not

compete with the EU's powers. 1-16 gives the EU absolute power over defence, security and foreign policy. 1-26 gives the Commission, the EU's bureaucrats, absolute power – the only sanction is one of censure.

1-46 encourages political parties at the European Level – in the European elections after 2009. In 2014, you will not have Conservative, Labour, Lib Dem or UKIP parties standing, only vague EU alliances such as the European People's Party (EPP), which Dave Cameron could not bring himself to leave.

1-50 says that only the EU Parliament, and occasionally the Council of Ministers, shall meet in public – all other meetings will be in secret. Try asking for minutes of Council meetings and decisions – they are secret now.

1-60 generously says that “any State may decide to withdraw from the EU”, but then goes on to make it virtually impossible. To leave, you would have to leave on terms decided by the Council of Ministers (perhaps giving up our oil, or more fishing or currency reserves ?). The leaving terms will require a qualified majority of 72% of the council, and the EU Parliament's agreement. The Soviets would have been proud of this !

This document is what a senior Tory has called a “tidying up exercise” – did he mean the remains of Britain ? Just look at official EU maps – England no longer appears, only the EU’s 9 English regions, which report directly or via Mr Prescott to the Brussels-based ‘Committee of the Regions’. England is already being balkanised through unelected, unaccountable Regional Assemblies.

2.4.5 The ‘Solemn Declaration’ – a Constitution by the back door

People say that this Constitution is dead, but it isn’t. Despite rejection democratically by the French and Dutch, the majority of it will be implemented in 2 years time anyway. The latest tactic you will see next month at the EU’s Berlin Summit under Angela Merkel, is a ‘Solemn Declaration’ by all 27 nations and the introduction of a ‘Basic Law’, which is the Constitution by another name – except it comes without the need for referendums.

This ‘Basic Law’ will be less than 50 pages, but which will contain all the same substantive aspects of the Constitution including the Foreign Minister (who already exists in embryo – Javier Solana is in this position), the Defence Minister, and the end of vetoes in 47 separate areas of policy. A German Minister reportedly threatens that "if certain member states veto [the replacement constitution], then very difficult discussions will start, and will lead us in directions that for the European Union will be very difficult."

2.4.6. Justice and Home Affairs – the UK's legal system at risk

One area of the 47 is the loss of our veto on justice and home affairs matters, which is deeply concerning. The Labour peer Lord Stoddart said: "I would like to know why the Government considers that it has the authority to bypass [the Westminster] Parliament and negotiate away a veto, which would signal the end of 800 years of independent judiciary in Britain. Casualties of this appalling surrender of government may very well include the right to trial by jury, habeas corpus and the presumption of innocence. Making British justice subject to qualified majority voting is a disastrous idea and no government in its right mind would even consider it. The growing power of the EU is a major threat to our Parliamentary democracy and to our civil liberties".

In contrast, The President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, said that a large number of the decisions in the fields of justice, freedom and security could be "dealt with more effectively at European level than at national level" and claims: "People are asking for 'more Europe' in order to combat terrorism and organised crime. It is our duty to respond to this appeal, with or without a constitution." Who are these people ?

This ongoing EU integration will inevitably mean Britain will end up losing its influence in the world through its UN seat on the

Security Council, its seat on the G8, its seat on the International Monetary Fund in favour of the EU.

Also with regard to crime policy, EU Human Rights legislation, enframed into Human Rights Act 1998, has produced disastrous results. Examples include prisoners demanding compensation for not being allowed heroin in jail, the fact over 1,000 EU prisoners in our jails cannot be deported, and in the words of the distraught husband of Policewoman Sharon Beshenisky, gunned down by a Somalian freed because Home Office officials ruled it would be unfair to deport him amid fears he would be in danger and his rights be infringed.

The widower says: "It is absolutely disgusting that this man - a criminal who acts like an animal - is shown human rights. What about my kids, my wife, my family? I'd like these do-gooders that believe in people's human rights to come and explain that to my children. Telling them that their mum wasn't coming back was the most terrible thing I've ever had to do." (Daily Mail)

The Germans are now proposing an EU law to make denial of genocide a crime, including denial of those in Africa and the Balkans, with a proposed sentence of 3 years. The EU also wants to impose criminal sentences now on us for 'green crimes', overriding national parliaments and imposing them direct.

Oh, and no doubt the new Constitution will go on to make criticism of the EU illegal. A European Court case, case number c.274/99, held that it is illegal to criticise the EU. That's UKIP in trouble ! We already have a European Arrest Warrant on over 30 counts, which means that a British citizen can be arrested in the UK on charges from other EU states, even if the crime is not even recognised in the UK - just by filling in boxes and without a British court ruling there is a case to answer. So I just hope the EU's gulags are comfy !

2.4.7. Making Westminster redundant

Where will this leave Westminster ? In January I visited what was the Irish Parliament in Dublin. In 1800, that grand Parliament was abolished, and Irish MPs, including Lord Wellington of Waterloo fame, had to come to Westminster. The British bribed its politicians with £1.25 million – this in 1800 ! Worth hundreds of millions now. But they got their way. The Parliament is now a Bank. There's an echo here.

What will Westminster become when it is completely bypassed by the EU and the EU regions ? My money is on a Madame Tussauds exhibit, but like the old GLC building, a luxury hotel is possible ?

The move to EU integration is like ‘the Terminator’ – you may blow chunks off it, knock it back, it may look twisted and ugly, but it keeps on coming back at you.

But at what point and in what way have the British people given consent for this ? They agreed to a common market, that’s all.

2.4.8. Hurting the UK Economy

And what of the economy and the supposed economic benefits of being in the EU ? The former head of the CBI, Digby Jones, said last year that Britain was a worse place to do business than a few years back.

In December last year, the Financial Times reported that the City of London, this country’s economic powerhouse, had, quote, “fallen out of love with Europe”. The FT reported: “a recent ICM Poll for British businesses, conducted for Open Europe, suggested that 62% of the heads of financial services companies now think that the costs of the EU’s single market now outweighs its benefits.”

They found the discontent as being for three reasons:

- 1. First, it had proved to be a myth that financial business would be lost if the UK was not in the Euro**
- 2. Two, due to French and German economic problems and**

3. third, they reported, “it has become increasingly apparent that Globalisation and Europeanisation are not the same things... the rest of Europe is simply overfly territory when it comes to pitching for business in China or Russia.”

The City is actually very concerned about the EU doing to London what Sarbanes and Oxley are reputed to have done to New York: i.e. to so overregulate the financial markets that companies move elsewhere. Open Europe estimates the current cost of regulations on the City is £23 billion from the EU’s financial services action plan, with MIFID alone (‘Markets in Financial Instruments Directive’) costing up to £1 billion to implement, plus around £100 million a year to operate. (FT 11.12.06 by Gideon Rachman)

2.4.9. Another great Enron – Fraud, whistleblowers and the EU

But what about the EU’s own finances ? The reality is that the EU is like a super- Enron. For 11 years in a row now, its own auditors – the European Court of Auditors – have refused to sign off the EU’s accounts on the basis of fraud in the system, somewhere in the region of 5 to 10% of its budget.

The respected author Lindsay Jenkins reports: “The EU has about 30,000 Eurocrats, with immunity from prosecution, huge privileges and a lot of money, and the EU is massively corrupt, just like the USSR. There may not be a roll call of Europeans who have been in the Gulag like Bukovski, but there is a roll call of

European whistleblowers every one of whom has been outrageously treated and sacked”. Whistleblowers she lists as :

- **Marta Andreason, a highly qualified accountant who refused to sign off the EU’s budget, was sacked and hounded.**
- **Paul van Buitenen did the same thing, and brought down the whole Commission, only for the Commission to be largely reappointed a little later.**
- **Dougal Watt - a Scot who proved corruption at the EU’s heart**
- **German reporter for Stern magazine Hans-Martin-Tillack was jailed and lucky to get out. He still hasn’t got his computers back from the investigation**
- **Same with Hans-Peter Martin, former editor of Der Spiegel**
- **Jose Sequeira was frogmarched from his EU office because he was, quote, “mentally unfit to work” – echoes of the Soviet system there - yet 4 outside doctors said he was perfectly normal. He pointed the finger at corruption**
- **And Bernard Connolly, who worked at the heart of the Commission on its biggest project – European Monetary Union. His home was burgled and his family physically threatened. Back in London, he was then taken to the European Court for telling the truth in his book ‘The Rotten Heart of Europe’. Please read this book !**

3. There is an alternative – a positive vision of life outside the EU

3.1. We know the EU is flawed BUT...

But we must be in the EU, mustn't we ? We can't really leave, can we ? We know it has faults, but we have no alternatives surely ? That is what we hear all the time. Well, yes we can leave.

UKIP does need to articulate a positive vision, because whilst many people may agree with our negative picture of the EU and its failings, they fear the implications of leaving the EU.

They fear that the sky might fall in, lightning may strike, that they could all be out of a job. Because the Europhiles spread scare stories about 3 million jobs being lost, and paint a spectre of an isolated, lonely, friendless, down at heel Britain no one will love.

What a nonsense !

3.2. The facts on the UK and its standing

Let's look at the economic facts. This country is the fifth largest economy in the world. As big as China's. Yes, China is overtaking us but it has a billion people, we have 60 million. But our economies are now the same size.

We are the second largest global investor, the third largest trading nation. Just us. We are the largest investor in the US, as the US is the largest investor in Britain.

Our City of London has done better since the Euro than before it, and trades in more Euros than Frankfurt, more dollars than New York. The Economist Intelligence Unit ranks the UK as the world's third most e-ready economy, just behind the USA.

And we now export more to the rest of the world than we do to the EU. For the fastest growing export markets are outside the EU, especially as UK exports to the Rest of the World shipped by Rotterdam are counted as EU exports.

It is also true that less than 10% of the British economy depends on trade with the EU, another 10% with the Rest of the World. 80% of the UK economy involves British citizens buying goods and services from other British citizens, and is nothing to do with the EU, so why does it have to abide by EU regulations ? It is perfectly fair for the 10% of goods and services exported to the EU to have to follow these laws, as happens with Norway and Switzerland, but why should the rest ?

And if we left the EU today, Britain would immediately be the EU's largest trading partner. We import more from the EU than we

export to them. So would they withhold their wine and BMWs and Ferraris from us because we have become independent ? Of course not.

And we should ask this: are we so feeble as a country that we can no longer stand on our own two feet ? So weak, so pathetic that we must surrender all that makes us special, all that we care about, all the rights and freedoms this country established, all those great Britons that fought and died for us, just so Britain can become a bit player in a Continent that has never been historically with us in spirit, custom or identity ? No.

And what should our positive vision be ?

It is a vision based on being 'Better Off Out' ! There are already Tory and Labour and other MPs signed up to the neutral 'Better Off Out' Campaign alongside UKIP.

It's a good theme. For this country would be better off out of the EU and being independent in many different ways:

- 1. Firstly, we would do it by getting out of the EU. By repealing the European Communities Act 1972. That's all it would take. We could leave in an afternoon. Unless of course we sign up to the EU Constitution – as I said earlier, this would be difficult**

if not impossible, and take years to do - and we'd have to buy ourselves out at enormous cost.

2. **Second, we would be like Norway and Switzerland are now – some of the richest countries in Europe, but not in the EU. Trading happily with the EU, but not part of it. And we're much bigger, and could do a very good deal with the EU as its largest importer of goods.**
3. **We would go through all those 120,000 directives and regulations, that mass of red tape that buries our people and businesses, and start removing it. Costs would tumble, our competitiveness surge, investment, profits and tax takes rise.**
4. **We could rebuild our links with the Commonwealth. Our true friends and family, the people who died for us in several wars, and the people we turned our backs on in the 1960s so shamefully in order to embrace Europe. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India – all those people who did so much to help us in our hour of need.**

Just take India, for example, this week I have been involved in helping establish an Anglo Indian film company to make international feature films (I have written 5 film scripts myself). Growth in India is now 8% per annum, 4 times the EU's growth. India has a huge, well educated, English speaking workforce. India is growing so fast, India's Finance Minister predicts the end of poverty by 2040.

The Commonwealth represents 53 countries, a third of the world's population, a quarter of international trade and investment. Its combined national wealth is almost equal to the USA's, it contains thirteen of the world's fastest growing economies, all united with a common language and common laws – ours.

- 5. We would take back control of our own trade agreements from the EU, and negotiate direct with China, India, the USA and developing nations. Trade as well as Aid. At present, we have to leave it to Peter Mandelson to negotiate our trade deals on behalf of the whole EU - and British interests come last. Britain is not allowed do a trade deal direct with India, or anyone else.**
- 6. We would repatriate the £52 billion or so contribution we pay to the EU in terms of our membership, the lost rebate, farming subsidies, fishing income and red tape. We would spend the savings on our own people, our own schools, hospitals and roads. We would cut council tax and boost pensions.**
- 7. We would re-establish the primacy of Westminster and our own laws and courts, and review all overturned UK cases.**
- 8. We would grant fishing licences for our restored fishing grounds, which would be worth billions, and replace the £15 billion of C.A.P payments with environmental grants.**
- 9. We would take back national control over immigration and asylum seekers, and restore Britain's borders, checks and controls with a fair system of work permits.**

10. **And we would scale back Government, ripping out the EU system of regional government and slashing bureaucracy. And we'd make our MEPs redundant, which they wouldn't mind at all, and all the other UK MEPs and officials too.**

4. Conclusion

So in conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, that's our alternative vision. A prosperous, free trading, free standing, independent Britain, trading happily with the EU, but looking anew to the world and the Commonwealth. That's what we mean by national independence.

Thank you.