

CIVITAS



Civitas National Sixth Form EU Conference
12th March 2009

2009: a pivotal year for the EU?

The Emmanuel Centre, Westminster

CIVITAS





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CONFERENCE DIRECTIONS



*Emmanuel Centre
Marsham Street, Westminster,
SW1P 3DW*

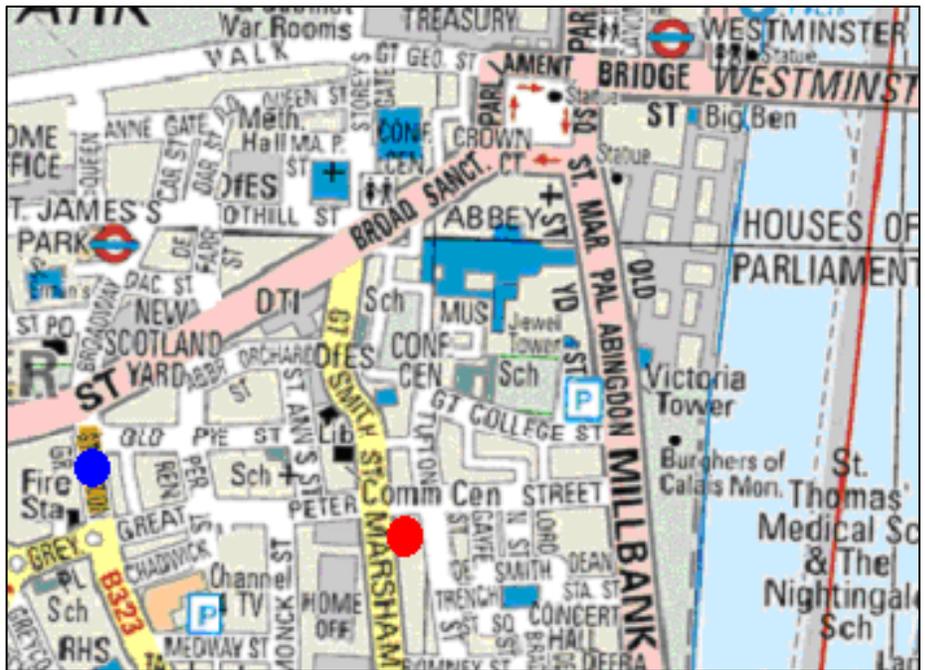
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Emmanuel
Centre



Strutton
Ground
(sandwich
shops)



How to find us



By Underground

St. James Park - Circle Line, District Line.
Approx. 7 minutes walk away (.30mile).
Westminster - Jubilee Line, Circle Line &
District Line.
Approx. 9 minutes walk away (.6mile).
Victoria - Circle Line, District Line & Victoria Line.
Approx. 15 minutes walk away (1mile)
Pimlico - Victoria Line.
Approx. 5 minutes walk away (.66mile).



By Bus

Nearest bus stop is in Marsham Street and the bus number is 88.
Numbers 87, 3 along Millbank.
Numbers 11, 24, 211, 148 travelling along Victoria Street.
Numbers 507 along Horseferry Road.
Numbers 53, 453, 12, 159 for Whitehall.

*For more information regarding transport around London check
their website www.tfl.gov.uk*



By Rail

Victoria Railway Station - Approx. 15 minutes walk
away (1mile).
Charing Cross Railway Station - Approx 19 minutes
walk away (1.5mile).



Car Parks

Abingdon Masterpark in Great College Street and
Medway Street NCP both within 3 minutes walk away.



Introduction

Dear Delegate,

Many thanks for choosing to attend today's conference on the European Union, a subject that will be receiving more attention from the media as we approach the European Parliament elections in June 2009.

Civitas is concerned with promoting political awareness about the institutions of a free society. To this end, we believe that the role and structure of the EU must be much more widely understood. The EU is a hugely significant part of the current political landscape of the UK, and is unquestionably larger and more influential than at any time in its history.

Our research has shown that knowledge of the EU and its influence and policies is lacking across all sections of society, and particularly among young people. The EU is all too often seen as 'too far away' or 'not really relevant'; attitudes that we have found quickly evaporate once basic knowledge of the EU is acquired. Most importantly then, this understanding should be based on balanced resources and teaching.

The conference is an opportunity for students to hear cutting-edge arguments, from both sides of the EU debate, presented by those professionals directly engaged in it. The content is of relevance to Politics, Economics and Business Studies curricula but is of value to all people with an inquisitive mind and desire to understand the political world around them.

Many thanks to all our speakers today, for generously taking the time to share their expertise with us. We are certain they will provide an insightful and thought-provoking introduction to some of the most pressing issues surrounding the EU today.

The following pages are intended as a preparatory briefing for the conference. Please distribute this information to your group members. There is a short briefing per session, each of which includes: information about the speaker(s), background information on the subject of the presentation, a list of questions compiled with relevance to A-Level curricula, and a list of the relevant factsheets on our website (www.civitas.org.uk) for further reading. There is also an update on recent activity within the EU. Please note that the briefings have been prepared by Civitas and they do not reflect the opinions of the conference speakers.

Civitas



Notices

- Civitas staff will be present throughout the conference and can be identified by their badges. Please do ask for help if you have any problems or questions.
- The conference is designed to offer as much opportunity for delegates to question and interact with our speakers as possible. Please encourage your group members to make the most of this at the end of each session.
- This is particularly relevant to the Discussion Panel with MEP candidates for the 2009 European Parliament election. This session is intended to be an audience-led discussion on issues of interest to the delegates, so please encourage your group members to consider beforehand any subject they may particularly want discussed.
- The Emmanuel Centre is a religious center and we ask that delegates behave accordingly.
- Lunch is not provided, although there is a Tesco nearby and several sandwich shops on Strutton Ground, as indicated on the map in this information pack.
- Delegates should not eat in the main auditorium. The Upper Hall, adjacent to the lobby, is available for delegates to have lunch.
- The conference is scheduled to finish by 3.30pm at the very latest. Please ensure that all delegates remain seated for the duration of the final session to avoid disruption of the debate.



2009: a pivotal year for the EU?

10.30 am

The EU: A Unique Political Model

Charles Grant, *Centre for European Reform*, Director

11.10am

Discussion Panel

June 2009: European Parliament elections

The role of UK political parties at the EU level

Jean-Paul FLoru, Conservative MEP candidate (London Region)

Dinti Batstone, Liberal Democrat MEP candidate (London Region)

Anne Fairweather, Labour MEP candidate (London Region)

David Campbell Bannerman, UKIP MEP candidate (Eastern Region)

11.50am

European Economics: Can the EU help to avoid financial turmoil?

Graeme Leach, *Institute of Directors*, Chief Economist and Director of Policy

12.30pm

Lunch

1.30pm

EU law: a help or hindrance to business performance?

Ruth Lea, *Global Vision*, Director

2.10pm

Debate: Do we need a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty?

Richard Laming, *Federal Union*, Director

Derek Scott, former advisor to Tony Blair and Deputy Chairman of Open Europe

Each session will end with a twenty minute Question & Answer Session. If you would like to pose a question to one of the speakers please raise your hand and you will be provided with a microphone.



EU Facts Update: developments in the EU (February 2009)

The EU's Lisbon Treaty cannot come into force unless it is ratified by all 27 EU Member States.

i. Second Irish referendum on the Lisbon Treaty

Debate about when the Irish Government might hold the second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty continued. Some suggested that the referendum could be held in October, but others suggested that because of the economic downturn, the revote might take place sooner. For example, it could take place in June at the same time as the European Parliament elections. Ireland was granted concessions from the Lisbon Treaty during the EU summit last December. In a poll by the Irish Times/TNS mrbi on 12th February, 51% people said they would now vote Yes, 33% would vote No, and 16% are undecided.

ii. Germany has not yet ratified the Lisbon Treaty because of disagreement about whether it conflicts with the German Constitution. Germany will make a final decision on the Treaty in May or June 2009.

iii. The Lower House of the Czech Republic Parliament approved the Lisbon Treaty on 18th February. However the Treaty has not yet been approved by the Parliament's Upper House.

Czech Republic EU Presidency update: (The Czech Rep currently holds the rotating EU Presidency.)

MEPs walked out of Czech President Vaclav Klaus' speech to the European Parliament on 19th Feb. His speech argued that the EU's democratic deficit could not be solved because there is no "European demos".

Sweden will take over the EU Presidency on 1st July 2009 when it promises to strengthen Sweden's role in the EU and to strengthen the EU's role as a global actor.

EU Working Time Directive: New campaign to keep the UK's opt-out for firefighters

The Liberal Democrats set up a campaign to maintain the right of UK fire-fighters to opt-out of the EU's Working Time Directive. The Directive limits the legal amount of working hours to 48-hours per week. This includes time spent on-call, which hugely affects firefighters.

Lindsey Oil refinery Dispute

In the UK, there were long-running industrial strikes at the Lindsey oil refinery in Lincolnshire over the employment of foreign workers. British workers complained when a contract was awarded to an Italian company, which hired workers from Italy and Portugal. However, Acas (an arbitration service) ruled that no British or EU law was broken. The EU's laws governing the free movement of people within the EU (e.g. the *Posted Workers Directive*, which came into force in December 1999) allow foreign contractors to employ staff from overseas if they give them the same legal rights as British employees.

'European Asylum Support Office' proposed by EU Commission

An EU-wide office will be set up in 2010 if it is agreed by Member States and the EU Parliament by the end of 2009.

European Parliamentary Elections

The next European Parliamentary Elections will take place in June this year. They will be the first elections since the EU's most recent wave of enlargement in 2007, when Bulgaria and Romania joined.

An armed robbery took place at a bank inside the European Parliament building in Brussels on 12th February.

EU citizenship

European Justice Commissioner Jacques Barrot told a parliamentary committee on 16th February that during a revision of the justice and home affairs policies in the second half of 2009, the concept of EU citizenship would be 'fleshed out' because, at present, it is often perceived as an 'imaginary concept'.

EU Commission might re-introduce the 'set-aside scheme' for farmers. The scheme requires farmers to leave land unfarmed to avoid over-production. However, some farmers criticized the scheme for limiting their productivity.

A panel in the EU Commission decided not to force France and Greece to allow crop maize to be genetically modified.

Mobile phone manufacturers produce standardised chargers for mobile phones on the recommendation of the EU Industry Commissioner, Günter Verheugen. At the moment most chargers are only compatible with phones made by certain companies.

European economy update:

Budget deficits in EU Member States

Greece, Spain, France, Malta, Ireland and Latvia breached EU rules when their budget deficits exceeded 3% GDP in 2008. The EU urged these countries to reduce their deficits by March 2009, or it could take disciplinary measures.

Eastern European markets fall

There was fear that the declining state of the economies of Eastern Member States might affect western banks, for example there was a 3% decline in the German and French stock markets and shares in major banks in Austria, Belgium, France and Italy fell. The losses were even greater in the new EU Member States, Russia and Neighbourhood States.

Nine Eastern European States held a mini-summit to discuss the economic troubles

Jose Manuel Barroso, the European Commission President, also attended the mini-summit on 29th February. The summit raised concerns about France and Italy's plan to spend billions of Euros on their car industries.

European leaders will meet on 1st March to discuss economic policy. They will discuss protectionism after warnings that 'Economic Nationalism', whereby states prioritise their domestic economies, could damage the wider European and global economies. A second summit, to take place in Prague, will discuss rising unemployment.

Germany called for a bail-out for Eurozone countries as they faced increasing economic crisis. German finance minister, Peer Steinbrueck, said that a number of eurozone countries' economies were getting worse. He specifically highlighted that Ireland's previously booming economy was suffering badly in the current global economic downturn. The EU Commission had proposed to reallocate money from its 'green' energy and broadband projects to an economic recovery plan, but it was decided that the funds were 'legally unavailable'.

Should Nordic countries join the Eurozone?

A report by the Nordic Council suggested that all Nordic States should join both the EU and its single currency, the euro, because of the current economic crisis. At present, of all the Nordic State, only Finland is a member to both the EU and the EU currency. Sweden and Denmark are members of the EU but not the euro, and Norway and Iceland are not in the EU or the euro. However, it seems very unlikely that this will happen at the moment. For example, Sweden voted against joining the euro in a referendum in 2003. Norway voted no to joining the EU at two referendums in 1974 and 1994, and Denmark is unlikely to hold a referendum on joining the euro before its next General Election in 2011.

The EU Commission will investigate whether the Spanish government disobeyed EU rules when it gave €4 billion to support its car industry. The Maastricht Treaty, which contains principles of the EU's Single Market, contains a 'no bail-out clause' to allow companies and industries to compete without facing unfair competition. However, Article 100 of the Treaty says that financial assistance is allowed if a country faces "exceptional occurrences beyond its control".

Non-EU states:

US President Barack Obama's fist visit with EU leaders will take place in Prague in April

The Czech Republic -current holders of the EU Presidency- were anxious for US President Obama's first informal meeting with EU leaders to take place in its capital city, Prague, because according to the Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, it sends an 'important message' that the new US administration is not only interested in the leading EU members such as France, Germany and Britain but in small countries as well. He also said it would send a message to Russia which he said still views the Czech Republic and Poland as a part of an "eastern zone". Mr Obama will attend the G20 summit (with the 20 largest industrialised countries) in London on 2nd April before he meets all 27 EU leaders on 5th April.

European Parliament debates EU-NATO relations

MEPs debated a report on developing closer relations between the EU and NATO. The report asked for increased co-operation and less competition between the EU and NATO. It is believed that 94% of the EU's population lives in countries that are members of NATO. Ari Vatanen MEP noted that the EU's very existence was to promote peace-building and he said that this is only possible through building close relations with NATO. However, the report also stressed that the EU should build its own security and defence capacities. Not everybody agrees with Mr. Vatanen's views; seven MEPs were against plans for closer relations. France is expected to announce its return to NATO's military structures at a NATO summit in April.

6 states are blocking Croatia's accession to the EU, according to [eurotopics](#). There is an on-going dispute between Slovenia and Croatia about their shared border.

Kosovo celebrated the first anniversary of its Independence from Serbia on 17th February

EU-Ukraine relations at risk

The Ukrainian currency, the Hryvna, lost more than third of its value against the US dollar and bank analysts warned that the Ukraine, which is not a Member of the EU, might default on its national debt. This could jeopardise the Ukraine's relations with the EU and also impact the Russia-Ukraine deal on gas transit, which was agreed after a two-week long standoff in January. As Ukraine is unable to keep its public spending down, the International Monetary Fund is reluctant on a rescue plan for it.

Compiled by Kyial Arabaeva



10.30 am

The EU: A Unique Political Model

Charles Grant - *Centre for European Reform*, Director



Charles Grant helped to set up the *Centre for European Reform*, an independent think-tank dedicated to promoting a reform agenda within the European Union. He previously worked for *The Economist* for twelve years as a City and European Community correspondent and as defence editor. He also became a director and trustee of the British Council in 2002. He is a regular contributor to the *Financial Times* and the *Guardian*. His publications include: *Delors: Inside the House that Jacques Built* (1994), *Can Britain lead in Europe?* (1998), *EU 2010: An optimistic vision of the future* (2000), *Europe beyond the referendums* (2005), *European choices for Gordon Brown* (2007), and *Can Europe and China shape a new world order?* (2008).

Background briefing:

EU Aims and history:

- The European Community (EC) was founded in 1957 with the aim of creating ‘an ever closer union between the peoples of Europe’. There were 6 founding Member States; Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.
- It was initially concerned with improving economic co-operation between Member States.
- In 1992 the EC became the European Union (EU), under the terms of the Maastricht Treaty, which set out a new model for the Community based around a three pillar structure covering economic relations, foreign affairs and home affairs.
- The EU today is a culmination of a process of:
 - a. Enlargement; there are currently 27 EU Member States.
 - b. Integration; the EU has expanded its role in recent decades to play a significant part in areas of policy that had traditionally been the reserve of nation states.

EU decision-making:

- The key characteristic of the EU is that it is different from all other international systems.
- It is a mixture of supranational and intergovernmental models; Member States pass sovereignty over certain issues to the EU but retain the power for independent action over others.
- Member States’ governments agree to give EU citizens four basic freedoms: free movement of people, movement of goods, movement of capital and movement to provide services.

EU Institutions:

- The EU institutions exist to make sure that the four basic freedoms are upheld:
 - ***The European Commission*** monitors and implements EU laws. Commissioners are nominated by each country, approved by the Parliament and appointed for five years. The Commission alone can propose laws.
 - ***The European Council*** is the most powerful EU institution, made up of the heads of state and government, and ministers from all 27 Member States. Together with the Parliament, it passes laws and agrees the EU budget.
 - ***The European Parliament*** has 785 members (MEPs). It has been directly elected since 1979. In many areas, the Parliament has an equal say with the European Council.
 - ***The European Court of Justice*** has general responsibility for interpreting EU law and settling disputes between Member States. The Court is also the guardian of the four freedoms.

Relevant issues:

- There is long-standing debate in the EU between those who favour a supranational model of EU governance (something like a ‘United States of Europe’) and those who advocate an ‘Anglo-Saxon’ or ‘intergovernmental’ model like a liberalised free trade area.
- The debate has also been intensified by enlargement, as the current political model of the EU struggles to cope with 27 members.
- There are concerns about the democratic accountability of the EU institutions, particularly because the European Commission—although ‘guided’ by summit meetings of the European Council—has a monopoly on proposing law.

Relevant questions:

1. *Outline the aims and purpose of the European Union.*
2. *Discuss the view that the Maastricht Treaty has been the most important development in the EU since 1990.*
3. *Contrast intergovernmental with supranational models of governance.*
4. *Who holds the power in Europe?*
5. *Discuss the effectiveness of the EU’s constitutional checks and balances.*

Relevant EU Facts:

Overview Sheets: Overview of the European Union
Lawmaking & Legislative Process
European Institutions

Institutions: European Commission
European Council
Council of the European Union
European Parliament
European Court of Justice



11.10am

Discussion Panel

June 2009 European Parliament Elections: The Role of UK political parties at the EU level



Jean-Paul Floru is a City of Westminster Councillor and Conservative Party Candidate for the 2009 European Elections (London Region). He studied in Belgium and the UK before becoming a solicitor in the City. Today he runs two small businesses. JP Floru firmly believes in individual liberty and the free market - themes which he defends in numerous articles and which shape his views on the European Union. He formed *Freedom Alliance* in 2005; the organisation runs *Freedom Week*, an annual week-long seminar which teaches students about the philosophy of freedom.



Dinti Batstone is a Liberal Democrat candidate for the 2009 European Elections. A former City lawyer and businesswoman, she has also served as a local Councillor. She read Social & Political Sciences at Cambridge and has an MBA from INSEAD business school in France. She believes that leading from within a strong Europe is in the UK's national interest. She wants the EU to prioritise policy over institutions, and focus its efforts on tackling climate change, fighting cross-border crime and building economic prosperity.



Anne Fairweather is a Labour Party candidate for the 2009 European Elections (London Region). She has worked on European policy in Brussels and she is currently Head of Public Policy at the Recruitment and Employment Confederation, which represents 8000 recruitment agencies. She believes that, at a time when the need for international action could not be clearer, decisions from climate change to regulating the banks need to be taken at a European level. She promises to ensure that people are fully aware of the work of the European Parliament so that they can have a say in shaping the future.



David Campbell Bannerman is Deputy Leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) and he is a UKIP candidate for the 2009 European Elections (Eastern Region). He was formerly a Special Advisor to Sir Patrick Mayhew from 1996-7 while Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. He was Communications Director of the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) from 1997-1999. David is pro-European but against UK membership of the EU. He believes the UK should trade freely with the EU as its largest single trading partner, in the manner of non-EU nations Norway and Switzerland, but leave the EU political superstate.

This session is intended to be an audience-led discussion on any issues of interest to delegates. Please encourage your group members to consider beforehand any subject they may particularly want discussed (such as the significance of the EU parliamentary election in June 2009; the workings and positions of the major UK political parties at the European level; the work of an MEP; the EU's role in environmental issues, free trade, aid, foreign policy or consumer affairs), keeping in mind that the candidates are representing their respective political parties.



11.50am

European Economics: Can the EU help to avoid financial turmoil?

Graeme Leach, *The Institute of Directors* Chief Economist



Graeme Leach is currently Chief Economist and Director of Policy at the *Institute of Directors (IoD)*, which he joined in 1998. Prior to joining the IoD, he was an economics director and managing editor of futures publications at *The Henley Centre*. In 1998 he was awarded the WPP Atticus Award for original published thinking. He has also acted as a consultant on future economic and social change, to many UK companies. In 2004 he was appointed visiting professor of economic policy at the University of Lincoln. He is a frequent media commentator and conference speaker, having spoken at events in the USA, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Ireland, Belgium, Greece, Taiwan and Zimbabwe in recent years.

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

- There is currently a global recession; large numbers of European banks have failed and there is rising unemployment across the EU.
- The economic troubles are sparking debate about the advantages and disadvantages of the EU's economic policies and the EU's single currency, the euro; because people are rethinking why economic policies can succeed or fail.
- The principles for Economic and Monetary Union are contained in the Maastricht Treaty.
- 16 EU Member States have signed up to full Economic and Monetary Union: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Greece, Finland, Austria, Ireland, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta and Slovakia. These States use the euro.
- The euro was launched in 1999 and notes and coins came into circulation in 2002. 329 million EU citizens now use the euro as their currency.
- The idea behind the euro is that by getting rid of national currencies within the EU, it will be easier for the single market to operate; making trade and travel between eurozone countries cheaper and easier. It was also intended to promote price stability and act as protection for weaker economies and currencies.
- The euro economy relies on all members cooperating with one another, and obeying the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP), an agreement to control the amount they spend and borrowed to create stable conditions for the single currency.
- In the eurozone, exchange rates between the 16 countries are fixed. The European Central Bank (ECB) is responsible for all decisions on EU monetary policy including inflation targeting and it has the power to set interest rates. For example in the recent economic troubles, the European Central Bank has cut interest rates across the eurozone.
- All the 12 countries that joined the EU in 2004 were required to work towards adopting the currency as part of their Treaty obligations.
- Britain is, in principle, committed to join the euro 'when the time is right'. The decision

about whether or not Britain should join the euro has been and remains very controversial.

Relevant Issues:

- There is debate about whether the euro is a catalyst of economic unity, or a symbol of European identity and the process of political integration.
- The current economic troubles are causing conflict between Western and Eastern Member States; there has been concern that the economies that make up the eurozone are too different to make the euro work properly because they require different interest rates.
- With a uniform interest rate, fluctuations in national economies can only be properly offset by labour mobility, price and wage flexibility and an automatic fiscal transfer mechanism—none of which fully exists in the eurozone. This could affect unemployment and inflation during a recession.
- Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Latvia and Malta all breached the 3% GDP maximum in 2008. This is currently being discussed within the EU.
- However since 2002, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece and Italy all breached the Stability and Growth Pact's maximum budget deficit of 3% of GDP without punishment.
- France—in particular President Nicolas Sarkozy—has called for greater political control over the ECB, which sets interest rates for the eurozone.
- Given the EU's role in the globalised economy, some have questioned whether the EU should intervene to protect European economies.

Relevant questions:

1. *How far has the British state been integrated into union with its European counterparts?*
2. *How is the UK economy influenced by its membership of the EU?*
3. *Explain how the ECB manage the macroeconomic environment of the EU and its objectives of low inflation, low unemployment and high growth within the eurozone.*
4. *Explain the benefits that Euro members may have received in the past 10 years.*
5. *Discuss whether other EU countries such as the UK would benefit from joining the Euro. What challenges would this bring to the EU?*
6. *Explain why the EU has income inequality between members and within member countries.*

Relevant EUFACTS:

The Euro
EU budget
Economics and Finance
European Central Bank
Stability and Growth Pact
European Investment Bank



1.30pm

EU law: a help or hindrance to business performance?

Ruth Lea, Director, *Global Vision*



Ruth Lea is Director of *Global Vision* and a Non-Executive Director and Economic Advisor to the *Arbuthnot Banking Group*. She spent nearly sixteen years in the British Civil Service, working in the Treasury, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Central Statistical Office and the Civil Service College, before moving to the City where she was Chief Economist at *Mitsubishi Bank* and Chief UK Economist at *Lehman Brothers*. She was then Economics Editor at *ITN*. She was Head of the Policy Unit at the *Institute of Directors (IoD)*, between 1995 and 2003, in which capacity she became a well-known television interviewee on matters relating to business.

Background Briefing:

- EU law is technically a new order in international law and is sometimes classified as supranational law.
- The principle of '*direct effect*' states that the rights that EU regulation creates for individuals must be upheld in Member States' national courts, therefore it overrides national laws in many areas, such as those covered by the Single Market, which includes 27 Member States and incorporates 499 million people.
- The Single Market describes the EU project to create *free trade* within the EU and to mould Europe into a single economy, a founding principle of the European Community in 1957. It is one of the most wide-ranging and significant symbols of European integration.
- The Single Market was intended to enable free movement of goods, services, capital and labour within the EU, making it easier to do business by removing the protectionist barriers and standardising national regulations across the EU.
- This involved the removal of barriers to movement of people, the harmonisation of national standards, rules on how governments buy services and goods, the liberalisation of financial institutions, the setting of more standard VAT rates and European business laws.
- The Single Market encompasses the European Customs Union, the single currency, the Schengen Convention and many other policies and laws designed to unite the diverse national economies of Europe into a single unit.
- Setting the same rules across the EU, the Single Market is designed to create faster growth by encouraging competition and lower prices. To regulate this, the EU Commission has authority over a range of areas of economic policy under the Single European Act (1986).
- The Lisbon Strategy aimed to make the EU 'the most dynamic, knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010'.
 - EU Single Market legislation includes regulations in the areas of:
 - Agriculture, e.g. the Common Agricultural Policy
 - Health and safety

- Employment:
 - Social Chapter
 - Working Time Directive
 - Minimum wage legislation
 - Anti-discrimination legislation
- Competition
- Consumer protection
- Data protection
- Copyright
- Patent laws
- Transport Policy
- Environment policy; recycling laws
- There are still many areas of the single market to be completed, particularly in relation to utilities.

Relevant Issues:

- It is estimated that over 50% of laws that affect UK business originate in the EU.
- Business has benefited from, for example, the absence of border bureaucracy and new export markets, but some people argue that businesses suffer from excessive EU regulation.
- The affect of EU law on business performance has highlighted tensions between National and European interests. For example, the recent move to end the UK's opt-out on the EU's Working Time Directive encapsulates this tension.
- The relative positions of various Member States mean that there are regional blocs within the EU.
- The EU has been criticised for being too inward-looking and protectionist; in particular for blocking the Doha Round of the WTO negotiations.

Relevant Questions:

1. In which policy areas are you aware of the EU having an influence in Britain? (e.g. agriculture, working conditions, environment)
2. Analyse two examples of UK or EU laws which might have acted as constraints on the Performance.
3. What are the general features, and costs and benefits, of competition policies?
4. What are the implications of EU membership in employer/employee relations?

EUFACTS

Stability and Growth Pact
 The Euro
 EU budget
 Economics and Finance
 European Central Bank and European Investment Bank
 Social Europe



2.10pm

Debate: Do we need a Referendum on the Lisbon Treaty?

Richard Laming, Secretary of the *European Movement* in the UK
Derek Scott, former advisor to Tony Blair and Deputy Chairman of *Open Europe*



Derek Scott is the former economics adviser to Tony Blair, who was publicly praised by the former Prime Minister as “clearly an accomplished political strategist.” He was previously director of European Economics at BZW and chief economist at Shell (UK) Ltd and international policy adviser for Shell International. He is the author of the book, *Off Whitehall*, about the “Economics and politics of Europe”, which considers the broader context of Britain’s place in the European Union and outlines the case for the UK remaining outside the eurozone. He is the Deputy Chairman of think-tank Open Europe.



Richard Laming is Secretary of the European Movement in the UK, which is Britain’s pro-European membership organisation founded in 1948 by Sir Winston Churchill. He is also Director of *Federal Union*. He works in public affairs for commercial interests in London. He writes a blog at www.federalunion.org.uk/blog.

Background briefing

- For several years the EU has been deliberating the direction of its future development; this process included the drafting, and ultimately rejection, of the *Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe* by French and Dutch voters in referendums in 2005.
- A new document, the *Treaty of Lisbon* (formerly known as the *Reform Treaty*), is a matter of great political controversy within the UK.
- The Lisbon Treaty aims to confirm the power of the EU to act in areas such as human rights, [judicial](#) and [foreign policy](#), and re-emphasises the idea that every citizen of a Member State is also an [EU citizen](#). It also seeks to strengthen the EU’s ability to act by giving it *legal personality*.
- The Lisbon Treaty has now been ratified by most Member States, including the UK; however it was rejected by Ireland in a referendum in June 2008.
- Ireland will be holding a second referendum this year and Poland will not complete ratification of the Treaty unless and until Ireland does.

Relevant issues:

- The Lisbon Treaty has been criticised as being very similar to the failed Constitution for Europe.
- The content and constitutional nature of the Lisbon Treaty - and also the need for referendums before its ratification - are the subject of fierce debate.
- Critics of the Lisbon Treaty argue that rather than simply clarifying the position of the EU, it lays the foundations for faster future integration.
- Following Ireland's rejection of the Lisbon Treaty, it has been argued that Britain should also hold a referendum on the Treaty.

Relevant questions:

- Does Ireland's referendum in 2008 make the case for a referendum in the UK stronger, or weaker, or does it make no difference?
- What does the Lisbon Treaty involve, and what issues does it raise?
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of majority rule, as opposed to unanimous decision-making.
- Discuss the claim that national sovereignty is increasingly outdated.
- What should happen if all but one country ratifies the treaty? Does the treaty fail? Can the countries that have ratified the treaty find some other way of proceeding?
- Make a case for using referendums in a democracy: is a referendum a legitimate form of political participation and the best way of making and influencing a political decision, or does it undermine Parliamentary Sovereignty and representative government?

EUFACTS

Arguments for the EU
Arguments against the EU
EU Constitution / Lisbon Treaty



Civitas EU Education Project

“I have been using your EU resources and would like to say how good and useful they are. Excellent for A-Level students and teachers. Thank you.” (Simon Balle School, Hertford)

“At all times, I’m trying to give them information and get them to think for themselves. I don’t want to indoctrinate, which explains why as a pro-European myself I like to have speakers in who are Euro-sceptic-realist.” (Mr Martin Brough, Solihull School)

The purpose of Civitas’ project is to deepen public understanding of the EU and specifically to **promote awareness and debate about the EU among students**. Civitas believes the EU should be taught objectively; that students should be presented with the facts, arguments both for and against, and then allowed to form their own opinions. To this end we offer the following four FREE services to assist teachers and students:

EU Facts

The *EU Facts* resource has been put together in consultation with a panel of expert teachers, and is tailored directly to the National Curriculum, especially for Economics, Business Studies and Governance & Politics. It provides a series of comprehensive and impartial, simple-format, factsheets on over seventy different EU topics, which are indexed and cross-referenced to make them accessible for students and teachers alike.

The factsheets are designed to act as either handouts or summary sheets and are regularly updated online to ensure that the information they contain is both accurate and current. Crucially, they have been refereed for accuracy by experts from *both* sides of the EU argument, so they present information that is even-handed and without a political agenda.

EU Facts can be found online at www.eufacts.org.uk.

EU Worksheets

EU Facts’ complementary worksheets contain questions and activities to test students’ knowledge of the EU as a political institution and develop awareness of its impact on them as both British and European citizens. The worksheets aim to encourage students to engage in independent thinking, developing their own political opinions

and presenting them in a coherent fashion. The questions are drawn directly from the contents of EUFacts and all sheets can be fully completed with reference to the factsheets as a research source. The worksheet questions are specifically designed to reflect the requirements of all the major Examining Boards' specifications in the following subjects: GCE Government & Politics; GCE Economics; GCE Business Studies. However they are relevant for all A-level students, whether undertaking General Studies, schools' own internal curriculum enrichment programmes, or just hoping to increase their knowledge of the European Union.

A marking scheme has been incorporated to mirror examinations and encourage students to practice structuring their answers in consideration of the marks available. Answers for all worksheets can be found in a single pdf document, obtained by emailing a request to: euproject@civitas.org.uk

EU Debates

The continuing integration of Europe is a matter of fierce political contention and to reflect this Civitas, in conjunction with Europe Direct, offers debates in schools between EU-sceptical and pro-EU advocates.

These can be arranged on a flexible basis, tailored to the specific needs and interests of your students, from general introductory debates for General Studies courses, to specialist single-issue debates on economic or institutional matters. In addition, debates can contribute towards the provision of curriculum enrichment programmes, offering opportunities for students to gain experience of chairing meetings or advocating a case.

*If holding such an event may be of interest to you please download the **debate form** and return to the address on the form.*

EU-sceptical Talks

At present, many organisations offering information on the EU, provide content solely in support of further EU integration. In order that students also have the opportunity to hear more sceptical / reformist views on the EU, and to enable them to engage in broader discussion about its nature, Civitas also operates a nationwide series of EU-sceptical talks.

Civitas' speakers include peers and parliamentarians from across the political spectrum, as well as top business people, journalists and political activists. They represent a range of sceptical opinions on the EU, from those who take issue with the EU Lisbon Treaty to those who favour full withdrawal from the Union. Feedback from schools who have received talks over the past two years has testified to the value they have in giving students a unique opportunity to participate first-hand in issues surrounding membership of the EU.

*If receiving such a talk may be of interest to you please download the **talk form** and return to the address on the form.*



EU Talk Request Form

Email: claire.daley@civitas.org.uk

Fax: 020 7799 6688

Post: EU Talks, Civitas, 77 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2EZ

(form also available online at www.civitas.org.uk/schools)

School Name	
Teacher Name	
School Address	
Telephone	
Email	

Talk Format (Please highlight)	EU-Sceptical	Pro-EU
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Possible dates and times	
Size of audience	
Age of students and subjects studied	
Specific Content Requests If you would like a general talk please leave this blank.	

For more information please contact EU Education Project Manager, Claire Daley:

claire.daley@civitas.org.uk

020 77 99 66 77

DEBATE REQUEST FORM



europedirect@londonpressclub.co.uk

Your details:

Teacher Name	
School/Organisation	
School Postcode	
Telephone	
Email	

Debate details:

Possible date(s) and time(s) <i>NB. Please specify a <u>maximum</u> of 3 alternative dates</i>	EST. LENGTH:
Venue Address (if different from postal address)	POSTCODE:
Estimated audience size	
Debate Title / Topic Area	
Other schools attending?	
Further details	