

CEP Newsletter

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Europeans Vote 2014

The upcoming election for the European Parliament is an event CEP will pay attention to during the spring. Not only does it represent the opportunity for the European citizens to influence the direction of the EU, but it also seems that many European voters will opt for the EU sceptic parties to lead the way for the next five years. Or as Associate Professor at CEP Rebecca Adler-Nissen has described the situation: "2014 will be the year where EU-scepticism, anti-immigration, nationalism, populism, and protest in every form possible will get a historic election" (Politiken, 10/01/2014).



In cooperation with the student organisation International Debat (ID) CEP will organise a public event about the EP elections in the beginning of May. Another event that CEP will follow closely during the spring is the Danish referendum on the European Unified Patent Court. Please keep updated on the CEP website.

CEP organises a Public Debate about the Scottish Referendum, the UK's Possible Exit from the EU and Perspectives for Denmark. The event is open to all and takes place the 20th of March.



As we approach the European Elections in May two other important electoral events are on the European agenda: In September the Scots are voting on whether to leave the UK, and if the British Conservative party is reelected it has promised to call a referendum on the UK's membership of the EU in 2015. Similar secession tendencies are happening in other parts of the EU, and this raises the question of what kind of Europe will emerge from these events in 5-10 years from now? How many members will the EU have and may there be different types of memberships than the ones we know today? The paths chosen by the Scots and the Brits will affect the Danes and gives reason also to raise the questions: What are the perspectives for Denmark of these possible dual exits? Which way should Denmark choose?

Come and hear Professor Neil Walker from University of Edinburgh talk about "Scotland, Britain and Europe: The ties that no longer bind?" and Dr Simon Usherwood from University of Surrey speak on the UK's relations with the EU.



Afterwards join the debate with visiting scholar at CEP Dr Cormac Mac Amhlaigh, also from the University of Edinburgh, and Associate Professor Rebecca Adler-Nissen from CEP. The event will be moderated by Professor Marlene Wind, Director of CEP, and it is open to everyone.

Time and place: 20 March 15.00-17.00, Department of Political Science, Room 4.2.26. Please register at www.cep.polsci.ku.dk no later than 17 March. *Picture by Neil Hanna*

Dr Cormac Mac Amhlaigh New Visiting Scholar at CEP



In the first half of the year CEP has the pleasure of hosting Dr Cormac Mac Amhlaigh, Lecturer in Public Law at University of Edinburgh, as visiting scholar. His research interests lie primarily in the field of public law and particularly the extension of the ideas of public law beyond the state context. He is currently researching the concept of constitutional legitimacy in relation to constitutional discourses beyond the state, particularly in relation to the European Union, European Convention of Human Rights and International law. You can read more about Cormac's research and also some of his thoughts on the Scottish referendum in an interview with him at the CEP website. Read the interview here: www.cep.polsci.ku.dk

NEWS FROM CEP

CEP has had the pleasure of welcoming Postdoc **Holly Snaith** to CEP as well as to the EuroChallenge research team. Furthermore, 1st of February **Rolf Thuneberg Jørgensen** joined CEP as the new PhD in the EuroChallenge project. For more information about EuroChallenge visit <http://www.eurochallenge.ku.dk>

EURECO will once more be running the annual **Distinguished Lecture Series** in the fall 2014. If you are interested in attending please keep updated on the EURECO's website: www.eureco.ku.dk

LATEST RESEARCH

Rebecca Adler-Nissen (2014) 'Stigma Management in International Relations: Transgressive Identities, Norms, and Order in International Society', *International Organization*, 68 (1): 143–176.

Peter Nedergaard & Mads Dagnis Jensen (2014) 'The Anatomy of Intergroups – Networks in the political engine room of the European Parliament', published online in *Policy Studies*.

Ben Rosamond (2014) 'Three Ways of Speaking Europe to the World: Markets, Peace, Cosmopolitan Duty and the EU's Normative Power', *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 16 (1): 133-148.

Caroline Howard Grøn (2013) 'Denmark and the European Commission: entering the Heart of the Union', in Lee Miles & Anders Wivel (eds.) *Denmark and the European Union*. London: Routledge, pp. 109-125.

Martin Marcussen (2013) 'Denmark and the Euro opt-out', in Lee Miles & Anders Wivel (eds.) *Denmark and the European Union*. London: Routledge, pp. 47-64.

THE RESEARCH COLUMN

Fog in Channel - Great Britain cut off

By Nikolay Vasev, PhD fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen



Mounting EU-scepticism and domestic populism in the UK have resulted in the popularization of the Brexit, i.e. the idea that Britain should

leave the EU in order to regain lost sovereignty. Here are some considerations why this will never happen.

A possible Brexit can come under essentially two forms. What London is aiming for right now is a renegotiation of the country's relationship with the Union in terms of employment regulation and social protection, without losing free access to Europe's Single Market. This would introduce cheaper British exports, against which the other member states would have no protection. It would also require a re-opening of the treaties, which has been equated by Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament, with the opening of Pandora's box. He stated, "David Cameron's idea of unilaterally renegotiating Britain's relationship with the EU simply won't work. Why shouldn't everybody else use this opportunity to sneak their special interests through too?". The likely backlash from the other member states is a certain guarantee this approach is impossible.

The other option for a Brexit comes from Europe's immediate institutional periphery, the European Economic Area (EEA), Switzerland (bilateral agreements) or Turkey (customs union). These alternatives would decrease Brussels' influence on some key policy fields, e.g. Common Agriculture and Fisheries Policies, Customs Union, Common Trade Policy, Common Foreign and Security Policy, Justice and Home Affairs and the Monetary Union. However, all of these arrangements obligate the non-member states to implement a considerable portion of EU legislation, and they have no direct influence on the formation of this legislation.

The economic reality of Britain's place in the EU entirely eliminates the possibility of the UK undertaking anyone of these options. Estimates of the contribution of the EU to the British economy vary. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research estimates that the EU contributes around 2 % to UK's GDP, whereas the British Department for Business Innovation and Skills calculates that the EU contributes 6 % to the British GDP. Other estimates go as high as 15

%. The impact of Europe on the British economy is most important in terms of the development of financial services, and more specifically in the financial district of London, the City. According to TheCitiUK, an independent organization promoting financial services in the UK, the trade surplus of financial and professional services (18.2 bn euros) is approximately equal to the combined surplus of all other net exporting industries, and the sector is critically important for the employment of over 2 million people in the UK. In 2011 financial services contributed 9.6 % to the GDP, a percentage which has been continuously growing since the introduction of the euro.

Concordantly, TheCitiUK finds that 84 % of business owners want the country to remain a member of the EU. The adverse effect of isolation of the UK from the EU has already been identified by Michael Sherwood and Richard Gnodde, co-chief executives of Goldman Sachs International. When speaking of a possible Brexit Michael Sherwood stated clearly "Every European firm would be gone in very short order". This view is echoed in the newly published report by the Confederation of British Business (CBI), the largest business lobby on the island. The report states that some 50.000 businesses in the country would face bankruptcy and potentially 1.5 million would become unemployed.

The Brexit is thus an entirely political endeavour, which finds next to no support in the business class in the country. It reflects the heightened anti-EU rhetoric in the Conservative Party and *ipso facto* the degree of its detachment from the reality of the British economy. If the UK were to leave the EU it would find itself with a marginalized economy, dwarfed by the world's largest trading block, which would be essentially unaffected – approximately half of the UK's total trade is within the Single Market whilst only 8 % of EU trade is with Britain. Combined with its small size and lack of any considerable natural resources, the UK would be reduced to a negligible version of Canada. It is therefore likely that a Brexit would be followed by negotiations to return to the EU. A Brexit would thus be the best thing the Tories could do for the opponents of Britain's position in the EU. It would also be a strong signal for anyone else thinking of leaving. In effect a Brexit would only strengthen the EU and weaken the UK.

The researcher column is written in turn by the researchers at the Centre for European Politics. The column does not represent a common CEP-position.

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

On the CEP website you can now find information and read about some of the research projects going on at CEP about the EU and European Politics, including Postdoc and PhD projects. See more here: www.cep.polsci.ku.dk

Among others you can read about the project "Symbols and Myths in European Integration" directed by Professor Ian Manners. Affiliated to the project are also newly appointed PhD fellow Christine Søby from the Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, and Associate Professor Kenneth Lynggaard from Roskilde University.

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For more information visit CEP's website: www.cep.polsci.ku.dk

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The newsletter is published four times a year and includes the latest updates on activities and research at the Centre for European Politics.

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