

# 'Hampshire Wants A Referendum' Steps Up Campaign

*A letter to the Herald, Feb 2008*

Sir,

On Saturday 16th February, an East Hants contingent led by Conservative candidate Damian Hinds, joined county-wide campaigners in Eastleigh to step up pressure on the government to honour its pledge to allow a referendum on the EU Constitution.

Hampshire residents are being urged to sign up to the [IWantaReferendum.com](http://IWantaReferendum.com) petition, which already has 38,000 signatories. The next stage is a mass lobby of Parliament on 27th February.

At the event, journalist and south east MEP Daniel Hannan said, "The constitution is another stage in transforming the EU from an association of nations into a unit where the member states become increasingly subordinate on many matters."

Damian Hinds said, "All major parties at the last election promised a referendum on the constitution. I know how strongly East Hampshire residents feel about this. It is a question of trust in politics and politicians. We must be allowed our referendum."

The pro-referendum campaign has support from members of all parties. But the Lib Dem leadership has claimed that no referendum on the constitution is now needed and instead there should be an 'all or nothing, in or out' referendum. Commenting on this position, Damian Hinds said, "The urgent thing is to get a public vote on the constitution. Many people suspect that the Lib Dem counter-proposal is a smokescreen to cover the fact that they are a wildly EU-enthusiast party, far out of step with the British public."

Sincerely,

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