

The EU Constitution and Mr Brown's 'Diary Clash'

A letter to the Herald, Dec 2007

Sir,

What a pathetic spectacle. Our Prime Minister claimed that a 'diary clash' prevented him from signing up to the EU Constitution in the full public glare.

The new EU Treaty is the EU Constitution in all but name – and everyone knows it. Both Labour and the Conservatives went into the last general election promising a referendum on the Constitution. Now Gordon Brown has broken his word.

Labour's 'red lines' are red herrings. They do not include key Constitution elements, including a new EU President, a 'single legal personality' and 60 vetoes lost.

There can be no doubt that, given the chance, the British people would have thrown out this latest aggrandisement of unelected Eurocrats' powers and the next step towards a United States of Europe. I hear this time and again – from people of all political views – when knocking on doors across East Hampshire.

People know where the Conservatives stand on this critical issue. Now they know where Labour stand, too.

What of the Liberals? To dodge the issue, Ming Campbell proposed a peculiar mechanism, to force people into an unrealistic choice between wholesale withdrawal and unconditional love of the Euro-federal state. But he was good and honourable enough to clarify that his own heart was always with deeper European integration. I hope that under their new leader (a former Euro-MP), local Lib Dems will also make their position clear.

Sincerely,

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