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A black and white portrait of Margaret Thatcher is centered in the upper half of the image. Two large, bright yellow five-pointed stars are positioned above her head, one to the left and one to the right. The background of the entire image is a stylized map of Europe, with the landmasses in a light blue color and the surrounding areas in a dark purple color. The map is overlaid on a background of diagonal purple and blue stripes.

“We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain, only to see them re-imposed at a European level.”

The Rt Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP, FRS
Honorary President: The Bruges Group
Speech to the College of Europe, Bruges, 20th September 1988

The
Bruges
Group 

For a Europe of links not chains

Alternative Futures

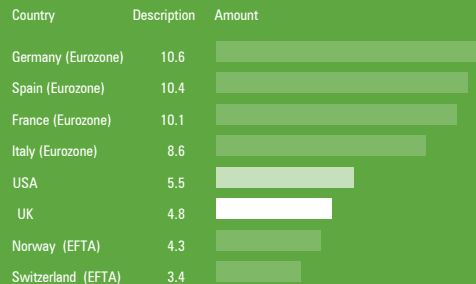
EU Superstate

The EU is on the road to nowhere

The euro and EU interference in the economy has caused major unemployment. Britain, which has kept the Pound, has considerably less unemployment than the Eurozone. The countries that are outside of the EU and in the European Free Trade Association have even lower unemployment still!

Unemployment Rate 2004

Definition: The percentage of the Labour force that is without jobs



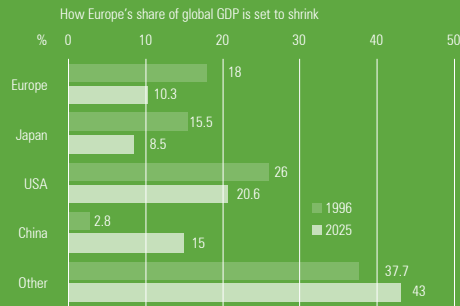
Source: CIA World Factbook, March 2005

Regulations cost the EU £600 billion!

A report on competitiveness, produced by the EU Commission, said that, "suffocating red tape" is damaging the economy holding back GDP by 12%, which equals £600 billion!

A declining market

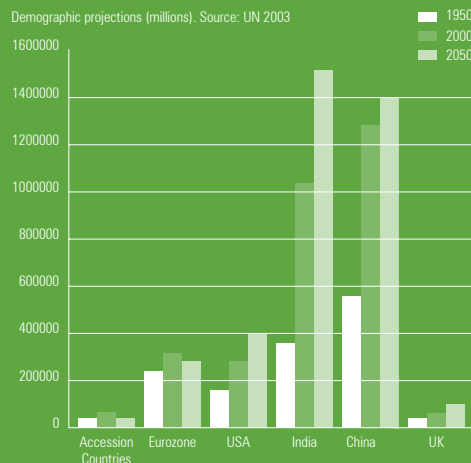
Europe's economic and political significance in the world is set to sharply decline. The EU will become less important in the global economy whose share of world GDP will almost halve by 2050.



Source: World Business Council for Sustainable Development
R. Cragg: The Demographic Investor, Financial Times and Pitman, 1998

An ageing and declining population

By 2050, the working age population of the Eurozone will have fallen from 203 million to c. 160 million. The Eurozone is going to lose about 27 million workers while simultaneously gaining about 35-40 million pensioners.



Lets not let the EU drag Britain down!

British Nation-state

Britain, free of EU control, could reclaim our fishing waters, take back control of agriculture, abolish damaging EU regulations and create a low tax wealth and job creating economy. The futures ours if we choose to grasp the opportunities waiting for us.

Thinking outside the box

The Alternatives to the EU - Options for Britain

Britain is the fourth largest economy in the world; we do not need to be part of a European Superstate. Besides, there are positive alternatives for Britain with no detrimental effects to our democracy and ability to govern ourselves.

The European Economic Area

Britain can opt out of the EU, but remain within the European Economic Area. It comprises the 25 members of the EU as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. It offers four freedoms of the single market - of goods, services, capital and people. Yet its members are free of the EU's CAP, the CFP, the fiscal and monetary policy, home affairs policy and the foreign and security policy.

EFTA

This would allow for a free trade agreement with the EU. We would not be bound by single market legislation. Even Mexico and 90 other countries have free trade agreements with the EU!

NAFTA

A third option would be to seek to join the North American Free Trade Association, soon to become a free trade association for the whole of the Americas. It is already negotiating with the European Free Trade Association. Its culture, distinctively Thatcherite, fits with Britain's. NAFTA has created 2 million more jobs per year than the European Union for 15 years. Over the last 25 years the USA has created almost five times as many jobs as the EU.

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth, with fifty-four members in six continents including India and many other rapidly growing economies, can be invigorated to be an organisation that can negotiate better trade terms for the UK than the declining top-down, bureaucratic and over-regulated EU.

Time to make a swift exit

Winning the arguments:

50% would vote to leave the EU

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win." Mahatma Gandhi

A YouGov poll conducted between 22nd - 25th July 2005 found that 50% want to leave the EU. It said:

Q1. Do you think a national referendum should be held on whether the United Kingdom should remain a member of the European Union?

Referendum should be held – 62%
Referendum not necessary – 25%
Don't Know – 12%

Q2. If a referendum were held and these were the available options, which would you choose?

Britain remaining a member of the EU – 34%
Britain leaving the European Union and replacing our membership with a freetrade agreement – 50%
Don't know – 17%

What the EU does for you: Key Facts

The EU: Threatening your job and hitting your bank balance

- EU regulation is driving jobs abroad to South-East Asia and the USA.
- The EU's Common Agricultural Policy costs the average family £1000 per year in higher food prices and higher taxes.
- £12 billion of British taxpayers' money is handed over to the EU each year.
- EU trade polices raise the costs of consumer goods.
- The total cost of the EU to Britain is £40 billion per year. To put this into perspective £1 billion will pay for 222,000 hip replacements, or 46,893 nurses, or 38,782 teachers, or 34,585 police officers!
- The EU is not only wasteful it is also corrupt. Its own internal auditors have refused to sign off its accounts for the last 10 years.

The EU: Threatening your democracy

- The European Commission, an unelected bureaucracy, has the sole right to propose EU legislation.

- 70% of all new laws come from the EU.
- EU law has supremacy over laws made by our own Parliament.
- The Luxembourg based European Court of Justice (the ECJ) has the right to impose unlimited fines on the British taxpayer.

The EU: Threatening your freedom

- The European Commission can bring criminal prosecutions against British citizens.
- Europol (the European Police Force) is unaccountable to member states and any democratic institution, even the European Parliament.
- Europol's officers are immune from prosecution should they commit a criminal offence in the course of their duties.
- Europol will have prevalence over our own security services.

1984?

Make a difference Get Involved

Membership of the Bruges Group

Your membership subscription will allow the Bruges Group to fight the government's implementation of the EU Constitution. To become an Associate Membership of the Bruges Group visit www.brugesgroup.com/join or return the form attached to this flyer. You can also join over the phone by calling 020 7287 4414. Joining the Group will entitle you to receive our published material for one year. It also helps cover the cost of the numerous Bruges Group meetings to which all Associate Members are invited.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Bruges Group

Keep informed

Visit www.brugesgroup.com for comment on EU affairs. To subscribe to our regular news bulletin's log on to www.brugesgroup.com and simply enter 'Your Name' and 'Your Email' into the NEWSLETTER box.

Your shout

Bruges Group Discussion Forum

You can post your views and debate with others on key issues on www.brugesgroup.com.



Donate to
the Frederick
Forsyth Appeal

Dear Friend,

The time for our ideas has truly come. I know that you, like me, will want to take a stand with us and be part of this final drive to, once and for all, consign the 1950s idea for a centralised EU State to the history books where it belongs. Together we will drive home our case for a free, democratic and more prosperous future for Britain.

*Best
Freddie Forsyth*

Frederick Forsyth – bestselling author and political commentator

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www.brugesgroup.com

We are grateful for your support

What your support can deliver

- **Staff - £10,000** will pay for a researcher dedicated to countering the propaganda of the BBC and promoting the case for a free UK.
- **Magazine - £7,500** will pay for a popular magazine.
- **Advertising - £5,000** will pay for a series of advertisements.
- **Conference - £2,500** will pay for a major conference on the EU.
- **Leaflets - £1,200** will pay for the printing of 40,000 leaflets.
- **Research - £900** will pay for a major piece of research that will prove that Britain must be freed from EU control.
- **Event - £600** will pay for a high-profile public event.
- **Letters - £500** will pay for 5,000 letters that expose the EU.
- **Activists - £300** will pay for an activist recruitment and training meeting thus creating local campaigns in every town and city.
- **Briefings - £200** will pay for a briefing session where press and politicians can be informed about the EU and how to fight back.
- **Postage - £150** will pay for the postage of informative anti-EU arguments to the media and decision makers.
- **Banners - £100** will pay for a large newsworthy banner that can depict the truth about the EU at a campaign event.
- **Speakers - £50** will pay for speakers to address an event.
- **Delivering - £20** will pay for thousands of leaflets to be sent to activists.
- **Website - £10** will pay for the maintenance and improvement of our website for two weeks. The site gets thousands of hits a week.
- **Emails - £5** will pay for an informative action generating e-mail to the media and opinion formers.

You may not be able to afford much, but it adds up and together we can win. With your support the Bruges Group can lead Britain to freedom



Frederick Forsyth asks you to support the Bruges Group

THE FREDERICK FORSYTH APPEAL

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Signature..... Date

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Director: Robert Oulds MA **Head of Research:** Dr Helen Szamueli **Washington D.C. Representative:** John O'Sullivan, CBE
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OR AT ANY BARCLAYS BANK:

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Secure online donations can be made via our website at
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Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society:

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Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS and return this form to us
at the address at the top of this page

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Branch Address:

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Your account number Sortcode

Please Pay: Barclays Bank plc (Sort Code 20-46-73) 6 Clarence St, Kingston-upon-Thames
Surrey KT1 1NY

The sum of, please tick as appropriate £10 £20 £50 £100 £250 £1,000

Other, please specify:

Amount in words:

to the credit of the Bruges Group Account Number 90211214 forthwith and on the same day in
each subsequent **year or month** (please circle your preference) until further notice.

Signature: Date:

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TEL: +44 (0)20 7287 4414 | FAX: +44 (0)20 7287 5522 | www.brugesgroup.com/join | info@brugesgroup.com

To become an Associate Member of the Bruges Group, complete the following form and send it to the Membership Secretary with your annual subscription fee. This will entitle you to receive our published material for one year. It also helps cover the cost of the numerous Bruges Group meetings to which all Associate Members are invited. **You can also join online, right now, by using your debit or credit card. Please log on to www.brugesgroup.com/join or you can join over the phone by calling 020 7287 4414.**

Minimum Associate Membership Rates	1 year
UK	£30
Europe	£50
Rest of the World.....	£65

If you are able to give more towards our work, we would be very grateful for your support. For the sake of convenience, we urge you to pay by standing order.

YES! I wish to become an Associate Member of the Bruges Group

Title: Name:

Address:

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Telephone: Fax:

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BANKERS ORDER Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

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The sum of £ (figures)

Amount in words:

Signature: Date:

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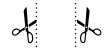
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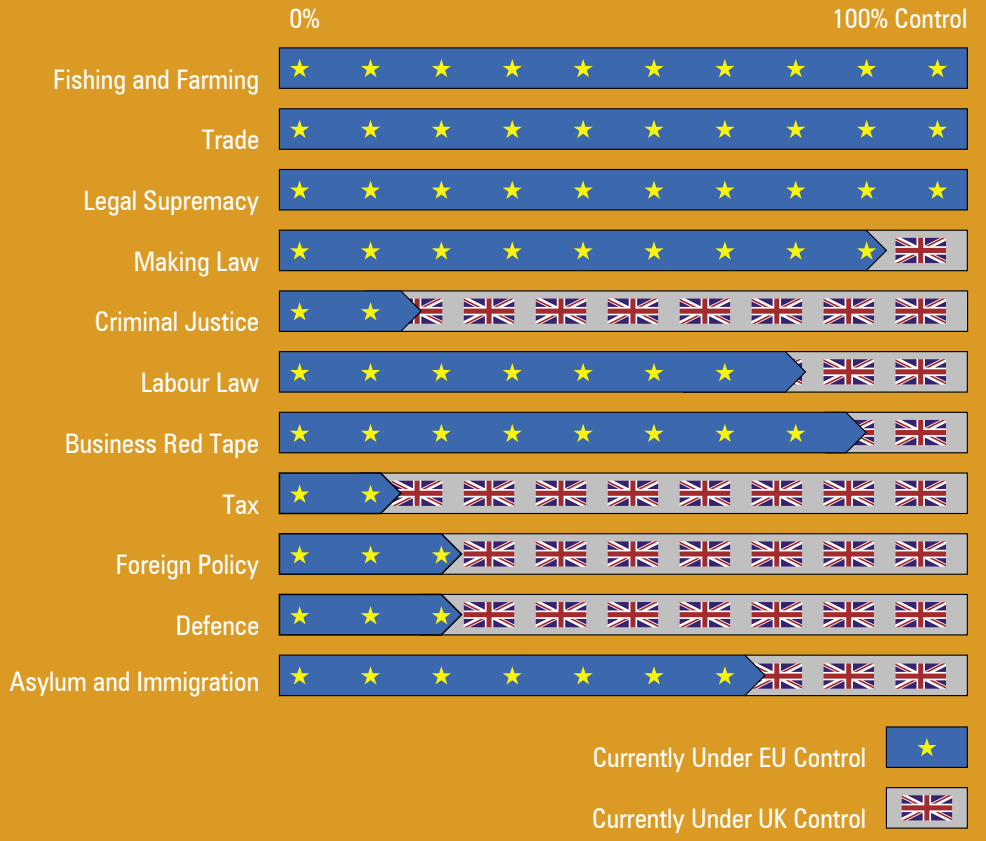
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02	A Constitution to Destroy Europe by <i>Bill Jamieson</i>	£2.00		
04	Criminal Justice and the Draft Constitution by <i>The Rt Hon. Oliver Letwin, MP</i>	£2.00		
05	Health and the Nation by <i>Dr Lee Rotherham</i>	£2.00		
06	Will the EU's Constitution Rescue its Currency by <i>Professor Tim Congdon, OBE</i>	£2.00		
#	A New World Order: What Role for Britain?	Unit Price	Quantity	Cost (£)
01	The Fate of Britain's National Interest by <i>Professor Kenneth Minogue</i>	£2.00		
#	Occasional Papers	Unit Price	Quantity	Cost (£)
15	Address to the 5th Anniversary of the Bruges Group by <i>The Rt Hon Lord Tebbit of Chingford</i>	£2.00		
16	All Those in Favour: The British Trade Union Movement and Europe by <i>John Sheldrake</i>	£2.00		
17	The Conservative Party and Europe by <i>Martin Holmes</i>	£2.00		
18	Speaking Out on Europe by <i>Christopher Gill MP</i>	£2.00		
19	Worlds Apart? by <i>Bill Jamieson</i>	£2.00		
20	From Single Market to Single Currency by <i>Martin Holmes</i>	£2.00		
21	Delors, Germany and the Future of Europe by <i>Russell Lewis</i>	£2.00		
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Britain: No longer an independent state

Key issues under the control of Brussels



Currently Under EU Control 

Currently Under UK Control 



Superstate marching on

Did you think the EU Constitution was dead? Think again. Despite it being rejected in two referenda in France and the Netherlands the EU and the Government have decided to ignore the will of the people and introduce it by stealth.

Key elements that are already being brought in are:

Militarisation

- **The EU Defence agency** – meaning that procurement for our armed services will be controlled by the EU, it is leading to the purchasing of inferior European military equipment and will mean that our military will only be able to be deployed if other European countries allow
- **EU Battlegroups and the Rapid Reaction Force** - these give the EU an armed wing with autonomous politico-military command structures and a mutual defence clause which both undermine NATO

Law and Order

- **European Gendarmerie** – the creation of a EU militarised police force
- **The EU External Border Agency** – controlling our borders
- **The EU criminal code plus an EU prosecuting magistracy** – allowing the EU to standardise criminal law will undermine British liberty and democracy

Immigration

- **The common asylum policy** – limiting Britain's right to decide who enters and stays in this country

Foreign Affairs

- **The EU Foreign Minister** – removing Britain's voice on the world stage
- **The European External Action Service (that is, the EU diplomatic corps including Embassies abroad)** – supporting the EU Foreign Minister

Less democracy

- **The Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Fundamental Rights Agency** – enforcing the Charter of Fundamental Rights, weakening our Parliament

More white elephants

- **The EU Space Programme** – costing £8 billion

The Government promised the British people that the Constitution would not be introduced without a vote. Another broken promise!

It is time that the British people had their say

The EU – *in their own words*

"I really believe the French and Dutch did not vote no to the constitutional treaty." – **Jean-Claude Juncker**, current Luxembourg Prime Minister, The Guardian, said during his countries Presidency of the EU, Friday 17th June 2005

"I am sure that in medium-term we will have a European army financed by the EU budget." – **Wilhelm Schönfelder**, German Ambassador to the EU, Handelsblatt, 19th April 2005

"Investors who make decisions for the long-term should allow for the risk of the euro falling apart." – **Euro Wreckage?** Report by German economist Joachim Fels, for Morgan Stanley Investment Bank, 6th February 2004

"The vast majority of national criminal law will have to be harmonised in the very near future." – **Gijs de Vries**, Dutch Government delegate to the European Convention, and European anti-terrorism Coordinator, Daily Telegraph, 31st May 2003

"Our continent has seen successive attempts at unifying it: Caesar, Charlemagne and Napoleon, among others. The aim has been to unify it by force of arms, by the sword. We for our part seek to unify it by the pen. Will the pen succeed where the sword has finally failed?" – **Valéry Giscard d'Estaing**, President of the EU Convention, speech in Aachen accepting the Charlemagne Prize for European integration, 29th May 2003

"It [The Charter of Fundamental Rights] is part of the process of federalising the EU." – **Andrew Duff** MEP (Liberal Democrat) – interview in the Financial Times, 29th March 2000

"Of course, Britain could survive outside the EU...We could probably get access to the single market as Norway and Switzerland do..." – The Rt Hon. **Tony Blair** MP, Prime Minister, speech in Ghent, 23rd February 2000

"We'll negotiate withdrawal from the EEC which has drained our natural resources and destroyed jobs." – **Tony Blair**, personal election manifestos for Beaconsfield and Sedgefield 1982 and 1983

Busting the myths

Myth #1. 60% of our trade and 3 million jobs depend on our membership of the EU.

False. Only 9% of our economy is related to trade with other European Union countries. However, 100% of Britain's economic activity is governed by strangulating EU regulations. Britain will continue to be able to trade with people and businesses within the EU if we choose not to be governed by EU law.

Myth #2 Britain has a bigger voice on the world stage by being in the EU.

False. The UK is global power. Through membership of international bodies such as the UN Security Council, the G8, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, NATO and the Commonwealth Britain is a major player in world affairs. Worryingly under the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy Britain is losing its right to steer its own course in world affairs. Javier Solano the EU High Commissioner, responsible for Foreign Affairs, has increasing control over this area.

Myth #3 The EU is good for the economy.

False. Even the Chancellor of the Exchequer has criticised the European Union. He said on 22nd June 2005 that current EU economic thinking was "not just out of date but counterproductive".

Myth #4 If Britain actively participates in Europe it can reform the EU.

False. Britain only has 9% of the votes on EU legislation and is often outvoted by other European countries such as France, Germany, Italy and Spain, which are not about to discard their damaging social market economy. Since 1973 Britain continues to be unable to persuade our European partners to abolish the damaging Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy.

Myth #5 The EU is 're-uniting Europe'.

False. Europe has only ever been united under Napoleon and Hitler!

Myth #6 The EU has kept the peace in Europe.

False. NATO and the Trans-Atlantic Alliance have kept the peace in Europe. So has the spread of democracy (no two democracies have ever gone to war with each other). The undemocratic EU where different peoples are controlled by an unaccountable and remote corrupt system of government is however a recipe for internal conflict just like Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union were.

Myth #7 The EU can act as a counter weight to the USA.

False. The combined defence spending in the EU is still tiny compared with the United States. What is more, with its shrinking share of the global economy and its dwindling population it is becoming less internationally important.

Myth #8 The EU is good for the Environment.

False. The EU's Common Fisheries Policy has been an ecological disaster. The Batteries Directive, the End of Life Vehicle directive and the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Directive have caused the environmental problem of dumping to take hold, costing the taxpayer hundreds of thousands of Pounds. The landfill directive has also led a rash of fly tipping, massively increased costs and a network of expensive incinerators at a cost to the UK estimated at £6.9 billion.

Then there is the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) will cost billions of pounds to achieve. This is on top of the estimated £16 billion needed to upgrade water and sewerage pipes, which is already leading to massively increased water bills.

All this, at a very rough estimate, looks like costing the British economy £4-5 billion a year – all to create more problems than are solved. Driving businesses abroad, where there are fewer controls of pollution than there are now. The net effect may well be to increase rather than reduce global pollution.

Myth #9 The EU enables students to take part in cultural and education exchanges.

False. Such projects are actually run by the non-partisan Council of Europe and the Central Bureau for Information and Exchanges organisations that have nothing to do with the EU. The EU just mussels in and uses it as a propaganda tool. Britain also has many non-EU students. How could they have got here without political union? Answer. It is not needed!

Myth #10 The Council of Ministers and the European Parliament make the EU democratic.

False. The EU is not democratic it is dominated by a supra-national bureaucracy (the European Commission) and the political, but unelected, European Court of Justice.

The Council of Ministers receives proposals from the unelected Commission, asking them to take powers away from their governments thus depriving their own citizens of power. From then on, the Commission having been given the power, it keeps it, to exercise as it thinks fit.

Does the Council maintain an oversight over how those powers are exercised? No.

Has the Council any power to call the Commission to account over the way it uses its powers? No.

Can the Council remove or modify those powers, if it is unsatisfied with the way the Commission is performing? No.

Does the Council even have the power to ask the Commission for information on its performance? No.

That's democratic?

The European Parliament elections do not produce a government, so the Parliament has no power or authority to execute a mandate. It cannot, for instance, decide to repeal any EU laws – it cannot even initiate any laws. Furthermore, in a parliament of 732 members, Britain elects only 78 MEPs.

No matter what the European Parliament thinks about an existing piece of EU law it cannot force a change. The unelected Commission can completely ignore the European Parliament.

About the Bruges Group

Spearheading the case for freedom

Who we are

Our President is Baroness Thatcher; The Bruges Group's team includes world-famous Patrons, a high-powered academic panel, an advisory board of distinguished names and a core team of dedicated staff.

Aims and objectives

Putting Britain First

5 Steps to freedom

- Rebut pro-EU propaganda
- Establish an official cost/benefit analysis of EU membership
- Promote viable alternative policies to EU membership
- Re-establish British sovereignty with an act of Parliament
- Repeal the European Communities Act 1972, freeing Britain from EU Control

5 Principles for a democratic and prosperous UK

- Abolish regionalisation
- End supra-nationalism
- Campaign for Global Free Trade
- Support NATO and the Trans-Atlantic special relationship
- Make Britain a competitive prosperous nation by slashing red-tape and reducing taxation. Only possible when Britain is self-governing

10 Key successes

Since our formation in 1989 the Bruges Group and our allies have won many battles against the forces of federalism.

- Forced the Government to agree to a referendum on the euro
- Forced the Government to agree to a referendum on the EU Constitution
- Bolstered anti-EU feeling amongst the nation
- Turned the City of London against the euro
- Informed press and politicians about the facts of the EU
- Exposed EU propaganda
- Promoted alternatives to the EU
- Instigated the election of more EU-sceptic politicians
- Gained a great deal of media coverage and won many debates with Europhiles on the radio and on television
- Assisted successful anti-EU campaigns in Denmark (Maastricht Treaty and euro referendum) Ireland (Nice Treaty referendum) Sweden (euro referendum) and the French and Dutch EU Constitution referenda.

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