

A Maastricht Phrasebook

ACQUIS

Whatever the Community has agreed on already. Britain constantly discovers that it has agreed to things of which it was unaware at the time.

BERLAYMONT

The palace in Brussels from which Europe is governed. Shortly to be demolished because of asbestos pollution, but its spirit will live on.

BOGEYMEN

V. Shadows on the wall.

BRUGES

A small town in Belgium, disgraced in 1988 by a speech by Margaret Thatcher (q.v.).

BRUGES GROUP

The only known pressure group set up specifically to support the policy of the Government. Therefore an object of suspicion to the government whips and the Chairman of the Conservative Party.

BRUSSELS

The Belgian capital, scene of a great ball before the defeat of the French at Waterloo. Today the setting for the long drawn-out humiliation of Britain. Boasts a wide range of good restaurants.

CHURCHILL, WINSTON

British statesman. Prayed in aid by Europhiles because he said something in favour of a United States of Europe (q.v.). He also said:-

'We are with Europe but not of it. We are linked but not comprised. We are interested and associated but not absorbed, and should European statesmen address us in words

which were used of old,

"Shall we speak for thee to the king or captain of the host?"

We should reply with a Shunanite woman,

"Nay Sir, for we dwell among our own people" .

COHESION

Paying poor countries to accept EMU. V. Structural funds.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The chief tangible achievement of the first 30 years of the EEC. It is on such foundations that we shall go forward to build the Europe of the future.

COMMON POSITION

Something which it is advisable for Euro-politicians to adopt. The British, typically repressed, tend to find it embarrassing.

COMMUNAUTAIRE

There is no English equivalent of this important adjective.

COMPETENCE

Within the EEC, this word has a special, technical meaning, and cannot be used in its vernacular sense.

CONSERVATIVES

In Britain, those espousing Conservative ideas and supporting the Conservative Government and party. Those representing the party in the European Parliament understand that the word means something quite different across the Channel. They oppose the Government's stated policy.

CONVERGENCE

The process by which, either as a prelude to or as a result of EMU, all countries will become the same as one another. This will reduce their competitiveness, to be sure, but that is a small price to

pay for Ever Closer Union (q.v.).

DEFENCE

Not to be confused with security, a word imported into the argument in order to reduce tension by suppressing meaning. Defence used to be a matter for Her Majesty's Government. Soon it may be a matter for the casting vote of Luxembourg.

DELORS, JACQUES

The President of Europe, a post which does not officially exist, but to whose creation all member states are surely committed by their adherence to the doctrines and formularies of the EEC. Its holder has more power than the Holy Roman Emperor. He is French, by the way.

DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

Not the lack of control of the EEC or the Council of Ministers by the parliaments of the member states. The phrase means the fact that the European Parliament still has less power than the national parliaments. If 650 Westminster MPs cede their power to 81 British Euro-MPs, there won't be a democratic deficit any more.

DIRECTIVES

Orders from Brussels. Member states can choose the means by which they carry them out. To be distinguished from Regulations, which must be carried out exactly as Brussels says. But v. also Implementation.

EASTERN EUROPE

A place we all feel very sorry for. It isn't part of Europe (q.v.). Its goods, services and people must therefore (we regret) be excluded.

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (EMU)

The development of one currency, looked after by one bank. This natural development of the European idea will cut transaction costs, reduce the poorer member states to penury and transfer power from elected national politicians to unelected international financiers. British elected politicians would like to wait a few

years before accepting the idea, by which time there may be some different elected politicians around.

ECU

The European Currency Unit. Also a French coin of the 13th century. Like a snake charmer's cobra, it lives in a basket. With EMU, it will come out and bite.

ECU, HARD

A British suggestion, and therefore rejected.

ENGLANDER, LITTLE

One who defends the independence of Great Britain.

EUROPE

Formerly a continent, first identified in classical times, and stretching from Ireland to the Urals. Now a set of institutions centred on Brussels and ruled by Jacques Delors (q.v.). Despite having been in Europe throughout its existence, Britain found it necessary to 'go into' Europe again in 1973. In the primitive period before that date, Europe simply existed. Since 1973, it has been possible for Britons to be 'pro-Europe' or 'anti-Europe'.

EUROPE, HEART OF

Where we all want to be, including Mr Major and even (v. Bruges speech) Mrs Thatcher. According to cartographers, the heart of Europe is a few miles from Vilnius, capital of Lithuania. Contrary to appearances, Britain is at the heart of Europe, we are told.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The body which runs the EEC. Normally, a commission is a body which carries out the wishes of others. This one has dispensed with that encumbrance; it devises the laws itself.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Actually, this does not exist. There are the European Communities: the Coal and Steel Community, the Atomic Energy Community and the European Economic Community. But soon they, and we, will be all in one flock and under one shepherd.

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AREA (EFTA)

A semi-obsolete body soon to be subsumed into the EEC, via the European Economic Area. A pathetic shadow of the European idea. In the 1980s, the average growth rate of its members was 2.6%; that of the EEC was 2.1%. That of Norway (an EFTA member) was 3.1%, that of Germany 2.0%.

EUROPEAN GERMANY

A good thing. This is what we are promised if we accept political union. If we do not, the Germans threaten, we shall get a German Europe.

EVER CLOSER UNION

The phrase appears in the Treaty of Rome, and all members of the EEC therefore support it. It is a Euro-favourite because it implies endless movement in one direction. No one presumes to know what it means, but it is useful to beat Britain with from time to time. At Blackpool this year, Mr Major said he, and the Single European Act, wanted an 'ever closer union of states' rather than the dissolution of states. Such words are not to be found in the Single European Act.

FEDERAL

As in 'federal goal'. If you accept the existence of a supreme European authority, the word describes the diffusion of powers beneath that authority. If you oppose that authority, the official adoption of the word reminds the world that you are losing. The British Government is adamant that the word be kept out of all treaties. It does not mind so much whether the reality is kept out. V. Subsidiarity.

FRANCE

A difficult concept. Often employed as a synonym for the European Commission (q.v.), but the usage is considered vulgar.

FRANCO-GERMAN AXIS

A slang phrase, meaning the way Europe is run.

GOING NATIVE

An invariable process in Brussels. The difference between Britain and Brittan.

GOOD EUROPEAN

One who embraces the Ever Closer Union (q.v.). He can be recognised by his declaration that he 'feels passionately about Europe' and his dislike of Mrs Thatcher (q.v.).

IMPLEMENTATION

The carrying out of rules made in Brussels. An unworkable practice attempted only in the United Kingdom.

INEVITABLE

The process of European union is inevitable, as were the collapse of capitalism, the victory of Napoleon's empire, and the thousand-year Reich.

ISOLATION

The danger for Britain if it does not Shape the Community from Within (q.v.). The Dutch prime minister recently warned that Britain might become an 'isolated island'. Presumably he was speaking on behalf of a continental continent.

JAPAN

Another isolated island (v. Isolation). It has no plans to be part of a union with anyone or to jettison its currency. Curiously enough, it does quite well economically.

LUXEMBOURG

Author of a Compromise and of a Draft. Also a country.

MACSHARRY, RAY

V. Ripa di Meana, Carlo.

MEGAPHONE DIPLOMACY

Saying what you think. Not communautaire.

MITBESTIMMUNG

Scholars differ as to its meaning. 'Worker participation' is one suggestion; 'beer and sandwiches' is another.

NATION STATES

The existence of nation states has caused war, just as the existence of property causes burglary.

NATIONALIST

An evil character almost extinct in Western Europe. Thanks to the good government of Eastern Europe since the war little was heard of him there until recently. Now, sadly, he has popped up again.

NO. NO. NO.

Three extremely rude words. Mrs Thatcher used them in the House of Commons on 30 October 1990:-

'The President of the Commission, Mr Delors, said at a press conference the other day that he wanted the European Parliament to be the democratic body of the Community, he wanted the Commission to be the Executive and he wanted the Council of Ministers to be the Senate. No. No. No.'

NOBODY

As in 'nobody is talking about a United States of Europe', or 'nobody is talking about a European superstate', or 'nobody is talking about a loss of cultural identity'. 'Nobody' is talking a great deal at present and is clearly a man of influence in the counsels of the Conservative Party.

PARTNER

As in 'our EEC partners'. A new word for a trade rival.

PILLARS AND TREES

The British want the former, the rest the latter. The pillars represent the free-standing but mutually assisting institutions of the Community, some run by the Commission, others, such as defence and foreign policy, by the agreement of the member governments. The tree allows for no such separation, but grows from the

common root of Brussels. Species of tree unknown, but not the great English oak.

POLITICAL COOPERATION

Formerly this meant people or countries working together politically. The phrase now means a foreign policy acceptable to all the 12 Community members. At the time of writing, they are still working on it.

POLITICAL UNION

Rule by the EEC Commission and the European Parliament. It is the Germans' price for letting the French and others gain control of their money. Little in it for Britain, the only European country to have had its own political union these past 300 years.

POOLING

Another European custom which displays the British at their most inhibited. Sovereignty (q.v.) is particularly amenable to it. Come on in, the water's lovely.

POOS, JACQUES

Foreign Minister of Luxembourg. He was the cutting edge of EEC foreign policy during the Gulf crisis, and the name at which Saddam Hussein turned pale.

POWELL, ENOCH

A politician who warned the British people that if they voted for entry to the EEC, they would be handing their sovereignty (q.v.) over to others. An obvious madman.

QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING

This was entrenched in the Single European Act. Mrs Thatcher thought it was only there to speed up a few useful free trade measures. Soon it will be the way in which Europe decides whether to go to war.

REGULATIONS

V. Directives.

RIPA DI MEANA, CARLO

An enemy of Britain.

SEAT AT THE TOP TABLE

This is something Britain must have. Don't question the company or ask to look at the menu.

SECURITY

V. Defence, with which it should not be confused.

SHADOWS ON THE WALL

There are none. We have Mr Douglas Hurd's word for it. V. also Bogeymen.

SHAPING THE COMMUNITY FROM WITHIN

Britain agreeing to whatever the other 11 propose.

SINGLE

As in market, currency etc. This is a more communautaire word than common, because it means one controlling authority and no messing about. The Single Market will make us all freer. Following is the list of measures for its implementation in the last six months:

<i>Document ref. no.</i>	<i>Brief description</i>
88/180	Lawnmower noise (cylinder mowers)
88/181	Lawnmower noise (larger mowers)
90/427	Animal health in live animals of the equine species (zootechnical rules)
90/428	Animal health in live animals of the equine species (competitions)
80/608	Mutual assistance between Member States authorities on customs matters
90/167	Production and trade in medicated feeding stuffs
89/552	Broadcasting activities
89/665	Application of Community rules on procedures for the award of public supply and public works contracts
89/104	First directive to approximate the laws of the Member States

relating to Trade Marks

- 89/107 Food additives
- 89/662 Veterinary checks in intra-Community trade
- 90/425 Veterinary and zootechnical checks in intra-Community trade in certain live animals and products
- 90/429 Semen of animals (porcine species)
- 90/667 Pathogens in feeding stuffs

SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT

(Signed in 1986). Mrs Thatcher (q.v.) thought this would introduce free trade between EEC nations. In fact, it was far more visionary, providing for the eventual abolition of nations altogether.

SOCIAL CHARTER

The plan that first drew M. Delors to the attention of British trade unions and turned the Labour Party towards the EEC. It would reimpose the union powers that Britain got rid of in the 1980s. Agreed to be very forward-looking. V. also Mitbestimmung.

SOVEREIGNTY

Formerly, this meant the ultimate authority in any political community. Now it means power or influence, as in 'We get more sovereignty by pooling it'. In other moods, Euroenthusiasts will tell you that the whole concept is out of date. Mr Edward Heath says that. When we entered the EEC in 1972, he said that sovereignty would not be affected. Perhaps the word is Unhelpful (q.v.), and should be dropped.

SOVIET UNION

A useful model of the federal goal to which the builders of the new Europe aspire. Some carping spirits now want it to break up. V. also Yugoslavia.

STRUCTURAL FUNDS

Money for poorer countries, and poor bits of rich countries. If EMU comes about, entire economies will subsist on structural funds.

STYLE

This, not Substance (q.v.) is what is required for success in the EEC.

SUBSTANCE

One of those Unhelpful (q.v.), old-fashioned words like Sovereignty (q.v.). Mrs Thatcher had it. Hence her fall. V. also Style.

SUBSIDIARITY

The principle that the Community tackles only those tasks which it is able to deal with more effectively than the member states acting alone. Naturally, it is for the Community and not for the member states to define effectiveness.

THATCHER, MARGARET

A woman who pointed out the shortcomings of the EEC, thereby misunderstanding its conventions. She was duly ambushed at the Rome summit in 1990, and has scarcely been heard of again.

TOBACCO ADVERTISING

An evil practice which will soon be outlawed, using the new freedoms conferred by the Single Market.

TOBACCO GROWING

A virtuous agricultural occupation, widely pursued on the Continent and subsidised by the Common Agricultural Policy (q.v.)

TRAIN, BUS, BOAT, PREFACED WITH WORD 'EUROPEAN'

These are forms of public transport which we must climb aboard. (Sir Geoffrey Howe was particularly keen on the train; Sir Leon Brittan prefers the boat, which he also wants us to help build.) It is ill-mannered to ask where they are going or whether we want to go there.

TRANSACTION COSTS

What you pay a lot of if you start with £100 and then change it successively into the other 11 currencies of the Community. Apparently there are people (MEPs?) who do this. EMU (q.v.) will greatly assist them. But according to Karl Otto Pöhl, former

president of the Bundesbank, 'the repeated references to huge savings in transaction costs through having a single currency are not in the least convincing'. Herr Pöhl has now departed, and his grudging attitude is becoming rarer.

TWO-SPEED EUROPE

A device by which a few of the Gadarene swine would be permitted to run over the precipice a little later than the others.

UNHELPLEFUL

Anything which meets with the disapproval of Mr Douglas Hurd. Anything which Mr Hurd does is sensible.

UNITED STATES OF EUROPE

One of the things that Nobody (q.v.) is talking about. It will be achieved by the end of the century.

VETO

The power granted to each EEC member state to prevent a measure of which it disapproves. Must never be used because its user will experience Isolation (q.v.).

WIDENING OR DEEPENING

If you spread the net to Eastern Europe (q.v.), will it break, or will you get a better catch? M. Delors (q.v.) hasn't quite made up his mind yet.

YUGOSLAVIA

A federal union designed to prevent the hostilities which always arise when you have old-fashioned nation states. V. also Soviet Union.

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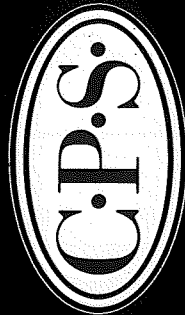
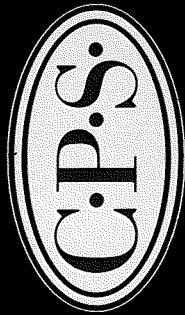
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TOWARDS AN EMPLOYEES' CHARTER

and away from collective bargaining
Nicholas Finney and Graham Brady

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A MAASTRICHT PHRASEBOOK

Charles Moore, Deputy Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, implies by means of this modest phrasebook for followers of the Maastricht deliberations, that Euroterminology has a great deal to answer for in obfuscating the continuing debate about the future of Europe, and Britain's place in it. Glibness when we use words such as 'implementation' or 'subsidiarity' is unfortunate, dangerous indeed. The CPS will offer a small prize of £25, which can be taken in any other European currency, to the reader of the phrasebook who (in the Centre's view) sends in the best list of ten additional words and definitions, by New Year's Eve 1991.

Charles Moore



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