



10 DOWNING STREET

26th April, 1984

Dear John

I am replying to your letter of 18th April to the Prime Minister on the European Manifesto.

The Prime Minister has produced an amended foreward which I attach.

She has also made some comments on the text of the Manifesto which I list.

However, as I am sure you will understand, she will want to give closer attention to both these again.

*Yours
Steve*

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

John Houston, Esq

From: The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

18 April 1984

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP

Dear Prime Minister,

Sir Geoffrey Howe has asked me, in his absence abroad, to send you a copy of the latest draft of the Manifesto for the European Elections, together with a suggested foreword to appear under your name.

Copies are also being sent to members of the Cabinet, the Party Chairman, the Chief Whip and members of the Howe Group, including Sir Henry Plumb. Sir Geoffrey has asked the other recipients of the draft if they could let him have their comments by 27 April.

Yours sincerely
J Houston

J Houston
Special Adviser

*Several comments
on text
not*

DRAFT FOREWARD FOR EURO MANIFESTO 1984 BY THE PRIME MINISTER
THE RT HON MARGARET THATCHER FRS MP

Britain joined the European Community with a vision.

We saw opportunities for trade and greater prosperity. But we also saw in the Community the promise of peace and security, an alliance in which endeavour, enterprise and invention could flourish.

For the first time in history, the very idea of an armed conflict between the countries of Western Europe has become unthinkable. As we celebrate the anniversary of D-Day, we shall also be celebrating almost 40 years of peace among the nations of Europe.

Membership of the Community has had its problems. But we have tackled them with courage and vigour.

When the European Parliament was directly elected five years ago, we Conservatives promised that our Government would defend Britain's vital national interests. We have kept our promise. Today, Britain's voice in Europe is strong and clear, and its message is respected by our partners.

We have been right to fight for improvements to the common agricultural policy and for a fairer system of finance.

We want these things so that we can put behind us the endless haggling over money and begin to develop the full potential of the Community.

These coming European elections are part of our commitment to peace with freedom and justice.

.../

It is vital that Britain's voice remains strong in Europe. We do not want to see our accomplishments and our future damaged by those who seek only to destroy what has already been achieved.

That is why I ask for your support on June 14th.

EUROPEAN MANIFESTO 1984

Prime Minister's amendments to the text of Draft III
dated 17th April 1984

Page 5, para. 2 : The Prime Minister put a line through this paragraph because of Eire not being a member of NATO and she has therefore minuted that this is a very dangerous paragraph.

Page 14, line 8 : The Prime Minister has queried the phrase "Practical answers to be found to the problem of acid rain."

Page 15, para. 2, lines 4-6 : She has minuted that this is not correct and that the burden did not become intolerable until our time.

Page 16, line 1-3 : She proposes you delete the passage in square brackets " which ... electorate ".

Page 19, line 1 : Delete "have ensured" and insert "believe".

Page 22, line 13-14 : The Prime Minister has queried the sentence beginning "Outside the Community ..."

Page 22. last line : She queried "unemployment".

Page 24, line 11-12 ; The sentence beginning "They would destroy jobs ..." is not right because of the reference "as they did in Britain."

SS
26/4.

THE STRONG VOICE IN EUROPE

The Conservative Commitment

These elections are about who can best represent your interests in the European Community. This Manifesto explains why the policies of the Conservative Government, supported by a strong Conservative team in the European Parliament, are the best guarantee of British interests in Europe and the best means of securing a prosperous and successful European Community. We are in the Community to stay because that is in Britain's interest and in Europe's. We intend to see that it succeeds so that it can play an important role in strengthening democracy across the world.

Five years ago, we called for an end to the confused and half-hearted approach to the Community which was all that a deeply-divided Labour Party could offer. Labour's policies had damaged British interests, failed to secure reforms, and undermined the Community's attempts to get to grips with the deteriorating world economic situation.

In both the general election and the European elections of 1979, the Conservatives won a clear victory.

Since then we have shown that it is possible to be true to Britain and true to Europe. We have set to work to win agreement on essential reforms; to assert the major role which Britain should play in the Community; to establish a more effective Community voice in the world; and to secure, in co-operation with our partners, an economic recovery which could provide jobs for our people on a lasting basis.

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After five years we have a record of solid achievement in Europe.

Our firm economic policies at home are restoring the economic health of Britain, and we are helping to leading the Community out of recession.

We have negotiated budget refunds of £2,500m for the last four years.

We have won Community agreement that there must be effective and guaranteed control of spending, including agriculture.

For the first time in the history of the Common Agricultural Policy, support prices have been reduced and open-ended guarantees removed for products in surplus. We have fought for a fair deal for British farmers in bringing about these reforms.

We have enabled British farmers to produce more of our food than ever before while keeping the rise in food prices below the rate of increase of other prices.

We have secured a Common Fisheries Policy which provides a good deal for British fishermen.

We have secured reforms in the European Social Fund so that it provides more help to Britain's unemployed, particularly young people training for new jobs.

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We have secured important new measures under the Regional Fund to help new industrial opportunities in the steel, shipbuilding and textile areas in the UK.

We have won agreement on measures to make the Common Market more effective, to have freer trade in insurance and transport services, and to give greater priority to scientific and technical co-operation.

Our record is in sharp contrast to that of the Labour Party. We have had to make good their failure to secure any reforms, or to develop Community activities in ways of benefit to this country. The warring factions within the Labour Party have made them incapable of achieving anything for Britain in Europe. Their irresponsible threat to withdraw has damaged the reputation of Britain and made our negotiations more difficult.

Nor do the Liberal and SDP parties offer an alternative. They are naive and inexperienced, and united only in their willingness to subordinate British interests to the wishes of Brussels.

In the European elections on June 14 we are seeking fresh endorsement of Conservative policies designed to promote British interests in the Community, and the election of a strong Conservative team in the European Parliament. Over the next weeks and months the work of these last five years of tough and persistent negotiations will come to fruition. We look to the electors to support us, to vote Conservative - for Britain and for a better Community.

PART II: A COMMUNITY WITH A WORLD ROLE

1. A Force for Democracy and Stability

Conservatives believe that Community membership increases the influence of the United Kingdom and strengthens our ability to direct our own destiny in the world. The European Community has a vital role to play in maintaining world peace, promoting democratic values, and advancing the economic and trading interests of its members.

The Ten working together can influence the super-powers on matters of foreign policy, economic policy, or trade more than they can do separately.

2. Improving Co-operation on Foreign Policy

Conservatives want to see the Community taking the initiative on world problems, not just reacting to them. We want it to help forge new links across the European divide and create a more hopeful relationship between East and West. That is why we have taken the lead in strengthening co-operation among the Ten on foreign policy. We have made important progress, but there is still much to be done if the Ten are to exert the influence they should command. We will continue to strengthen the arrangements for working together, though we will insist that the procedures remain flexible and unbureacratic.

We recognise the importance of preserving and strengthening our friendship with our great ally, the United States, which since

World War II has done so much to secure liberty and prosperity in Europe. We share the objectives of maintaining peace and protecting our freedoms. We believe that a stronger and more united Europe is in the interests of the Western Alliance as a whole.

NATO is the right forum for co-ordination of Western defence. But we would also like to see even greater co-operation on defence and security among members of the Community. We welcome recent moves towards more discussion among the Ten of the political and economic aspects of security. Closer co-operation on the purchase and production of arms too is in Britain's interest and in Europe's, and can provide a boost to European industrial development.

*Ireland
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join NATO*

*I think
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a very
dangerous
para. 11*

*will divide the two
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3. Enlargement

Enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal will strengthen democracy and security in Western Europe. We wish to see these negotiations brought to a conclusion as soon as possible, so that the wish of both countries to join on 1 January 1986 can be met.

4. A Trading Community

The trading strength of the Ten combined is unrivalled, with a share of world trade is half as large again as that of the United States. The Community has numerous trading agreements with developed and developing countries. Its potential influence is therefore very great.

We believe that free trade is essential for the prosperity of the West. The Community should use its strength to increase freedom of trade. It must not try to solve its internal problems by adopting

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protectionist measures. We reject the protectionist policies of the Labour Party as bad for consumers, bad for our successful industries and bad for Britain.

Conservatives will support:

- * Freer trade in services, where Britain leads the world.
- * A Community policy to reduce trading tensions, especially on agricultural products.
- * Action to ensure that Japan opens her markets more rapidly to imports and investment.
- * The opening up of markets in newly industrialised countries.
- * Measures to deal effectively with unfair practices by other countries and to provide breathing space for Community industries in difficulties. Conservatives in the European Parliament have taken a leading role in preventing imports of unfairly subsidised products into the Community.
- * Action to solve our trading differences with the United States, notably on agriculture, company law and taxation in a way which defends our legitimate interests.
- * Action to promote greater exchange rate stability and economic co-ordination.

5. Helping the Third World to Help Itself

The less developed countries take 40% of the Community's exports. In turn they supply us with many of our raw materials. The Community's trade and aid policies towards these countries should reflect this degree of interdependence and be designed to meet humanitarian needs, to stimulate self-reliance and to further our trading and political interests.

The European Community and its Member States provide more than a third of all the aid given to the developing world. The Lome Convention, now being re-negotiated, provides 63 African, Caribbean and Pacific States (34 of them Commonwealth members) with the most comprehensive trade and aid arrangements between the developed and developing worlds. In addition, the Community programme of aid to other countries in the third world, including India, has been growing steadily.

Resources are limited, but we will work to maintain an open trading environment, to eliminate waste and to promote private investment in developing countries.

We want British industry and commerce to be able to make more of the opportunities offered by the Community's aid programme. We will continue to make the quality of Community aid more effective, particularly so that it contributes to self-reliance in food production. Food aid, though it can still play an important role, should not be used simply as an outlet for the disposal of Community surpluses.

PART III: RECOVERY IN EUROPE: POLICIES FOR JOBS

Conservatives recognise that the member states of the European Community are today more closely linked and dependent upon one another than they have ever been. So we each have a vital interest in our collective success. That is why relaunching and reviving the Community is of major importance to this country. Our policies in Britain for the control of State spending and borrowing, and reviving enterprise have reduced inflation and restored confidence. Our partners in Europe, regardless of party or ideology, are now following similar policies with positive results.

These policies provide the essential foundation for a sustained recovery and full employment in Europe. The more Community member states work together to promote them, and the more we exploit the potential of a common market of 260 million consumers, the greater will be the benefits. We look at Community policies on their merits. When it is clear that Community action is more effective than national action alone, we wholeheartedly support it.

At Community level, just as in Britain, practical Conservative policies to control expenditure, eliminate waste, and set industry free provide the best prospect of creating new jobs which will last. That is why Conservatives believe that the greatest single contribution from the Community need cost no money at all - it is to make a reality of the common market.

In contrast the Labour Party would have us repeat the same mistakes at a European level which they have made at a national level.

Their policies for massive state spending, wasteful subsidies, and more bureaucratic controls and interference in industry would destroy jobs throughout Europe, revive inflation and set back five years' work.

Removing obstacles to trade within the Community and opening up a genuine common market in goods and services will boost competitiveness, reduce the costs on industry, and provide better prospects for employment. But if we are to exploit fully the opportunities this provides we also need to ensure fair competition and make our economic and social system more flexible.

Fair Community competition rules must be enforced, small businesses encouraged, new technologies developed, older industries made more competitive, and Community funds and financial instruments should be used to achieve these ends. These policies will strengthen Europe's future as the centre of invention and creative endeavour which it should be.

Internal Market. Although customs barriers have gone, too many barriers to trade remain. The French lorry drivers' protest vividly illustrated the problems. We must make faster progress towards a Community-wide market where those with goods and services to sell can go about their business with a minimum of restrictions and burdens.

In particular we shall strive to:

- * eliminate costly delays and bureaucracy at frontiers within the Community.

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- * make public purchasing more open and competitive.
- * create a common market for financial and other services, particularly important to Britain as the financial centre of Europe.
- * promote faster progress towards mutual recognition of professional qualifications.
- * agree a definite and detailed timetable for removal of non-tariff barriers to trade.

These changes will help businesses. But they will also help the individual as consumer, as traveller, as an earner, or as job seeker.

Trade within the Community is too often obstructed by a jungle of conflicting national laws. We shall work for simpler laws and common trading standard across Europe. But we shall resist harmonisation for its own sake.

Small Businesses. Experience shows that small businesses can generate many of the new job opportunities. Our policies for simplifying trade, reducing frontier formalities, and easing bureaucratic burdens will help small firms grow and create more jobs. We shall continue to champion their interests.

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Developing Europe's Technological and Industrial Potential: This is a key to the future prosperity of the Community. We will:

- * Promote common efforts on research and innovation such as the ESPRIT programme on information technology, and the new programmes on telecommunications and bio-technology when the costs are too great for individual countries or companies.
- * Encourage training programmes for the new technology industries.
- * Seek to remove obstacles to joint European ventures and investment, and encourage industrial co-operation.
- * Continue to support Europe's aerospace industry through collaborative efforts such as Airbus Industries' A320 or the EH 101 helicopter, which the Conservative Government helped to launch.
- * Support Community efforts to rationalise traditional industries such as steel and shipbuilding on a fair basis:

Community Funds. We recognise that Community Funds can play a useful role in supporting these policies. The UK benefits from these funds, and from the activities of the European Investment Bank. We will:

- * Continue to insist on an increase in the share of non-agricultural spending in the Community budget, including the Regional and Social Funds.
- * Ensure resources are used where they are most needed.
- * Work to ensure that enlargement does not lead to our problem areas being deprived of their fair share of Community support.
- * Ensure that lending by the European Investment Bank particularly benefits small businesses.

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Conditions of Employment. We have strongly supported the Community's efforts to promote high common standards of health and safety at work. But the Community should not impose detailed and binding rules which conflict with differing national practices, particularly in areas which are primarily the concern of employers and employees. Such rules are likely to destroy jobs rather than create them.

Good employers need no urging to consult their employees and inform them properly. We want the practices of the best firms to become the norm. But the emphasis must be on voluntary arrangements. We shall therefore resist attempts to impose excessively rigid systems of legislative compulsion on matters which are better agreed between employers and employees.

Monetary Co-operation

Uncertainty about interest rates and exchange rates is bad for trade. We support the objectives of more stable exchange rates and financial conditions, which require above all a common commitment to policies which will master inflation. The question of sterling participation in the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System remains under regular review. We should only take that step when the conditions are right, both for us and for our partners. We support the increasing commercial use of the ECU in Community trade and finance. We have already removed all serious obstacles to its use in this country, and will urge our partners to do the same.

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Transport

We attach a high priority to increasing freedom of competition in transport. We are pressing for:

- * Reduction and eventual abolition of the unduly restrictive quota of Community road haulage permits, to enable free movement of goods across the EEC.
- * Community agreement to counteract protectionism in world shipping and to act against unfair and disruptive action from Eastern bloc countries.
- * More competition in air passenger transport to provide a greater variety of service and encourage lower fares.

Energy Policy

We will work for measures to:

- * Encourage energy conservation and development of our own energy resources.
- * Continue moves to realistic and fair energy pricing throughout the Community.
- * Ensure contingency arrangements in case of future oil crises.
- * Promote a healthy and competitive coal industry.

Environment and Conservation

The UK has long been a pioneer in fighting pollution. Much pollution crosses frontiers, in water or by air. So policies for the environment are a proper concern for the Community if they are to be

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effective, and if European industry is to compete on a fair and equal basis. Measures must strike a fair balance between the needs of industry and the protection of the environment.

Within the Community we want:

- * the elimination of lead in petrol by 1990.
- * Community action to control cross-frontier movements of hazardous wastes.
- * Practical answers to be found to the problem of acid rain. !
- * Proper assessment of the environmental effects of major industrial development projects before approval.
- * Community assistance in cleaning up polluted rivers such as the Mersey.

We took the lead in securing a Community directive on the conservation of wild birds. We also supported the Community Regulation which banned the import of whale products.

Consumers

A concern for consumer interests runs right through our policies on the Community. Our commitment to a realistic agricultural pricing policy, and to creating greater Community-wide competition and choice, will benefit the consumer. We do not believe that the consumer interest is best protected by excessive intervention in the market-place in the name of consumer protection. We believe Community consumer measures are justified when barriers to trade are caused by different national approaches to consumer protection; and when the safety of goods which are freely traded is involved.

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PART IV: SECURING REFORMS

In Europe as in Britain we are the radical party leading the way in securing necessary change. Since 1979 we have worked to persuade our partners that the Community must set its own house in order if it is to tackle the major external challenges which concern us all. We have argued that a budget system which imposes unfair burdens on Britain or on any other country and which provides no firm control of spending, is damaging to the unity and effectiveness of the Community. Nor are prolonged annual haggles a sensible way of dealing with the problem. We are seeking a solution which takes this item off the agenda so that we can devote our energies to making the Community a force to be reckoned with in the world.

We have put forward this case with determination and persistence - and with increasing success. While continuing to press the case for long-term reforms, we have secured interim arrangements for British refunds of £2,500m, two-thirds of our budget burden in the years 1980-83. In contrast, the Labour Government presided over a rapid increase in Britain's budget burden and secured no relief whatsoever.

It did not become untenable until now check the figures

- Not correct use was 'Dutch mechanism'

At the Stuttgart Summit last June, the Prime Minister secured the agreement of our partners to launch a major negotiation, to establish a fairer distribution of burdens, to curb the growth of expenditure, particularly the CAP, to develop new policies, and to examine the Community's revenue needs. And in the European Parliament, our MEPs won agreement that long-term budgetary arrangements were necessary if the Community was to make progress.

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Since then we have been involved in long and tough negotiations [which are now almost complete. The shape of the deal is already clear and we are happy to recommend it to the British electorate.] Once again, it is the Conservatives who, by their commitment to the Community, their consistent approach, and their resolute defence of British interests, have secured real progress and real reform.

Budget Discipline

Conservative policies of financial prudence must apply to the Community as well as in Britain. We attach importance to the work of the Court of Auditors and the Budgetary Control activities of the European Parliament, but by themselves they cannot bring Community spending under control.

We have now secured agreement on a system of budgetary discipline. A maximum level of overall expenditure will be fixed each year, and the rate of growth of agricultural expenditure (which accounts for 65% of total budget) will be held below the rate of growth of Community revenue. We shall ensure that budgetary discipline becomes a full part of the Community's procedures.

Agriculture

In the last two decades we have seen major improvements in efficiency and productivity in the agricultural industry throughout Europe with an ever greater capacity to produce more from less land and with less labour. Meanwhile the Common Agricultural Policy has given farmers unconditional guarantees of good prices for what they produced, whether or not there was a market for it. As a result the Community is faced with surplus production on a scale which threatens to get out of control. Demand is stagnant and attempts to dispose of surpluses on world markets threatens to bring us into conflict with our trading partners. The rapid rise in agricultural spending has brought the Community up against the ceiling on its own resources.

Conservatives recognise the benefit of secure food supplies and stable prices brought by the CAP, and the part it has played in easing difficult social changes in the countryside. The policy has become the victim of its own success. We must tackle the problems of costs and surpluses now so that it can be placed on a basis which will safeguard the future of a healthy agricultural industry.

Our new system of budgetary discipline, combined with the package of measures agreed by Agriculture Ministers in March this year, marks a significant reform of the operation of the CAP and a first major step towards control of agricultural spending.

British Agriculture. Under the Conservatives, British agriculture has prospered while the real price of food in the shops has gone down.

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This is a record of real achievement. Conservatives, as the national party, have to strike a balance between the farmers, consumers and taxpayers. We wholly oppose the anti-farmer attitudes of the Labour Party. Their policies for the CAP, and for the re-rating of agricultural land and nationalisation of tenanted land, would drastically cut British agricultural production and drive tens of thousands of farmers and agricultural workers off the land. They talk of cutting agricultural costs, while advocating a policy which could cost the British taxpayer £2,250,000 per year. We reject too the Liberal and SDP policies of uncontrolled Community spending. In the long run that would be bad for farmers as well as taxpayers.

Controlling Surpluses. The removal of open-ended guarantees for products in surplus or likely to be in surplus has now been agreed. The Plumb Report, which was adopted by the European Parliament was the first Community document to recognise the need for this.

A Rigorous Price Policy is essential in order to help reduce surplus production and the costs of disposal and to make the agricultural industry more responsive to market conditions. We have agreed this year, for the first time in the history of the CAP, price reductions or a price freeze on nearly all major products.

Problem Sectors. Because of the huge cost of surpluses in the milk sector, a special supplementary levy has been introduced for milk production for 5

years. We have ^{believe} ensured that it is fair, effective and that everyone in the Community will be brought within the disciplines. ^{~~~~~} It is also important that the real price of cereals should be reduced in order to restore the balance between the livestock sector and the major arable crops. The agreement to reduce the price of most cereals this year is a step in the right direction.

Agricultural Trade. Conservatives insist that the Community must not try to solve the problems of the CAP at the expense of our trading partners elsewhere. As the European Parliament, in adopting the Resolution on Sir Fred Catherwood's Report on this subject, stated, Europe must guard against exporting agricultural

surpluses at the expense of important industrial products. That is one reason why we successfully opposed an oils and fats tax. We will also work to ensure that the Community stands by its obligations, for example to the ACP countries and above all, to New Zealand.

Own Resources and Budget System [To be drafted later]

Fisheries. The Conservative Government has succeeded in negotiating a Common Fisheries Policy providing British fishermen with the secure advantages in our own waters. This policy provides the stability the industry needs for long-term investment and, with effective conservation measures, should secure expanding rather than declining stocks of fish.

Our achievements contrast with the abject failure of the last Labour Government to make any progress in defending the interests of British fishermen or in negotiating a satisfactory policy. The lost opportunities under Labour made our negotiating task more difficult and longer than it need otherwise have been.

We will continue to ensure that our fishermen get a fair share of the resources available to the Community, and that the policy is enforced even-handedly and managed efficiently. We will continue helping our industry adapt to the new circumstances that face it with the loss of deep water fishing opportunities.

PART V: THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING

Since 1979, the directly elected European Parliament has established for itself a position of real influence at the centre of the Community's decision-making. Its role is to scrutinise and, where necessary, to amend or block proposals for new legislation from the Commission; to control spending; to check bureaucracy; and to act as the forum when the problems facing the Community can be debated and solutions proposed.

Conservatives have used the Parliament not only to criticise Commission action and bring into line with Conservative thinking, but to draw attention to the major reforms the Community needs if it is to survive. They have pressed for the economic and social policies essential to longer-term prosperity.

In their constituencies, the Conservative Members are a vital link between the Community and the voters of this country. They have helped to safeguard the rights of individuals and firms threatened by bureaucracy or administrative action, and lobbied in Brussels and in Strasbourg on behalf of local and national interest groups.

All this has been done by making more effective use of the Parliament's existing powers. Over the next five years the Parliament must consolidate its influence. This can best be done if a direct link is maintained between the Members and their constituents, which is why in the discussions on a uniform electoral procedure Conservatives

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will continue to attach great importance to the retention of single-Member constituencies in Britain. [of such a link in Britain.]

The newly-elected Parliament must give high priority to developing a more consistent and responsible stance on the central issues, notably those relating to the Community budget. Over the years, the Parliament's say in how Community funds are spent has increased, but it has little direct responsibility for how the money is raised. It has shown itself unwilling to make cuts in some areas of Community expenditure so that other areas might benefit, within the limits of available resources. Conservatives will work to ensure that the Parliament shows itself capable of making political choices of this kind.

The European Parliament has an important part to play on human rights questions. Outside the Community the Parliament is regarded as 'the voice of Europe' on a whole range of political issues. Conservative MEPs will help to ensure that the European Parliament makes a responsible contribution to the maintenance and expression of the democratic ideals upon which the Community is founded.

These three criteria - effectiveness, consistency, responsibility - allied to a concern to keep the Parliament closely in touch with the electorate are fundamental to the Conservative approach. This approach has helped us to work very closely on key issues with Members from many other like-minded parties across the Community. With these parties the Conservatives have held the initiative on all important issues since 1979, from the Falklands crisis and cruise missiles to unemployment.



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Conservatives have insisted that Member States should be able to protect their vital national interests in the Council of Ministers by invoking the right of veto. However, we recognise that if the Council is to be an effective decision-making body, this right should be used only as a last resort. It is not in our interest that other Member States should, without proper justification, veto agreement on measures which would benefit the United Kingdom.

We welcome practical reforms in the workings of the Community institutions. But we do not support attempts to force the pace of institutional reform, especially in ways which might jeopardise the defence of genuinely vital national interests or which would not command the necessary degree of common agreement and public support.

CONCLUSION

Conservatives share the ideals which underpin the Community - safeguarding peace, stability and democracy in Europe, recognising our common destiny, and pooling our resources to secure the prosperity of our citizens. We have made, and will continue to make, a positive and constructive contribution to turn those ideals into reality. This requires practical proposals and a resolute approach to negotiations rather than empty rhetoric.

In Europe as in Britain, we are in the vanguard of those seeking modernisation and change in the Community. Our policies in Britain and our policies in the European Community stand together.

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Strict control of finance and elimination of waste; economic growth and employment created through enterprise and initiative; a commitment to the Western Alliance and to working with our friends abroad to safeguard our interests.

We have restored the standing of Britain in the world. Our resolution in defence of democratic principles and of British interests is unquestioned. Our willingness to take the difficult decisions in order to restore the long-term economic health of Britain has won widespread respect. Where we led, others are now following.

This is not the time to call for Socialist policies across Europe, as Labour propose. They would destroy jobs and prosperity across Europe as they did in Britain. A protectionist Europe is no more likely to secure our interests than a protectionist Britain. A non-aligned Europe is no more likely to safeguard our liberties than unilateral disarmament in Britain. Withdrawal from the Community, whether plainly advocated or disguised in Labour's call for a new Messina Conference to tear up our treaties, is still damaging to the pursuit of British interests in Europe.

Work
stand up
on jobs

Nor is it the time to plunge into a federal Europe, and abandon our capacity to protect British interests as the Liberals propose. A resolute, strong Conservative Government, supported by a strong Conservative team in the European Parliament, is the best protection of British interests in the Community. We do not change our policies every time there is an election. That is why people trust us. And it is why we seek renewed election through your support on June 14.