

**Theme:** UK: Eurosceptics v Europhiles **Sources:**

**A)** Gordon Brown, hardline Eurosceptic (05/11/2003)  
www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2003/11/05/nbrown205.xml

**B)** Gordon Brown's euro statement (10-6-03)  
www.guardian.co.uk/cartoons/stevebell/0,7371,974444,00.html

*Gordon Brown now sounds as hardline as any of the anti-Maastricht Tory campaigners, reports Toby Helm*  
When Gordon Brown talks about Europe these days, he sounds more like a hardline Tory Eurosceptic than the pro-EU Labour Chancellor that Tony Blair would like him to be.

In language that Conservative anti-Maastricht campaigner Bill Cash would have been proud of in his heyday, he bellows against the Brussels machine, the wildly unrealistic federalist agenda, the stream of unwanted EU rules and regulations that he thinks suffocate the economies of member states.

He has been at it for months now, our supposedly pro-European Chancellor, ratcheting up the anti-Brussels rhetoric and positioning himself behind sceptic lines.

In September, in an article for the Wall Street Journal, Mr Brown wrote that "the credibility of Europe" was at stake no less, implying that almost everything it did nowadays was wrong.

Economically, it was stuck in a trade-bloc mentality that was out of kilter with the needs of a global age.

Politically, many of its leaders dreamed of a federal model that simply wouldn't work. And all the while the mountain of unnecessary regulation spewing out of the EU institutions grew.

"Every regulation should be put to the costs test, then the jobs test, then the 'is it really necessary test?'" he wrote in a populist cry against red tape.

Today the formerly euro-enthusiastic Mr Brown is at it again in an article for The Telegraph that will make more uncomfortable reading for Mr Blair.

Mr Brown writes of Europe's "rigidities, inflexibilities and lack of competitiveness".

He condemns its plans for tax harmonisation, fiscal federalism and a federal state.

The reason this is bad news for Mr Blair is that he, the Prime Minister, is embarked upon the opposite course, trying to play down the threat that Europe, and particularly its new constitution, represents. While one raises the alarm, the other soothes.

As Mr Brown highlights the EU's economic failings, Mr Blair is desperately trying to keep alive the prospects of an early British entry into the European single currency. But how, if the eurozone is such a basket case of inflexibility and resulting stunted growth as Mr Brown suggests, can it be in prosperous Britain's interests to hitch itself to the eurowagon in the near future?

#### Annotations:

**Text:** 2 Tory – of the Conservative Party 4 Bill Cash – Member of Parliament (MP) for Stone/Stafford (north of Birmingham) 9 Wall Street Journal – leading US publication on economic issues 11 out of kilter with – not fit for 14 tests – Brown has suggested five tests as a precondition for new regulations 16 to be at it – (informal) used to say you disapprove of what sb is doing 24 basket case – a country with many severe economic and social problems 25 stunted – not developing to full size

#### Cartoon:

not touch sb/sth with a bargepole – check DCE



#### Assignments:

1) In what light does the author show Gordon Brown's policies on Europe? Work closely on the text (literary devices/language/style) in your answer. [Do not forget to start your assignment with (an) introductory sentence(s).] [Contents/Analysis]

2) Interpret (details of) the cartoon in order to determine if Steve Bell holds comparable political views as Toby Helm from the Telegraph. [See assignment 1 for reminder.] [Contents/Analysis]

3) Write a letter to the editor (from a German perspective) answering the rhetorical question at the end of the Telegraph article. [Comment]