

CORRIGENDUM



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Since the publication of this latest edition of the *Simplifying Treaty* Timothy is no longer the Leader of the British Conservative delegation of MEPs. He has moved from membership of the European Parliament's delegation to the People's Republic of China to the Parliament's delegation to Australia and New Zealand and is its Chairman. He is Vice Chairman of the Friends of the Commonwealth group in the European Parliament. Although no longer on the Conservative Party National Board he continues to serve on the Northern and Yorkshire Boards.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO MY INTRODUCTION

Since I wrote my introduction to this text in the summer of 2007 the ratification process of the European Constitution (now called the Lisbon Treaty) has been progressing in Member States. Most of that process has been by Parliamentary approval only and most countries have completed it as I write (see note herewith)

Ireland is required by its National constitution to hold a referendum on Treaty changes and has done so with a clear result against the proposals. The House of Lords in the UK decided on Wednesday 18th June that, regardless of the Irish decision and a very uncertain position as a result, the Treaty should be ratified by the UK forthwith.

We do not know what the European leaders will now do. Many of them are determined to push through the current proposals even though under European law unanimity is required for such changes. Other views include a new "period of reflection" like that which followed the earlier rejection of the original Constitutional text in France and The Netherlands. It is frankly difficult to see how such a "period of reflection" could help in present circumstances. There are also voices calling for the EU to go ahead without Ireland i.e. a "Two speed Europe" or for Ireland to "vote again" though unless the text offered or the referendum question posed is changed dramatically there would be little credibility in such a course of action. Others (including myself) believe that the present proposals are doomed (which is something I predicted when I first wrote my *Simplifying Treaty* as a practical alternative for the EU).

That is why I believe my *Simplifying Treaty* still has validity as a genuine alternative and possibly the only current text which not only meets the requirements set down in the Laeken Declaration of making Europe more understandable and relevant to the lives and aspirations of its' citizens, but also acknowledges that perhaps some of the wilder ambitions of European leaders should be resisted. The kind of Europe that I want to see is one that responds to its citizens needs but leaves them with maximum freedom to determine their own destinies.

It might be presumptuous of me to expect my text to be accepted as the means to end the current impasse in the EU but I still put it forward with the highest of motives to provide a formula which could address the present impasse for the benefit of our citizens. At least it is of a length which ALL Prime Ministers or Presidents can actually read.

TIMOTHY KIRKHOPE MEP - June 2008