

Euro Gerrymandering

The Labour Party's apparent desperation to foist the Euro on Britain has plumbed new depths: they are contemplating **extending the franchise** for the Euro Referendum to EU nationals resident in the UK:

There are more than 725,000 people from elsewhere in the EU living in the UK, with the number set to increase dramatically once the union is enlarged from 15 to 25 member states next year...

A Whitehall insider said: "They're allowed to vote in local elections. You might say Europeans do have a vested interest in voting in the European elections. The same could be said to apply for a euro referendum."

This is a transparent ploy to boost numbers in favour of the Euro. It may yet backfire, for not all EU citizens yearn for a **Super-State**, and those who choose to reside in Britain may well include more than the average proportion of Anglophiles. But in any case, this proposal is indefensible. There is only one place in the world that has the Pound as a currency and that is Britain, and if Britain adopts the Euro it will be extremely difficult to reverse that decision. Hence a "yes" vote and a "no" vote are not symmetrical, so any attempt to bias the vote in favour of "yes" is not only reprehensible, but endangers the very purpose of the referendum, which is surely to provide legitimacy for this momentous constitutional change. What legitimacy would it have, if the Euro replaces the Pound on the basis that British citizens were outvoted on the issue by large numbers of visitors from the EU? Even those who do not accept the devastating **economic** and **political** arguments against the Euro must surely agree that this is vote is too important to be fiddled or rigged in any way.

Tue, 08/05/2003 - 21:01 | [permalink](#)

A frivolous point, but..

Both Cyprus and Lebanon have (different) Pounds for their currency.

by a reader on Wed, 08/06/2003 - 11:46 | [reply](#)

not frivolous point

"Even those who do not accept the devastating economic and political arguments against the Euro must surely agree that this is vote is too important to [be -- typo guys...] fiddled or rigged in any way."

I don't agree the importance of the vote is *why* it shouldn't be rigged. Or that it's right to rig less important votes.

-- Elliot Temple

<http://curi.blogspot.com/>

[**Editor's note:** Typo corrected. Thank you.]

by **Elliot Temple** on Thu, 08/07/2003 - 01:06 | [reply](#)
