

# THE FEDERAL TRUST

*for education & research*

**enlightening the debate on good governance**

## **P R E S S   I N F O R M A T I O N**

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011

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### **BRITISH SEMI-DETACHMENT IN EUROPE**

The Federal Trust warns today (20<sup>th</sup> May 2011) in a new publication against the possibility of British marginalization within the European Union. A major reason for Britain's signing the Treaty of Rome in 1972 was to be able to exert appropriate influence over European decision-making on issues likely to be of concern to the United Kingdom. The Federal Trust fears that British influence within the EU is now being undermined, both by Britain's indefinite absence from the Eurozone and by the current EU Bill, which is overwhelmingly likely to reinforce Britain's semi-detached status in the future development of the Union.

The publication, "*The Coalition and Europe - After the Honeymoon*" ([www.fedtrust.co.uk/admin/uploads/Coalition\\_and\\_Europe.pdf](http://www.fedtrust.co.uk/admin/uploads/Coalition_and_Europe.pdf)), is the product of a series of conferences held by the Federal Trust and the Global Policy Institute of London Metropolitan University over the past eight months, reviewing the first year of the Coalition government's European policy. Subjects covered included the differing Conservative and Liberal Democrat approaches to the Union; financial regulation and the EU Budget; European external relations; and European citizenship. The European Commission's Representation in London has co-funded the project, but the project's conclusions are the exclusive responsibility of the Federal Trust and not necessarily endorsed by the Commission.

**The new Federal Trust publication will be launched on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm, in Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, London SW1. To register for the event, please send an email to [ulrike.rub@fedtrust.co.uk](mailto:ulrike.rub@fedtrust.co.uk).**

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In a video message for the conference to launch the pamphlet, **Peter Sutherland KCMG**, President of the Federal Trust, commented: "This report from the Federal Trust critically and effectively presents the pro-European case, having regard to real facts and issues. The European debate has been a non-issue since the formation of the Coalition government. The EU is facing a crisis of existential nature in the context of the Eurozone and the non-participation of the UK leaves it semi-detached from a crucial debate. This report is an admirable document which cogently and clearly articulates the balance of arguments in this debate."

Other speakers at the launch event will be **Sir Stephen Wall**, former European adviser to Tony Blair and Chairman of the Federal Trust, and **Jonathan Scheele**, Head of the European Commission Representation in London.

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#### Notes

The Federal Trust was founded in 1947 by Sir William Beveridge to examine the interactions between regional, national, European and global levels of government. It has always had a strong interest in the European Union and Britain's place in it.

This conference is the final one of a series that examines the effect of the new British government on Britain's role in Europe.

The previous conferences in the series were as follows:

**8<sup>th</sup> October 2010**, Has the General Election Changed the UK's relationship with the European Union?

**4<sup>th</sup> November 2010**, European Financial Regulation and European economic recovery

**16<sup>th</sup> December 2010**, Europe's place in the world - and Britain's place in Europe

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2011**, Citizenship and the Lisbon Treaty - can the British ever be European citizens?

Further information on all of the above may be found on the Federal Trust website [www.fedtrust.co.uk](http://www.fedtrust.co.uk) under Recent Events.

The publication "*The Coalition and Europe - After the Honeymoon*" can be acquired by contacting:

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