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## Young European Movement

For those aged 30 or less: date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Subscription

£35 (couples)  
 £25 (single)  
 £10 (youth, waged)  
 £5 (youth, unwaged)  
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## European Movement sponsors Will Hutton at Hay

In a year when China has been so much at the centre of global attention, it was fitting that the European Movement should have a presence at Hay Festival earlier in the summer, to hear leading pro-European thinker Will Hutton address the subject.

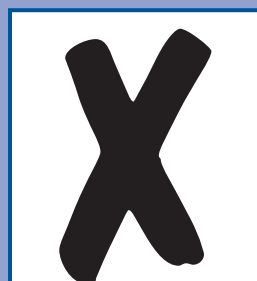


A large number of European Movement members had the chance to meet Will Hutton in person after his sell out lecture, which drew on themes from his latest book "The Writing on the Wall". Will Hutton said that he was convinced the EU had a pivotal role to play in helping to influence China's future development, after the 2008 Olympics. Activists took the opportunity to promote the European Movement after the lecture, and hundreds of membership forms were handed out on site.

**Will Hutton (centre) with Wales Council officers Lord Richard Livsey, Jonathan Morgan, Peter Sain ley Berry, David George, John Churchill and Bill Powell, with Sophie Lording of the Hay Festival.**

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## European elections 2009 - claim your right to vote



Thanks to the Maastricht treaty, EU citizens have a right to vote in European and local elections wherever they choose to reside in the EU. With the next European elections less than 12 months away, the European Movement is campaigning to let people know how and where they can register to ensure they can exercise their right to vote.

With hundreds of thousands of Brits resident abroad and over a million EU citizens living in the UK, voting is a crucial way for people to express their needs and concerns. By clicking onto our website or reading one of our new election guides, they'll be able to find out how and where to register.

Of course, UK citizens living at home simply have to fill in the forms delivered to their address to be on the electoral register as they would for any other election, but for those currently in a member state other than their own, it is important to register before 19 May 2009.

In targeting specific cultural groups in the UK, the European Movement is making contact with hundreds of thousands of people from Poland, France, Germany and many other countries. As well as encouraging them to vote, we hope that some of our continental friends and colleagues may wish to join us in the European Movement.

There are election guides available for distribution: let us know if you would like some for your area.

## Euro campaigners fly the flag at V Festival



Once again this year, European Movement campaigners, including YEM activists from Wales and the West Midlands, joined forces to run an information stall at the ever popular V Music Festival at Weston Park, Staffordshire on 16-17 August.

More than 80,000 festival goers attended the event, to hear the likes of Alanis Morissette, the Verve, The Stranglers, Chemical Brothers, Duffy and The Pogues. Despite challenging conditions, the stall did brisk business and by 4 pm on the second day was almost clear of stock. Several new YEM members were recruited and renewals made. LDEG Chair Phil Bennion, who lives in the county; also joined the team to lend support to the campaign.

Wales Council Chair, Bill Powell, who organised the stall, said: "It's been really encouraging to see the level of interest and support again this year. I'm grateful to our activists for answering the call, and to Richard Laming and the HQ team for their logistical support. As well as furthering the European cause, it's been a chance to enjoy the music, while surviving the mud!"



For more campaigning  
information visit  
[www.euromove.org.uk](http://www.euromove.org.uk)

Campaigners Stef, Phil, Bill, Kat and Glenn at the V Festival stall



## The new agenda for Europe

The fighting in Georgia during the summer demonstrates vividly the kind of Europe we thought we had left behind. Aggressive nationalism, ethnic cleansing, and the use of force to resolve a dispute. Europeans have seen all of this too many times before. No-one can bear to sit and watch it happen again.

But what can be done to prevent it? There is no solution in simply confronting one military machine with another.

The Lisbon treaty, which was designed to help the European Union express a common view on issues of this sort, is stalled after the Irish referendum. Perhaps there will be a second vote on the treaty in Ireland, but that is for the Irish government to decide. (Funny how the Eurosceptics in Britain who insist that each country should be allowed to decide for itself are now issuing instructions to the Irish on what they should do.) If there is no repeat of the referendum and the treaty is dropped, there are still many opportunities within the previous Nice treaty that are still untapped. Not as good as the Lisbon treaty, this would be a second-best solution that is nevertheless better than nothing.



But it is essential that Europe should respond. The values of peace and democracy need to be defended, both within the EU and beyond its borders. The European Union is founded on such values, and it must not turn its back on them now.

But there is more. While the current problem may have started in the Caucasus, it does not stop there.

Europe currently relies on Russia for 40 per cent of its gas supply, a figure that might grow to 60 per cent by 2030. That is a very vulnerable arrangement, so more diversity is swiftly needed along with a coherent approach to such an important trading partner. Safeguarding our energy supply is a key part of the new agenda for Europe in the coming years and decades.



The truth about Brussels, see inside...

## Is Italy returning to fascism?

This year, the European Movement celebrated its 60th birthday. As we gathered in The Hague, six decades from the end of a catastrophic conflict that had cost tens of millions of lives, there was much to be proud of. To have created a union of over 500 million people, stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea, sharing a common parliament and offering hope to every other part of the world presently locked in conflict that lasting peace is achievable, is no small achievement.

We listened to the presidents of the European institutions setting out their vision for the future of a united and prosperous European Union and watched the grainy but still inspiring film footage of Churchill and other founders of the Movement urging the people of the continent to come together and build a new Europe based on freedom and justice.



Silvio Berlusconi, Italian prime minister

But even as we celebrate what has been achieved, the shadow of fascism is discernible at the very heart of Europe in one of the original six founders of the European Community. The treatment of gypsies (or Roma) by the Italian government and vigilante groups operating with the complicity of the Italian authorities is not just disgraceful but sends a shudder of recognition down the spine of anyone who recalls or has studied the growth of fascism and nazism in pre-war Italy and Germany.

Several hundred thugs attacked Roma camps with iron bars and burned Roma settlements to the ground. The reason given - that a 16 year old Romanian gypsy girl was rumoured to have attempted to abduct a child - has a terribly familiar sound and recalls the slanders made against Jews and gypsies in the thirties. It is important to remember that, as well as genocide against Europe's Jewish population, the holocaust was responsible for the murder of half a million gypsies.

The earliest gypsies settled in Italy in the 15th century, and there are now around 70,000 living there. Their numbers increased during the 1990s as many fled to Italy from the Balkan wars, and another 10,000 came from Romania after it joined the European Union in January 2007. Discrimination and prejudice against Gypsies is on the rise and entire Roma families, including children, are being finger-printed.

The Vatican has made a significant protest but why have we not heard more from other European leaders? The EU and the European Movement are about far more than European unity. We also stand for justice, the rule of law and the application of human rights for all, whether or not they are European citizens.



Peter Luff, chairman of the European Movement

Of course, all countries have a right to investigate and control illegal immigration but this must be done in full accordance with both the letter and the spirit of international human rights legislation. Italy has given Europe some of its greatest federalist thinkers and activists, none more so than Altiero Spinelli. They would be ashamed to see their countrymen and women acting in this way.

Peter Luff, Chairman



Sir Winston Churchill, founder of the European Movement

# The truth about Brussels

## Some common complaints about the EU answered by Lawrence Brewer

### "The EU is run by unelected, faceless bureaucrats"

Members of the European Commission are not directly elected, but their role is to propose legislation, as opposed to adopting it. The decisions on whether to adopt Commissioners' proposals and turn them into law are made by the Council of Ministers and MEPs, all of whom are elected. The Commission acts as Whitehall civil servants do, preparing proposals but not making decisions. All senior and middle-ranking civil servants in the European Commission are listed with their contact points on the Commission's website and in other documents.

### "The EU hasn't had its accounts approved for years"

80 per cent of the budget is spent by national governments so fault lies more with the member states rather than with the EU itself. The Court of Auditors has indeed refused to clear the EU's finances for the 13th year running because of irregularities.

But most of the irregularities found by the auditors are technical, not fraudulent, and relate to paperwork not correctly completed. The accounting procedure is extremely tightly controlled to the extent that under these rules, many large organisations would fail to get their accounts cleared. For example, the UK's own Department for Work and Pensions (based in Sheffield) hasn't had its accounts approved for 14 years.

Differences in national accounting procedures are another contributory factor for the difficulty in meeting the EU's standards. It would be better if the Court of Auditors released its report to the public and identified individual countries' accounts.

### "It's a gravy train"

What does this really mean? If it means that people get paid for the work they do - then remember that most critics are in the same position!

If it means that some of the 785 MEPs take unreasonable advantage of their employment packages, then they must be

stopped from so doing - just the same as British MPs (645) are now becoming more regulated. A table estimating Parliamentary remuneration appears below. Proposals several years ago to pay MEPs from different member states the same salary were blocked, the UK being one of the main objectors, so they continue to be paid at the same rate as domestic parliamentary representatives in their respective countries.

### Estimated remuneration of MEPs and MPs

	MEP	MP
Salary	£64,500	£64,500
Accommodation at parliament	£150 per day	£19,500 per year
Travel in constituency	no	yes
Journey to/ from parliament	yes	yes
Spouse/ children fares	no	yes
Journeys to other parliaments	no	yes
Other travel	£2170	unlimited
Office allowance	£27,000	£20,440
Staff allowance	£103,000	£87,276

## Branch news: East Kent: flying the European flag

The debate by the Canterbury Council Executive on the flying of the European Flag, reported in the Kentish Gazette of 14 August, arose out of a modest suggestion which I made as a member of the public on that occasion.



The Council Executive agreed to the flying of the Union flag on 19 days of the year (taking into account government guidance on the hoisting of flags) on flagpoles on six sites in the Canterbury District. In regard to the European flag, the Council traditionally flies it on 9 May, Europe Day, on a single pole at the top of the Westgate Tower. I had merely asked that on 9 May the European flag should also be flown on five other sites such as Whitstable, Tankerton, Herne Bay and other locations in Canterbury. I pointed out that any extra European flags needed could be obtained at little cost.

My one further suggestion was that the European flag should be flown once every five years on the date of the European Elections - Britain has a record of very low turnout for these, and voters might be reminded to vote on seeing the flag!

I was taken aback by the general anti-European statements made by Executive Members after I had spoken. We have been in the EU for over thirty-five years now. We are a major player in it and we are not going to leave. We may not love the EU but we should accept it as part of our allegiances, particularly in Canterbury which is a major gateway to continental Europe.

For more information about European Movement, visit [www.euromove.org.uk](http://www.euromove.org.uk)

Alan Forrest, Chairman of the East Kent Branch of the European Movement

## Branch news: Sussex: study visit for teachers to Brussels

During a two-day intensive study visit to Brussels on 15 and 16 July, citizenship teachers and advisers from West Sussex were able to take a close look at how the European Commission and the European Parliament work.

A group of 22 teachers from all over West Sussex, together with members of County Council advisory staff, had been to Brussels for two days to visit European Union institutions and find out how Europe works.



Inside the European Parliament

These were teachers who are responsible for teaching Citizenship, the part of the school curriculum which includes an understanding of Europe and the role of the EU. The Sussex European Movement suggested and organised the trip on 15-16 July in partnership with the citizenship teacher advisers from the West Sussex Healthy Schools Team. They were led by Anita Haigh from the Healthy Schools Team, assisted by Pandora Ellis, the European Youth Ambassadors Coordinator. The event was jointly funded by the European Movement UK Education Fund and by the European Parliament.

One of the aims of the European Movement is to help UK citizens understand how to engage with the European Union. Sarah Leigh, chairman of the Sussex Branch, who lives in Steyning, said "This was a huge effort by everyone concerned but I've been told by all the teachers what a great help it was in understanding Europe. Personally I'm a big fan of the European project but I don't care really whether teachers like it or not. The point is we want them to understand how the EU works, how it interacts with British government institutions. Something like 70% of British legislation originates in Brussels. We all need to know how to work with our European partners on the problems of tomorrow, such as globalisation, terrorism, climate change. British young people should be ready to take advantage of the many ways they can interact with the EU and make their views known."



Study visit to Brussels