

Coalition Update: 18-24 October

Cameron, the Coalition, and the EU

David Cameron must let backbenchers vote freely on Britain's membership of the European Union (*Telegraph*, 19 October)

Chris Heaton-Harris MP calls for an unwhipped vote on an EU membership referendum, criticising the rigidity of the Coalition agreement and noting that renegotiation of UK-EU relations was a feature of the Tory manifesto, while an 'in-out' referendum pledge was included in the Lib Dem manifesto

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/8837005/David-Cameron-must-let-backbenchers-vote-freely-on-Britains-membership-of-the-European-Union.html>

Euro-reformists, not Euro-philés (*Lib Dem Voice*, 19 October)

With euroscepticism on the rise the Lib Dems should start setting out their stall on the EU with a view to the next election, when the Conservatives will likely be targeting Lib Dem seats in the hope of winning a majority.

<http://www.libdemvoice.org/opinion-euroreformists-not-europhilés-25628.html>

Conservative divisions over Europe: we told you so (*Ballots & Bullets blog*, 20 October)

Phil Cowley and Mark Stuart: the division within the Conservative Party is no longer between Europhilés and Eurosceptics, but between hard and soft sceptics

<http://nottspolitics.org/2011/10/20/conservative-divisions-over-europe-we-told-you-so/>

Tories accuse Nick Clegg of double standards on EU referendum vote (*Guardian*, 21 October)

MPs angry at deputy prime minister's opposition to EU referendum which was in Liberal Democrat election manifesto

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/wintour-and-watt/2011/oct/21/euro-euro>

The European magic number: 41 (*Ballots & Bullets blog*, 22 October)

Phil Cowley and Mark Stuart: if more than 41 MPs rebel, it will be the largest rebellion of this parliament, and the largest rebellion by Conservatives over Europe

<http://nottspolitics.org/2011/10/22/the-european-magic-number-41/>

EU referendum: Cameron is determined to face down his backbenchers (*Telegraph*, 22 October)

A motion that was a parliamentary wheeze has been turned into a trial of strength.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/8843522/EU-referendum-Cameron-is-determined-to-face-down-his-backbenchers.html>

Throwing rocks at the posh boys' windows (or why this crisis is NOT just about Europe) (*Mail*, 22 October)

James Forsyth argues the vote on the referendum is serving as a proxy for dissatisfaction over other issues—the lack of connection between Cameron and backbenchers, reduced opportunities for promotion, resentment over class differences

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2052257/JAMES-FORSYTH-Throwing-rocks-posh-boys-windows-crisis-NOT-just-Europe.html#ixzz1baKs8sVt>

The Tory Eurosceptics are on a roll. So why are they still so cross? (*Guardian*, 23 October)

At a time when they ought to be united in a feeling of triumphant vindication, they are falling bitterly apart

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/oct/23/andrew-rawnsley-conservatives-europe-referendum>

EU referendum Commons vote – Monday 24 October 2011 (*Guardian*, 23 October)

The result: 81 Conservative MPs rebel

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/oct/24/eu-referendum-commons-vote-live-coverage?INTCMP=SRCH>

The Coalition and the economy

The Spending Review, one year on (*Spectator*, 20 October)

The spending cuts are proving unpopular with the public, as is the Coalition's overall handling of the economy, though a significant majority of the public continue to blame Labour rather than the Coalition for the drastic cuts, suggesting Labour is failing to capitalise on the situation.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/7328793/the-spending-review-one-year-on.html>

Cabinet clashes over growth (*FT*, 20 October)

Tensions have reportedly emerged within the Cabinet over sluggish economic growth and proposed employment legislation reforms, with Vince Cable accusing Iain Duncan Smith of dragging his feet.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/9e168bbc-fb3e-11e0-8df6-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss#axzz1bQCas5PK>

A stronger civil service?

Top civil servants given power to report ministers to PM (*Guardian*, 19 October)

Sir Gus O'Donnell has instructed permanent secretaries to watch out for government ministers breaching the ministerial code, thus enhancing the strength of senior civil servants, against a backdrop of ministerial concerns that Jeremy Heywood is intent on undermining the role of special advisers by 'restructuring No. 10 and beefing up the policy unit with civil servants'.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/oct/19/civil-servants-monitor-ministers>

After Foxgate: Ministers v mandarins (*Economist*, 22 October)

Similar piece noting how the civil service could be emerge from the Liam Fox scandal stronger, and in a better position to stymie the Coalition's desire to reform the mechanisms of central government.

<http://www.economist.com/node/21533414>

Special advisers

Nick Clegg in drive to boost Liberal Democrats' influence (*Telegraph*, 23 October)

Nick Clegg is to appoint new advisers across the Government under plans to boost the influence of the Liberal Democrats.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/liberaldemocrats/8844291/Nick-Clegg-in-drive-to-boost-Liberal-Democrats-influence.html>

Clegg hires £500k team of seven 'spies' to snoop on Tory ministers (*Mail*, 23 October)

According to an academic report used by Clegg to argue his case in Downing Street, the coalition could be under threat if the deputy PM did not receive extra help to deal with government information

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2052440/Nick-Clegg-hires-500k-team-seven-spies-snoop-Tory-ministers.html#ixzz1bgkiS69q>