

Coalition Update: 27 September-3 October

Labour

Ed Miliband's shift to the Left is a gift for the Tories (*Telegraph*, 27 September)

The party's new direction may be bold, but it won't win many voters

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/benedictbrogan/100107683/ed-miliband%E2%80%99s-shift-to-the-left-is-a-gift-for-the-tories/>

Ed Miliband blows his big chance to explain what he wants for Britain (*Economist*, 27 September)

Bagehot: Ed Miliband "has a strategy for the brave new world of coalition politics: no longer does he talk about making the Liberal Democrats extinct, as he used to. Instead today, he barely mentioned the Lib Dems, pouring all his scorn on the Conservatives, with occasional scornful swipes at the Lib Dem Nick Clegg, suggesting he was a closet Tory. It seems clear enough that he is preparing the ground for a possible coalition with the Lib Dems, but under a new Lib Dem leader."

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/bagehot/2011/09/2011-labour-party-conference-0>

Ed's first year as leader: Is this the end of the beginning – or the beginning of the end? (*Independent*, 2 October)

Saying sorry didn't play well with party activists

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/eds-first-year-as-leader-is-this-the-end-of-the-beginning-ndash-or-the-beginning-of-the-end-2364359.html>

Europe

Nick Clegg: EU will be torn apart if closer eurozone ties leaves Britain in the cold (*Guardian*, 27 September)

Deputy prime minister will warn EU summit: 'Any decision that affects the 27 must always be taken by the 27'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/sep/28/nick-clegg-eu-will-be-torn-apart-eurozone>

William Hague snubs Tory right over EU membership referendum demands (*Guardian*, 1 October)

Foreign secretary says 'our place is in the European Union' and describes coalition government as 'wonderfully refreshing'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/oct/01/william-hague-eu-membership-referendum>

Commons vote on Europe pitches Prime Minister against his party (*Independent*, 3 October)

David Cameron put himself on a collision course with dozens of Tory Eurosceptic MPs yesterday after he rejected their growing demands for the Government to take a tougher stance on Europe.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/commons-vote-on-europe-pitches-prime-minister-against-his-party-2364684.html>

Conservative identity

A Conservative move to the Right is a recipe for Opposition (*Telegraph*, 30 September)

Nick Boles: MPs calling for a return to traditional Toryism ignore one vital factor – the electorate. “A strategy of active differentiation from the Lib Dems would be fatal. If we want to govern without Lib Dem MPs from 2015, we must win the respect of those who, in 2010, were Lib Dem voters – as well as those who, throughout the past decade, voted for Tony Blair. If we want to give the country a strong Conservative government, we must change the voters’ definition of “Conservative” so that it incorporates the attitudes, values and priorities that most of them share.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/8796831/A-Conservative-move-to-the-Right-is-a-recipe-for-Opposition.html>

For want of a plan for tomorrow the Tories go back to yesterday (*Guardian*, 1 October)

Andrew Rawnsley: With hopes for the economy dashed, the Conservatives are riskily reliant on their leader's personal popularity

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/oct/01/andrew-rawnsley-david-cameron-presidential>

Not the nasty party: the Conservatives have changed significantly, says Theresa May (*Telegraph*, 1 October)

Theresa May: “I’d personally like to see the Human Rights Act go”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/8801264/Not-the-nasty-party-the-Conservatives-have-changed-significantly-says-Theresa-May.html>

I want to scrap the Human Rights Act but Clegg won't let me, says the PM (*Mail*, 3 October)

“Mr Cameron said he ... wanted the hugely unpopular Act – passed by Labour in 1998 – to be axed and replaced with a British Bill of Rights. But he said that being in coalition with Mr Clegg’s Liberal Democrats was making him go ‘slowly’.”

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2044530/David-Cameron-I-want-scrap-Human-Rights-Act-Nick-Clegg-wont-let-me.html#ixzz1ZoHP9d2M>

The Conservative future

Top Tory rounds on core support over green belt (*Independent*, 2 October)

Francis Maude interview. Amongst other things, a discussion of the post-2015 future: “he holds out the prospect of Mr Cameron offering Nick Clegg and other senior Liberal Democrats positions in the Cabinet after 2015, even in the event of an outright Tory victory. He refuses four times to rule out a secret plan – being privately discussed by senior members of the coalition and leaked to *The Independent* on Sunday – that, in the event of Mr Cameron winning the next election with a tiny majority, he could “cherry pick” top Lib Dems for a Tory Cabinet.”

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/top-tory-rounds-on-core-support-over-green-belt-2364448.html>

New Right piles the pressure on Cameron and Osborne (*Independent*, 2 October)

“One of the opening lines of the most talked-about book of this year's conference season reads: "It is unlikely that the Conservative Party will fight for a further five years of coalition government in 2015." The authors cannot, with confidence, use the word "impossible", which reveals a growing tension within the party...: on the one side are the arch-coalitionists, some in the Cabinet, who would prefer to carry on with the Liberal Democrats after 2015 and, on the other, a growing band of MPs who want David Cameron to set out a distinctive right-wing manifesto to crush Nick Clegg's party on polling day.”

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/new-right-piles-the-pressure-on-cameron-and-osborne-2364349.html>

The Conservative Conference

David Cameron needs to win the voters' hearts as well as their minds (*Telegraph*, 1 October)

The Conservative conference will be marked by a concerted effort to prove that there is more to the Government than deficit reduction. “What the Coalition needs most from the voters is what they are least disposed to offer: namely, patience. Which is why perceived motive is so important. And that's what modernisation is, and was always, about.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/8801181/David-Cameron-needs-to-win-the-voters-hearts-as-well-as-their-minds.html>

What the Conservatives need to achieve in Manchester this week (*ConservativeHome*, 2 October)

ConservativeHome contributors look forward to the week in Manchester.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/10/what-the-conservatives-need-to-achieve-in-manchester-this-week.html>

Conservative party conference 2011: William Hague heaps praise on Clegg (*Telegraph*, 2 October)

Nick Clegg won a round of applause at the Tory Party conference today as Foreign Secretary William Hague hailed the Liberal Democrat leader's contribution to Government.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/8802639/Conservative-party-conference-2011-William-Hague-heaps-praise-on-Clegg.html>

Policies

80mph speed limit is a classic case of coalition compromise (*Total Politics*, 29 September)

The plan for raising the motorway speed limit is a perfect example of the inner workings of the Conservative-Lib Dem coalition

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/blog/260342/80mph-speed-limit-is-a-classic-case-of-coalition-compromise.thtml>

Lose some, win some (*Total Politics*, 3 October)

David Skelton examines the policy losses and polling gains of the Conservative Party since May 2010

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/opinion/260592/lose-some-win-some.thtml>

Miscellaneous

Fixed-term Parliaments (*Lords of the Blog*, 28 September)

Lord Norton explains the impact of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act

<http://lordsoftheblog.net/2011/09/28/fixed-term-parliaments-2/>

The laughing stock of Whitehall? (*MHP blog*, 30 September)

Ignore the title: a good discussion of DECC over the past year

<http://www.mhpc.com/blog/laughing-stock-whitehall>