

Coalition Update: 29 March-4 April

AV hots up

[Ed Miliband shares cross-party platform to promote AV](#) (*Guardian*, 29 March)

The Labour leader shares a stage with senior Lib Dems in order to argue for AV. Miliband claimed that "bridges not barriers" could be built between centre-left parties despite the current coalition arrangement

[The referendum campaign on voting reform has begun. Does it matter?](#) (*Independent*, 30 March)

The Independent argues that AV is far from perfect but that it could lead to better politics

[Cameron attacks alternative vote plan](#) (*Independent*, 1 April)

Cameron argues the Alternative Vote (AV) system is unfair, undemocratic and obscure

[AV campaign gets personal as Chris Huhne blasts Baroness Warsi](#) (*Guardian*, 2 April)

The Guardian claims that coalition cabinet colleagues are embroiled in a row over the AV campaign. Chris Huhne has accused Minister without Portfolio Baroness Warsi of "scaremongering" and warns of a poisoning of politics.

[Adopting the alternative vote would be a very British revolution](#) (*Guardian*, 3 April)

Andrew Rawnsley reports on more tensions between Huhne and Warsi: this time revealed after a recent Cabinet meeting. He also analyses the different strategies adopted and arguments made by the two campaigns.

Interparty differences

[Libya operation is different scenario from Iraq, says Nick Clegg](#) (*Guardian*, 29 March)

Nick Clegg calls for a brand of humble liberal interventionism rather than "liberal vigilantism" that could upset some of his more hawkish cabinet colleagues.

[Tory ministers will block mansion tax](#) (*Telegraph*, 29 March)

The Telegraph writes about a possible coalition split over the 'mansion tax' and break-up of Britain's banks as Lib Dems attempt to reassert their identity

[Nick Clegg: Britain's proposed nuclear plants may not be built](#) (*Telegraph*, 29 March)

The Deputy Prime Minister's remarks on the future of nuclear power in Britain, the possibility of a 'mansion tax' as well as a post-Gaddafi Libya are likely to alarm and irritate his Tory coalition partners

[Nuclear power is the low-carbon future](#) (*Telegraph*, 29 March)

The Telegraph criticises Clegg's alarmist response to the Fukushima crisis and his doubts on whether the next generation of UK nuclear plants will actually be built.

The NHS reforms

[Cameron puts the brake on NHS reforms to limit political damage](#) (*Times*, 31 March) ££

The PM and DPM to plot a new strategy for the NHS overhaul as officials agonise about how to prevent the measures backfiring

[Cameron signals retreat on NHS reforms](#) (*Independent*, 3 April)

The Independent is at pains to document examples of No.10 overruling cabinet ministers on policy matters while Lib Dems have stolen a march on the Tories by detailing the radical surgery required before NHS reforms meet their approval

[The principles of the Government's NHS reforms will remain - but changes are on the way as Cameron reportedly takes personal charge of selling the package](#) (*ConservativeHome*, 4 April)

Jonathan Isaby suggests that Andrew Lansley may not be up to the task of delivering on proposed NHS reforms and warns of possible Lib Dem as well as Tory dissent

The influence of the Lib Dems

[Mogul's hidden hand keeps its grip on power](#) (*Independent*, 30 March)

Lance Price a party communications man under Blair claims the LDs stop Murdoch from dominating Cameron

[The Lib Dems irrelevant? Far from it](#) (*Independent*, 31 March)

Steve Richards claims that the nature of the AV campaign vindicates the Lib Dems' decision to reject Labour after the general election and that the party's influence within the coalition is strong and growing

[The Liberal Democrats tug hard at the Concession-O-Meter](#) (*ConservativeHome*, 31 March)

Tim Montgomerie highlights some key decisive policy victories for the Lib Dem's amidst the coalition's ongoing tug-o-war and the party's increasing assertiveness

[Nick Clegg: This is an achieving coalition - with more to come](#) (*Independent*, 3 April)

Nick Clegg writes in The Independent that the Lib Dems have much to be proud of and that having to make compromises within government is preferable to watching from the sidelines

The impending future?

[May 5: Unhappy Anniversary?](#) (*Sky News*, 28 March)

John Craig predicts doom and gloom for the coalition partners following devolved and local elections on 5 May

[Lose-lose scenario will start to haunt the Lib-Dems as belts are tightened](#) (*Yorkshire Post*, 30 March)

Tim Bale predicts impending doom for the Lib Dems. He warns that the coalition government may not last five years and looks back on the coalition's formation to argue that the Lib Dems got a bad deal. Hat tip to *ConservativeHome*