

# E! Sharp

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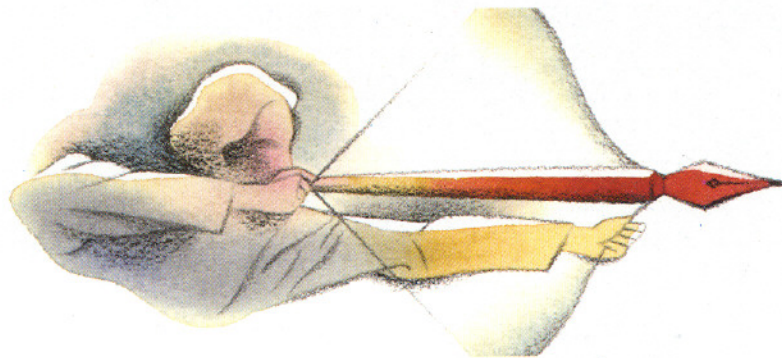
Does the EU need a committee  
to police standards in public life?

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## Starting gun fired on Britain's EU presidency



# LETTERS



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## Listening to the views of the people

Eurosceptics are dancing on the grave of the European constitution not only before it's buried, but even before the coroners have pronounced it dead!

It is as well to remember that, although two countries have rejected it so far, ten more have ratified it. And across the three countries that have held referenda, more people in total voted Yes than No.

If the Eurosceptics are sincere in their claims that governments should listen more to the people, then why do they insist on ignoring these clearly expressed majority views?

Ultimately, we need a compromise acceptable to all 25 countries that enables our Union to work more effectively following its enlargement, but at the same time with greater democratic accountability.

That, indeed, was the aim of the constitution – drafted, as it was, not by the European Commission but by government and opposition MPs from every country.

We should not tear it up, but adjust the text and the context to the concerns that have been expressed.

**Richard Corbett MEP**  
Labour spokesman on EU constitutional affairs

## Tackling climate change through growth

Is economic growth a solution to tackle climate change?

According to the European Environmental Agency, greenhouse gas emissions in the EU will exceed the Union's Kyoto target in 2010.

It is probably time to consider the opportunities offered by a global approach to climate change through an emission-intensity reduction approach and the role of economic freedom.

Faster economic growth allows a country to invest in newer, more energy-efficient equipment and production processes.

For example, the US, with its voluntary approach to emissions reduction, has done a better job of reducing the amount of energy used to produce a euro of output (energy intensity) than has the EU with its mandatory controls. In the last decade, the US has reduced energy intensity by almost 17%, compared to only 9% in the EU.

Research shows that if economic freedom and

economic growth could be accelerated in developing countries, emissions intensity would decline as countries get richer and are able to adopt cleaner energy technologies.

Perhaps the EU should focus more on encouraging economic growth and freedom as a way of reducing emission intensity in order to spread cost-effective energy technologies in its economy.

**Dr M. Thorning**  
Managing Director, International Council for Capital Formation  
Brussels

## Practising what you preach

In his Top Ten ranking of "Worst Commissioners" (May-June 2005 issue), Craig Winneker denounces as "unnecessary" the new gender equality agency. The last issue of *E!Sharp* listed 20 contributors – all were men. I can see why Mr Winneker might think it unnecessary to change this situation, but beg to differ.

**Michael Hocken**  
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