

Mandarin millionaires: Pensions

Good news for civil servants

Public sector pensions are one of the government's largest liabilities reaching £2.3 trillion in 2020-21.¹ This was more than 100 per cent of GDP in 2020-21, the first time it has reached this level.² The civil service operates an 'unfunded' scheme accounting for £339 billion of this total, which is more than either the Armed Forces or the Police. Unlike 'funded' arrangements, in which employees set aside assets to be disbursed in future, these pensions will be paid for through future taxation or borrowing.

In 2023 median gross pay for public sector workers was almost nine per cent more on average than private sector workers,³ and their pensions are more generous. The Institute for Fiscal Studies found that 47 per cent of public sector employees received an employer pension contribution of at least 20 per cent in 2021.⁴ That number was two per cent for private sector employees. The government is committed to increasing civil service pensions each April at the same rate as inflation in the previous September, and they will therefore rise by 6.7 per cent in April 2024.⁵ This is alongside the regular promotion salary rises and job security which should be sufficient for a career in the civil service.

By default, civil service pensions should operate on a funded, defined contribution pension scheme, like the private sector, instead of the generous defined benefit model currently used. This will ensure private sector taxpayers are not left subsidising public sector workers unfunded

pensions in the future.

This note reviews the top Whitehall civil servants' pension pots for 2022-23, the latest year for which data is available. The data includes the annual pension they will receive, as well as lump sum payments they are entitled to upon retirement.

Key findings

* In 2022-23, **20** leading civil servants who run UK government departments had an average pension pot of **£1,105,000**. Combined, these pension pots were worth **£20,995,000**. Of these, **ten** had pension pots worth more than the lifetime allowance currently set at £1,073,100.

* **Sir Philip Barton**, permanent under-secretary at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office had the largest pension pot worth **£2,016,000** in 2022-23.

* **Matthew Rycroft**, permanent secretary at the Home Office had the largest accrued pension at **£102,500**. A further **three** received over **£90,000** in accrued pensions.

* The average pension upon retirement will be **£65,921**. This is **more than double** the average gross UK private sector salary in 2023.⁶

* **Ten** of the senior civil servants analysed in this note will receive a lump sum upon retirement. The average lump sum was **£131,500**.

* The top civil servants with the largest annual pensions are Matthew Rycroft, Tamara Finkelstein, Sir Philip Barton and Sir Christopher Wormald, the heads of the Home Office,

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Department of Health and Social Care respectively.

1) HM Treasury, *Whole of Government Accounts, 2020-21*, 20th July 2023, p.13.

2) HM Treasury, *GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP March 2023 (Quarterly National Accounts)*, 3rd April 2023, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/.../GDP_Deflators_Qtrly_National_Accounts_March_2023_update.xlsx, (accessed 9th November 2023).

3) Office for National Statistics, *Earnings and hours worked, UK region by public and private sector: ASHE Table 13.7a*, 1st November 2023.

4) Boileau, B. O'Brien, L and Zaranko, B., *Public spending, pay and pensions*, Institute for Fiscal Studies, 8th October 2022, p.34.

5) Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance, *Civil service pensions set to rise by 6.7% from April as CPI inflation confirmed*, 18th October 2023, www.cspa.co.uk/news/civil-service-pensions-set-to-rise-by-6-7-from-april-as-cpi-inflation-confirmed/, (accessed 23rd November 2023).

6) Office for National Statistics, *Earnings and hours worked, UK region by public and private sector: ASHE Table 13.7a*, 1st November 2023.

Source: www.taxpayersalliance.com

INSIDE: UK universities and China p 2 - End of a nation p 2 - The EU's Chinese relationship p 3 - NATO's underwater pipes and cables p 4 - Has Germany learned from its past? p 5 - Government handling of immigration p 6 and 7 - Climate change p 7 - Business boost for UK p 8 - Germany's answer to small boat crossings p 8 - Letter p 9 and 10

UK universities and China

Robert Clark

A new report by Civitas entitled “The Strategic Dependence of UK Universities on China – and where should they turn next?”

This study by Robert Clark investigates two overarching aspects of the dependence of UK universities on China.

The first is the ability for UK higher education institutions, universities, and academics, to financially de-risk from the People’s Republic of China (PRC), in order, to end the reliance on Chinese funding (in terms of international student fees, research grants and donations) made from Chinese entities which will often have the capacity to harm or compromise national security.

The second aspect of this research is concerned with highlighting how this over-reliance on the PRC negatively affects British campuses, including academic freedoms and high-risk research collaborations with Chinese entities linked to the People’s Liberation Army (PLA).

Whilst the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) attempts to extend its overseas intelligence gathering and foreign policy agenda on to UK campuses, it is the CCP’s ‘Military-Civil Fusion’ (MCF) strategy which

further endangers national security, through attempts to rapidly expand its military modernisation programs, and ambitions for regional military hegemony across the Indo-Pacific – a critical region for UK foreign policy and national security.

Note: *None of the academics, researchers, or other staff whose research at UK universities or centres is discussed in this report are accused of knowingly assisting the development of the Chinese military, of knowingly transferring information to that end, or of committing any breach of their university regulations. Nor are they accused of any other wrongdoing, or improperly accepting funds, or breach of national security, or any criminal offence.*

In some cases, research may be used solely for non-military ends; the purpose of the examples mentioned in this report is not necessarily to demonstrate that they risk being used for military purposes, but in some cases that the research may simply help improve the business or academic position of a PRC military-linked conglomerate or institution; where research may be put to use by the

military of the PRC or organisations which are linked to it, we assume that researchers in the UK will have carried out this research without intending this to happen.

None of the UK universities, institutes or funding bodies mentioned in this report are accused of knowingly contributing to the development of China’s military or its military industries, as we believe that these universities have developed the sponsorship and research relationships we describe in good faith and in the belief that their scientific outputs will have purely civil ends.

The purpose of this report is simply to draw attention to the risk that specific Chinese funding may pose to the university system – and that UK research may be exploited by the Chinese military in a way the researchers could never have envisaged. It is our belief that shedding light on this risk is unquestionably a matter of pressing and vital public interest. We have initially published this in online form only to provide more opportunity for possible corrections.

The full report is available from civitas at www.civitas.org.uk

End of a nation

Why many people ponder of the idea and use of nation states in today’s world, here is a brief reminder to all powerful nations about how nations slip from greatness to obscurity?

* Fighting endless wars, they can’t or won’t win.

* Accumulating massive debt far beyond their ability to repay.

* Refusing to guard its borders, allowing itself to be inundated by alien hordes.

* Surrendering control of their cities to mob rule.

* Allowing indoctrination of the young.

* Moving from a republican form of

government to an oligarchy.

* Losing national identity.

* Indulging indolence.

* Abandoning God, faith, and family; the bulwarks of any stable society.

In America, every of these symptoms is pronounced, indicating an advance stage of a terminal disease.

Even if the cause seems hopeless, do we not have an obligation to those who sacrificed so much and gave us what we now have? I’m surrounded by ghosts urging me on, the battered Bastogne, the starving men of the Bataan March, those who served in the cold hell of Korea, the boys who went to the jungles of Southeast Asia and

came home to be reviled or neglected.

During Britain’s darkest hour, when its army was trapped in Dunkirk and a German invasion seemed imminent, Churchill reminded his countrymen, “Nations that go down fighting rise again and those that surrender tamely are finished”.

I don’t want to imagine a world without America, even though it becomes increasingly likely. If we let America slip through our fingers, we lose without a fight, what will posterity say of us? While the prognosis is far from good, only God knows if America’s day in the sun is over.

Source: www.TruthinHistory.org

The EU's Chinese relationship

This article was adapted from a keynote speech by Ambassador Fu Cong, Head of the Chinese Mission to the EU, at the 11th China-Europe Forum on November 23rd 2023 in Brussels.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of China and the EU's comprehensive strategic partnership, established in 2003. Since then, China-EU relations have prospered. Close exchanges and dialogue, as well as enhanced levels of cooperation, have brought tangible results to both sides.

This occasion provides a timely opportunity to review the past and look into the future and discuss how to further develop a sound China-EU relationship.

In the last 20 years our trade has increased by tenfold to USD 847.3 billion, meaning an average of nearly USD 2.3 billion of goods are being traded between the two sides every day. European exports to China have supported about 4 million jobs here in Europe. And by the end of 2022, China had set up over 2,800 companies through direct investment in Europe, creating more than 270,000 jobs locally.

We have also demonstrated solidarity and offered each other tremendous support during difficult times, such as the devastating 2008 earthquake in Wenchuan, the European debt crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past two decades, our comprehensive strategic partnership has led to great achievements. But these achievements have not come by easily and should not be taken for granted. Instead, they should be cherished and built upon.

As two major forces, markets, and civilizations in the world, China and the EU have a special responsibility when it comes to global peace and prosperity.

China follows the path of peaceful development and pursues an independent foreign policy of peace. We see ourselves as a beneficiary of the current international order. And we will steadfastly safeguard the UN-

centered international system underpinned by international law, and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

There are no fundamental conflicts of interest between China and the EU, either geopolitically or economically. We stand to gain from each other's development. Despite the differences between China and Europe in history, culture, ideology and development stage, our common interests far outweigh our differences, and we share more areas of cooperation than competition. China and Europe are, first and foremost, partners.

It is therefore important to further strengthen China and the EU's communication and dialogue. Since the end of last year, we have seen a good momentum of high-level exchanges.

President Xi Jinping met with President Michel and President von der Leyen, as well as several leaders of EU countries including Germany, France, Spain, Hungary, the Netherlands, Italy, and Greece. In the past few months, eight Commissioners of the European Commission visited China, while high-level officials from China made the opposite move.

High-level dialogues were held on environment and climate, digitalisation, economy and trade, and strategic issues, producing wide-ranging agreements. This positive momentum needs to be maintained, as it plays an essential part in the deepening of our mutual trust, and it provides strong impetus to our relationship.

Since the beginning of this year, China's economy has seen a robust rebound. The growth rate is one of the highest among major economies.

According to the IMF, China remains the largest contributor to global growth, accounting for one third of global growth in 2023. Major financial institutions, including J.P. Morgan, UBS, Deutsche Bank also raised their projections of China's economic growth.

All these demonstrate that China's

economy enjoys a promising prospect, and the world is highly confident about China's future development.

Going forward, China is committed to reform and open-up and promote high-quality development. As we welcome more high-quality EU products, technologies and services, opportunities for European companies increase. Likewise, we hope that the EU can provide an open, fair, and non-discriminatory market environment for Chinese businesses. Both China and Europe are advocates for and beneficiaries of economic globalisation.

China stands ready to advance cooperation with the EU to a higher level. Together, we can nurture new growth drivers in the digital economy, green development and environment protection, new energy sources, artificial intelligence, and connectivity, while keeping industrial and supply chains secure, stable, and reliable.

Last, but not least, we should address global challenges hand-in-hand. Conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine are still on-going, with spillover effects on global refugee, energy, and food safety issues. There is ample space for both sides to cooperate and coordinate their actions in order, to de-escalate these events and alleviate people's suffering.

On climate and biodiversity issues, we need to jointly advance the multilateral process to achieve a successful COP28. We also need to implement the outcomes reached at COP15 to build a shared future for all life on earth.

On global development, China's Belt and Road Initiative and the EU's Global Gateway strategy can complement each other to support developing countries and contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals.

I am confident that by enhancing China and the EU's dialogue and cooperation, while properly managing our differences, we will be able to add another 20 years of even greater progress to our relations.

Source: www.euobserver.com

NATO's underwater pipes and cables

Estonia is pursuing the same Chinese ship as Finland in its enquiries into the latest mystery to strike NATO's underwater pipes and cables.

"Further investigation will focus more on the [Chinese] vessel and its activity," Estonian state prosecutor Triinu Olev told EUobserver on Wednesday (25th October).

"We are working with our [NATO and EU] partners to check all other sites of underwater infrastructure," Estonia's foreign minister Margus Tsahkna also said, in a sign of how badly the incident jangled nerves.

The alarm comes after something ripped apart the Baltconnector gas pipeline from Estonia to Finland on 8th October, which stretches for 77km at depths of down to 100 metres.

Something also damaged nearby telecommunications cables from Estonia to Finland and Estonia to Sweden.

The Estonian prosecutor general's office and the Finnish National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have formed a joint investigation team.

Estonian and Finnish security services and navies also visited the maritime scene a weeks later, despite stormy conditions.

For his part, the NBI's chief investigator, Risto Lohi, told press on Tuesday that a Chinese-owned container ship, the Newnew Polar Bear, most likely tore the gas pipeline with an anchor, which was found.

And Estonia's Olev shed more light on the joint probe.

"The damaged telecommunications cables are located somewhat further from the pipeline, so we still need to investigate this more thoroughly, but one investigative version amongst others is that Newnew Polar Bear is [also] involved in the incident," Olev said.

"The aim of the investigation is to determine whether the vessel is responsible for damaging the telecommunications cables or not and whether the damage was caused intentionally or by accident," he said.

"When necessary, we will ask for support from other nations, including Chinese authorities," he added.

"There is reason to believe the [gas pipe and communication cable] cases are connected," Estonia's Tsahkna also said.

NATO has boosted surveillance in response.

"Increased measures include additional surveillance and reconnaissance flights, including with maritime patrol aircraft, NATO Awacs planes, and drones. A fleet of four NATO mine-hunters is also being dispatched to the area," Tsahkna said.

"Incidents in the Baltic Sea show the vulnerability of our underwater infrastructure," he said.

And EU leaders will find ink for the Baltic episode in their upcoming summit communiqué in Brussels, despite focusing on more dramatic events in the Middle East.

"In view of the damage to critical infrastructure in the Baltic Sea caused by external activity, the European Council stresses the need for effective measures to strengthen the resilience and ensure the security of critical infrastructure," EU leaders aimed to say.

The Baltconnector and cable incident comes after an explosion destroyed the Nord Stream gas pipeline from Russia to Germany in September 2022.

It also comes after suspected Russian fishing boats cut cables from Norway to its Svalbard archipelago in 2021, as well as from the UK to the Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands, and (Danish) Faroe Islands.

Speaking of the recent Baltic episode, NATO secretary general Jens Stoltenberg said on 11th October: "If it is proven to be an attack on NATO critical infrastructure ... it will be met by a united and determined response".

Estonia's Olev told EUobserver: "Getting to the truth is important for both Estonia and Finland".

But it remains to be seen if China cooperates with the EU states on the

Newnew Polar Bear, which the Finnish NBI contacted "several times", Lohi said, but which silently sailed out of Finnish waters, preventing any "coercive measures" to stop her.

And in the absence of hard evidence of Chinese state sabotage, it would be tough for NATO to activate either its Article V mutual defence clause or even its Article IV security-crisis consultations.

Blocking Russia and China from Baltic Sea?

"I cannot see NATO reacting against China except to issue a statement if the evidence [that the Newnew Polar Bear did it] is solid," said Jamie Shea, a former senior NATO official who teaches war studies at Exeter University in the UK.

"It will be up to Finland, Estonia, and Sweden to decide if they want to publish and publicise the evidence when they have it to generate pressure on China [for financial compensation]," Shea said.

Meanwhile, the Nord Stream investigations, being carried out by Denmark, Germany, and Sweden, are still ongoing more than a year later.

The Svalbard and Faroe probes didn't indict anybody on sabotage.

And all that leaves Chinese and Russian vessels free to criss-cross "critical" Western arteries on the High North and Baltic Sea beds, despite heightened geopolitical tensions over the Ukraine war.

Finland joined NATO in April in reaction to Russia's aggression. Sweden is finalising membership, also ending decades of neutrality.

"[NATO] navies can monitor shipping and deter potential hostile vessels from loitering too close to critical undersea infrastructure, but it will be demanding to keep up 24/7 patrols," Shea said.

"Some Baltic politicians have suggested shutting Russia and maybe China out of the Baltic Sea altogether, but I doubt this will happen short of wartime," he added.

Source: (Oct.) - www.euobserver.com

Has Germany learned from its past?

The following is an extract from a blog first shown on the Bruges group web site by Dorian Wood.

Germany is a relatively young country. Created as a 'Customs Union' it quickly became an Empire as Bismark consolidated power through a war with France. In 1871 all members of the Zoll Union became provinces of the Empire, with-the-exception of Luxembourg whose ruling Duke opted out.

Bismark introduced reforms such as health insurance, but mainly the period from 1871 to 1945 were of colonial expansion and territorial war.

During those years and its wars Germany, from Imperial to Nazi earned a reputation for extreme brutality. It pursued its aims showing contempt for those who opposed it. The treatment of Africans and Slavs were similar, guided by a belief that they were lesser beings. Treatment of the Jews is rightly remembered as the most appalling genocide in modern history. Unfortunately, some Germans remain in denial. Even the historian ex Chancellor Helmut Kohl refused to admit the horrors of German treatment of African.

Of course, judged by today's mores German history is truly awful. So too is that of most countries including the UK. More importantly, judged by the mores of then German actions were truly frightful, whereas those of the Anglo-Saxon world were not.

At the end of WW1 there is little doubt that the French inspired Versailles treaty was designed to punish the Germans. Punish them not just for WW1, but 1870 too. Many claim that the hardships and hyper-inflation that resulted gave rise to Hitler. That may be so, but one might have expected that lessons would have been learned too. Sadly, they were not.

At the end of 1945 Germany was defeated, crushed almost beyond recognition. This time the peace was overseen by the US and Britain. They did not believe that punishment of the whole population was either practical or desirable. They set about rebuilding and seeking to create a new Germany

in their own image. Marshall aid poured in. Berlin was relieved. Volkswagen saved by the British and a National Newspaper *Die Welt* created, also by the British.

Western German debts were written off and its cooperation with its neighbours encouraged. Democracy introduced and a Chancellor elected. Job done? Those who shared this optimism were delighted when the 1952 "Coal and Steel Pact" morphed into the Common Market. Friends and an erstwhile enemy sharing the goal of bringing peace and prosperity to a war-ravaged continent. Only Hard Left Tony Benn warned that membership of the Common Market would soon become a stage in the creation of a single European state, and he foresaw that Britain would be a minor part in that.

The political class in Britain remained oddly naive through stages of EEC and EC metamorphosis until its final form as the European Union. Britain came close to adopting the Euro and senior, now elderly Conservatives like John Major were attracted to the idea. Already by 2000 the German economy was dominant. Wages, social care and tax rates were never harmonised across the Union, and it was a marriage of un-equals. Germany benefited by some 15% when it joined the EURO forcing all but Holland into economic difficulties.

While the liberal media were demonising UKIP and elected MEP Nigel Farage, and those who exposed the ambitions of the European Unionists they ignored totally the sinister figure at the heart of Brussels. In office since 2004. Martin Selmayr was never forensically challenged. He was a career bureaucrat from Berlin, left free to shape the EU in Germany's interest. So great was his stranglehold on the European Commission that even his admirers like Jean-Claude Juncker jocularly referred to him as 'The Monster' and a speaker in the Commission acclaimed Selmayr "the most powerful bureaucrat in the World". It is in exposing Juncker and Selmayr that Farage contributed most

profoundly to modern Britain and tapped a deep instinctive unease in Britain that led to the 2016 Brexit result.

Whether deliberate or not Germany dominates the EU economically and politically. Its refusal to complete monetary union with a transfer union condemns the Euro to exist as a German Fiat and the other users as pawns in a game of diminishing returns. Indeed, they are paying a modern-day Dane Geld. Those who see the EU as the Fourth Reich have merit in the argument. What is missed is that the German economy is a mess and its politics too. It is pertinent to ask, "If Germany cannot manage when it has a 15% advantage, what does the future hold?"

Germany's double standards are starkly apparent in respect Ukraine. Backed into a moral struggle Germany has shown no embarrassment in operating gross double standards and has cheated on Britain and its EU associates and NATO allies. Although signed up to sanctions against Russia, Germany continues to have a flourishing export trade, dishonestly doing so through Russia's neighbours, to create a smokescreen of compliance. In May *Reuters* reported that though direct trade with Russia was diminished by half, German exports to Kyrgyzstan were up an implausible 949% and those to Russia's neighbours like Armenia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan an implausible 150%. So, Putin's war continues to enjoy German economic support.....

Those who support the creation of an EU Unitary State are playing with fire. The component nations are unequal. Further integration will simply make the matter worse. It will create a pressure cooker that future generation will resent....

There is a way to avoid what could be a future catastrophe. Break up the Euro, return to real value floating National currencies. Abandon the EU Imperial idea and come together in a free trade area that benefits all. EFTA, for example.

Government handling of immigration

Public dissatisfaction with the Government's handling of immigration is at its highest level since before the EU referendum, according to the latest findings from the Immigration Attitudes Tracker by Ipsos and British Future.

The new survey finds that two-thirds of the public (66%) are dissatisfied with the way the Government is dealing with immigration, the highest level since the first tracker survey in 2015. Just 12% say they are satisfied.

Only a fifth (22%) of Conservative supporters are satisfied with the Government on immigration while most Conservatives (56%) are dissatisfied – a quarter (26%) 'very dissatisfied'. Almost three quarters (73%) of Labour supporters are dissatisfied with how the Government is dealing with immigration.

The top reason given for dissatisfaction with the Government is the failure to stop Channel crossings, but responses are divided by politics. For Labour supporters who are unhappy with the Government on immigration, 'Creating a negative or fearful environment for migrants' (46%) and 'Not treating asylum-seekers well' (45%) are equally important reasons for dissatisfaction as 'Not doing enough to stop channel crossings' (46%). Among Conservative supporters, however, 82% cite 'Not doing enough to stop Channel crossings' as a reason for their dissatisfaction, and only 9% 'creating a negative or fearful environment for migrants'.

Such sharp division by politics is common across a range of questions.

At a time of high net migration, the new tracker survey finds that 48% of the public now supports reducing immigration (up from 42% in 2022), compared to 44% who would prefer numbers to stay the same or increase. Support for reducing immigration is still nearly 20 points lower than in 2015, the first year of the tracker, when 67% of the public backed reductions.

More people (43%) think that

immigration has had a positive impact on Britain than the 37% who feel its impact has been negative, though negativity has increased by 8 points from 29% since 2022.

Responses differ significantly by politics. Two-thirds of Conservative supporters (67%) now favour reducing migration, compared to only 38% of Labour supporters who favour reductions. More than half (56%) of Labour supporters say immigration numbers should increase (28%) or stay the same (28%), compared to 30% of Conservatives who say numbers should either increase (16%) or stay the same (14%).

Sunder Katwal Ia, Director of British Future, said:

"The Government's approach to immigration, particularly asylum and small boats, is disappointing everyone – but for different reasons. Liberals think it is inhumane, while hardliners think it isn't achieving what has been promised. What they all have in common is the feeling that the Government isn't doing a good job.

"Attitudes to immigration are nuanced but the sharp divide along party political lines means we should expect a noisier, more heated immigration debate as Britain heads towards a General Election.

'But politicians won't rebuild public trust by raising the volume of the debate – that will take workable solutions, particularly on asylum, that balance control and compassion.'

The tracker research finds that 7 in 10 people (71%) say they do not trust the Conservative Party to have the right policies towards migrants crossing the Channel, with just 21% saying they trust Rishi Sunak's party. The Labour opposition is trusted by 32% of the public to have the right policies on Channel crossings, yet it is distrusted by 53%. Some 52% of Conservative supporters say they do not trust their own party on Channel crossings. But Labour supporters do trust their own party on the issue: 60%

say they trust Labour to have the right policies, while 28% do not.

Gideon Skinner, head of political research at Ipsos, said:

"Immigration has been rising-up the political and public agenda this year, particularly due to unhappiness with the government's handling of channel crossings, which makes these latest findings timely. We can see that increasing attention reflected in rising concern about numbers and the impact of immigration, although it's still the case that attitudes remain more positive than before the EU referendum.

"But there is no simple answer to meeting voters' demands on this issue, as views are split and often nuanced. For example, Britons also continue to support migration for specific sectors of work (especially health and social care), while control over who comes in is often as, if not more, important as the total numbers.

"But with an election on the horizon and attention on the issue of immigration and asylum unlikely to go away, there isn't much trust in either of the main parties to get the balance right."

The new survey also finds that support for migration for specific jobs remains largely steady. More than half the public would like to see the number of migrant doctors (53%) and nurses (54%) increase, while less than 1 in 7 favour reductions (13% for doctors and 14% for nurses); for care workers 46% would like to see numbers increase, 28% would rather numbers stayed the same and only 17% would like to see them reduced. Nearly three-quarters of skilled worker visas last year were for health and care roles.

For other jobs the picture is similar. Only 18% of the public would like to reduce the numbers of migrants coming to work as seasonal fruit and vegetable pickers, while 43% would prefer the number to increase (30% say numbers should stay the same); 24% want fewer migrant lorry drivers while 66% would rather numbers stayed the

Government handling of immigration

same (35%) or increased (31%); and 24% would prefer fewer migrants coming to work in construction, while 66% think numbers should stay the same (33%) or increase (33%).

The tracker survey also asked about migration for study, as it forms a large proportion of net migration, according to the latest figures. Some 37% of the public are happy for international

student numbers to stay the same and 22% would prefer them to increase, while 31% favour reductions.

Source: www.britishfuture.org

Climate change

David Whitehouse

Why are many parts of the world so warm right now? Over the past four months we have seen record-breaking temperatures. September, globally-averaged, was 0.5°C above the previous record. 2023 is bound to be the warmest year of the instrumental record period. This is quite extraordinary, but what is behind this sudden spike in temperature?

Speaking on Channel 4 in October, Piers Forster of the Climate Change Committee, said the sudden rise in temperatures was *500 times bigger* than climate scientists expected. He says the temperature record covered the whole world. Gavin Schmidt of the Goddard Spaceflight Center said 20% of the globe was setting new records. Others said it was just 12%. The *Guardian's* front page said simply "*Out of Control.*"

It's, a-state-of-affairs that has caused much confusion among climate scientists and commentators (often the same thing) many of whom attribute the sudden spike to climate change – but in doing so end up being rather muddled and contradictory. But is there anything really 'out of control'? Is this abrupt climate change? Perhaps a transition, the crossing of a threshold?

There are some who look towards climate computer models for an explanation, saying that what we have seen over the past few months is in line with expected warming but at the upper end of the scale. This is highly unlikely because the events of a few months, especially during a strong El Niño year when there is so much variability going on, are not a climate

change event, even though Zeke Hausfather has said that 2023 has been unusual for the climate. Actually - if you view what has happened in terms of climate models it is a clear failure because none predicted the spike – once again showing their inadequacy.

In short, it's not climate change because – as reputable climate scientists rightly emphasise – a sudden temperature spike or drop in a single year (or even in a number, of years) can and does happen quite frequently, although this year is a particularly unusual spike. Nevertheless, this sudden rise in temperature is on a far too short period to be driven by global warming which is a long-term trend.

Abrupt climate change is possible without human forcing and is not unusual in the climate record, even recently. Between 1976 and 1977, the Tropical Pacific underwent a rapid warming that had global impacts, including over North America, which was wetter than usual for the following two decades. Even today the cause of the 1976/77 climate shift is still debated.

The explanation for the recent event has not one cause but multiple.

A major reason why parts of the world are so hot is the El Niño which warms the surface of much of the tropical Pacific. This typically raises the global average temperatures by about 0.1°C to 0.2°C, but it can be higher due to variability of the phenomenon. Having recently emerged from a triple La Nina, which cools the planet, it is perhaps understandable why this current El Niño is so intense.

Then there is, also the new

regulations regarding sulphur in ship fuels that has dramatically reduced the sulphur aerosol emission that has cleared the air over many oceans, especially the North Atlantic. Indeed, sea surface temperatures in the North Atlantic are very high this summer after a period of rapid warming in the spring. Globally, the North Atlantic is far in-excess of anything we've seen in that region.

Another contributing factor could be the *Hunga Tonga eruption* in the South Pacific last year. It injected large amounts of water vapour into the upper atmosphere probably increasing the greenhouse effect. Initial estimates are quite modest, but they could be revised as further work is done.

The Sun might also be playing a role, particularly since this current cycle has surprised astronomers by being more intense than expected. In addition to these we have seen persistent high-pressure systems over many land regions such as Australia and Western Europe.

Climate change means that these changes are acting on an increased global temperature baseline. However, it should be noted that climate change doesn't explain why September 2023 is so much warmer than September 2022. The main difference is due to a combination of other factors. The best time to judge what has happened over the past few months is to wait until the year after the current El Niño subsides. There is a significant chance that global temperatures will drop, just as they dropped after the last big El Niño spike in 2015/16.

Source: www.netzerowatch.com

Business boost for UK

An article posted by CIB on the 18th November shows a 'Business boost as Brexit Britain lands another US trade deal'.

During the week in November in which the government's immigration policy has once again been mauled, to pieces in the Supreme Court, we can at least raise one Brexit cheer on behalf of the Business Secretary who was in Jacksonville, Florida recently to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost trade and investment between the United Kingdom and the Sunshine State.

At \$1.1tn, Florida's GDP is the equivalent of Spain's, and the latest MoU is targeted at sectors in which the UK and Florida have particular strengths such as space, fintech, AI, and legal services.

This is the seventh US state that Brexit Britain has done trade deals with, amounting to \$3.3tn which is nearly the equivalent of Germany's GDP.

LIFT-OFF! Brexit Britain boldly goes where no EU Commission has gone before.

It's blast-off for the seventh UK-US MoU – with Florida – a £1.1 TRILLION economy.

UK signs Memorandum of Understanding with US State worth more than Spain.

On Tuesday (14th November 2023) – and unseen by most people because of other news – the UK's Trade

Secretary Kemi Badenoch was in Jacksonville and signed a (MoU) to boost trade and investment between the UK and Florida.

Florida has a GDP of over £1.1tn – the fourth biggest of any US state and roughly the same size as Spain. The MoU is designed to help make it quicker, easier, and cheaper for UK and Florida firms to do business and is targeted at sectors in which the UK and Florida have particular strengths such as space, fintech, AI, and legal services. This brings the total to £3.3 TRILLION and plays to the UK's strengths.

Summary

Brexit Britain's seventh deal with a US State.

Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed Memorandum of Understanding to encourage trade between the UK and Florida.

Pact targeted at high-potential sectors such as space and fintech and designed to boost exports and investment between the UK and Florida.

This is the latest the UK has signed with a US state, bringing the total to seven states with a combined GDP of £3.3tn – just under the GDP of Germany.

[Sources: Department for Business and Trade | The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP | Governor's Office, Florida.]

The economic size of the US States

with which the UK has done deals so far:

Indiana: \$470.3
North Carolina: \$762.9
South Carolina: \$308.9
Oklahoma: \$243.4
Utah: \$259.3
Washington State: \$761.4
Florida: \$1,439.1
TOTAL: \$4,245.3 bn

[Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, data for 2022.]

Space – the next frontier

This MoU is the first the UK has signed which focuses on the space sector. Florida is home to the NASA Kennedy Space Center and has world-leading capabilities in launch infrastructure, manufacturing, and satellite development, presenting huge opportunities for the UK's growing space industry – now with an income worth **over £17.5 billion and employing nearly 50,000 people.**

After the signing the UK now has MoU's with seven US states – Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington, and Florida – **with a combined GDP of £3.3tn**, just under the GDP of Germany. The UK is also actively engaging with further states including Texas, California, Colorado, and Illinois.

Sources: *Brexitfacts4eu.org* and *cibuk.org*

Germany's answer to small boat crossings

Maybe it is time for the UK government to properly face up to the problem of small boat crossings of the English-channel.

Why the UK come up with a policy of trying to send these illegal's to Rwanda, with all the problems that creates. The German's may have a more suitable alternative with a draft law that would criminalise NGO search-and-rescue-missions.

Is it possible that we could learn a

lesson from Germany? We should at least be considering it!

Draft laws in Germany aimed at tackling irregular migration could lead to the prosecution of NGO's for rescuing endangered refugees and migrants at sea - triggering concerns among human rights lawyers.

With the new move, Germany follows many other EU countries, including Greece and Italy.

Rescuing people from drowning in

the Mediterranean and bringing them ashore could leave NGOs in Germany liable to criminal prosecution for "smuggling foreign nationals" into the EU - with concerns the offence would potentially be met with sentences of up to 10 years.

In an attempt to clamp down on trafficking, the *draft amendment* to the Aufenthaltsgesetz (Residency Act) would redefine what constitutes illegal assistance of entry into the EU.

LETTERS

Tel: 08456 120 175 email: info@junepress.com

Labour and the EU

Dear Editor,

The latest news that Labour's David Lammy and its leader Sir Keir Starmer are openly taking about closer EU cooperation especially in defence, should they win the General Election. They even talk about having regular meetings with the EU every 3 or 6 months. In plain English they intend to tie the UK into EU rules and regulations without the need to consult the UK people.

The UK could well then be forced into pay into the EU budget and subject our own military to be controlled and influenced by the EU.

The UK is a contributor to NATO but our military are free to go wherever our UK government sees fit. It is a democratic organisation unlike the EU.

We must not forget that when Labour's Tony Blair was prime minister, he gave away to the EU a large chunk of the UK rebate in the promise of talks over the Common Fishing Policy, result, we paid more in, but no change was made. Will they never learn that the EU is a competitor not a friend.

CYRIL EVANS
Essex

Hamis/Israel conflict

Dear Sir,

Many British people were appalled by Hamas's October 7th atrocities, but Netanyahu's response reminds us only of how Adolf Hitler acted to destroy the Jewish community: annihilate your 'enemies'.

I have worked amicably and harmonically with many Jewish colleagues, but what Netanyahu is doing today will not destroy Hamas. It will create for 50 years hatred among Palestine's surviving young people to any Jews.

Israel will have no peace or safety for that reason. The tragedy is that

Netanyahu ignored so many sensible Jewish people who opposed in peaceful demonstrations his governments extremist approach.

Russia's identical destruction of communities in support of Assad was Netanyahu's blueprint for committing war crimes with impunity.

Now Venezuela's newly elected President has realised that and has secured 83 percent support for seizing part of neighbouring Guyana's territory for its oil and gas potential.

Many world' leaders' have lost their respect for Humanity, for the worth of individual human life.

A young woman Muslim recently wrote a powerful piece in the *Times* that the future of mankind could only be secured by following Jesus Christ's doctrine: Forgive those who trespass against us.

That is mankind's only hope. We are enabling own destruction.

God, whoever or whatever God is, meanwhile is hitting us with climate change, earthquakes, storms, wildfires, floods, etc, to tell mankind just how insignificant we are in His/Her/Its design for the Entire Universe.

The James Webb telescope is proving just how insignificant we are.

DON BRIGGS
Cheshire

Covid lockdown

Dear Editor,

All the unnecessary talk about when and if we should have locked down has resulted in many people comparing UK deaths after lockdown with Sweden's. Resulting in many asking the question as to whether lockdown should have happened.

Sweden is not comparable with the UK as it has a much lower population and its largest cities have less than one million citizens. The actual comparison for Sweden should be with Scandinavian countries like Norway, Denmark, and Finland. Norway and Finland combined have a similar

population figure to Sweden but had 60% less deaths and did lockdown.

CLIVE EDWARDS
Wiltshire

Immigration

Dear Editor,

It is not surprising that citizens of the UK capital London support immigration as the population of London is now composed of 40% of people born outside the UK. Many refer to the North South divide in this country, but an ever-greater divide is now taking place between London and the entire rest of the country.

Furthermore, when it comes to transport and hence the ULEZ charge on motorists, people outside the capital are the ones facing the real problems, not only of cost but the need to get to work requires in most cases the use of cars. The cost of electric cars is well outside the ability of most people living outside London to pay for them.

SUSAN DAVIS
Birmingham

Home Secretary replaced

Dear Sir,

The removal of Suella Braverman from her post as Home Secretary, shows just how out of touch the political class are to the UK electorate. She was removed for saying what most the electorate think, and her replacement James Cleverly is just a typical MP just following Rishi Sunak's mantra.

Cleverly recently went to see the Rwanda government and obtained a Treaty that he and his leader think will sort out the illegal immigration system. They appear to be unaware of the inevitable appeals that will happen, including those claiming mental health issues, thus ensuring that no deportations will be deported to Rwanda for years, if ever.

DOUGLAS KENNEDY
Sussex

LETTERS

Tel: 08456 120 175 email: info@junepress.com

EU compliance

Dear Sir,

The appointment to David Cameron now Lord Cameron as Foreign Secretary is further proof that the current government like Labour and Lib-Dem parties are hell bent on returning the UK to be governed by the EU regardless of the peoples wishes.

How in all seriousness can Cameron who wanted to stay in the EU now be the one who is in talks with the EU on behalf of the UK electorate. Shame on all those who think this is a good idea, it makes the Conservatives even more unelectable. Maybe it's time for a new political party that really represent the people of the UK and not the current paper loviess we have now.

MICHAEL SIMONS
Manchester

Cash

Dear Editor,

A recent letter in *eurofacts* reminded me of how quickly the public have been pressurised and literally forced to pay by credit card and not cash.

Good news for bank they make more money from every transaction and create a record of how and where people spend their hard-earned money.

The banks owe a great deal to the Covid crisis that gave them an unnecessary excuse to push for card transactions. The next step that is already starting, will be the push for government controlled crypto currency instead of cash as we know it. This will increase the nanny state and the allow state control of how and where we spend our money. The future looks bleak for the individual but wonderful for those in power.

However, despite the efforts of

government and banks the people of the UK are responding by using more cash in 2023 than they did in 2022. An increase from 15% to 19% in a year, could it be that the public are more savvy than this who try to control us?

REBECCA ROBERTS
West Midland

Multiculturalism

Dear Sirs,

The latest figure for net migration to the UK for 2022 of 745,000 people will come as no surprise to the UK people, only those who were elected to prevent this appear surprised. The extra cost for schools, public services, and most of all the UK culture is having a real damaging effect on this country. It will not be long before the UK is no longer a country of UK born citizens but a divided country both culturally and religiously.

Multiculturalism can be okay but only when the numbers entering the country are at a low level in order, for integration to take place.

DAVID COLLINS
Merseyside

Rwanda

Dear Sir,

Yet again we here that the solution to the illegal immigration to the UK can be sorted out by sending applicants to Rwanda. This idea has already cost the taxpayer £240 million and is set to cost a lot more.

The latest Treaty signed by the UK and Rwanda is supposed to fill in the objections raised by the Supreme Court. However, as we have learned to our cost there will be many legal objections raised by courts outside the UK and our elected politicians will

bow down to these courts and the Rwanda deal will get tied up in the courts for months if not years, even if it gets through the UK government both in the Commons and Lords.

The French appear happy with the large sums of money the UK taxpayer has given them, in the mistaken believe that they will actively stop the boats! But that has clearly failed as they are not stopping the large well organised gangs from transporting large numbers of illegal migrants across the English Channel.

The time has come to turn back these boats regardless of court decisions, once the illegals realise, they will not be able to cross the channel with any degree of safety and that the UK will not rescue them at sea, and therefore, aid with their travel to the UK the better. This is the only way that the illegal migrants will understand, and it would be a proper deterrent.

It may sound heartless but unless and until serious action is taken the situation will not end.

Meanwhile, we now hear that many illegals are yet again targeting road transport, by breaking into or climbing onto lorries heading to the UK.

ALLISON JAMES
Coventry

Recycling

Dear Editor,

The UK is constantly encouraging and pressuring its people to recycle, that is a good thing, but the idea that people can store large numbers of containers for recycling is not.

We here in Bristol now have 13 such containers. The downside is the terrible eye-saw these containers create on our streets, we need a better system.

JOHN FRANCIS
Bristol

eurofacts wishes its readers the compliments of the season.
Our next issue will be published on the 2nd February 2024

MEETINGS

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Thursday **11th January**, 6.00 pm

“Ancient Greek Ideas of Justice”

Melissa Lane, *Gresham Professor of Rhetoric*

PUBLIC MEETING
Barnard’s Inn Hall, Holborn, London
EC1N 2HH
Admission Free

(ONLINE)
@gres.hm/greek-justice
Registration required at:
www.gresham.ac.uk

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Monday **22nd January**, 6.00 pm

“Capital Structure Theory Explained”

Raghavendra Rau, *Mercer’s School Memorial Professor of Business*

PUBLIC MEETING
Barnard’s Inn Hall, Holborn, London
EC1N 2HH
Admission Free

(ONLINE)
@gres.hm/capital-structure
Registration required at:
www.gresham.ac.uk

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Wednesday **24th January**, 6.00 pm

“‘Oumuamua’: Our First Interstellar Visitor”

Chris Lintott *Gresham Professor of Astronomy*

PUBLIC MEETING
Details of venue to be confirmed
Admission Free

(ONLINE)
@gres.hm/oumuamua
Registration required at:
www.gresham.ac.uk

FREE Advertising Space

Should you be planning a meeting and/or conference dealing with the subject of the UK-EU relationship or know of one upcoming, please inform us so that we can hopefully include the information.

Contact:
euofacts Phone: 08456 120 175
or Email: euofacts@junepress.com

Gresham College
020 7831 0575

Tuesday **30th January**, 6.00 pm

“How is Climate Change Affecting the Weather Now?”

Myles Allen, *Frank Jackson Foundation Professor of the Environment*

PUBLIC MEETING
Barnard’s Inn Hall, Holborn, London
EC1N 2HH
Admission Free

(ONLINE)
@gres.hm/weather-change
Registration required at:
www.gresham.ac.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS

UK Parliament 19th December
Christmas Recess Starts

2024

Belgium takes over 1st January
EU Council Presidency

UK Parliament 8th January
Christmas Recess Ends

Hungary takes over 1st July
EU Council Presidency

USEFUL WEB SITES

Brexit Watch
www.brexit-watch.org
Briefings For Britain
www.briefingsforbritain.co.uk
Britain First
www.britainfirst.org
British Future
www.britishfuture.org

USEFUL WEB SITES

British Weights & Measures Assoc.
www.bwma.org.uk
Bruges Group
www.brugesgroup.com
Campaign for an Independent Britain
www.cibuk.org
Centre or Brexit Policy
www.centreforbrexitpolicy.org.uk
Civitas
www.civitas.org.uk
Democracy Movement
www.democracymovement.org.uk
EU Observer
www.euobserver.com
EU Truth
www.eutruith.org.uk
European Commission (London)
www.cec.org.uk
European Foundation
www.europeanfoundation.org
Facts4EU
www.facts4eu.org
Fishing News
www.fishingnews.co.uk
Freedom Association
www.tfa.net
Freenations
www.freenations.net
Futurus
www.futurus-thinktank.com
Global Britain
www.globalbritain.co.uk
June Press (Publications)
www.junepress.com
Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign
www.eurosafeguards.com
Migration Watch
www.migrationwatch.org.uk
New Alliance
www.newalliance.org.uk
Policy Exchange
www.policyexchange.org.uk
The Reform Party
https://www.reformparty.uk
The Red Cell (Think tank)
www.theredcell.co.uk
Statewatch
www.statewatch.org
The Taxpayers’ Alliance
www.taxpayersalliance.com
United Kingdom Independence Party
www.ukip.org
Veterans For Britain
http://www.veteransforbritain.uk

The End Of The English
by David Brown

£6.99 - Pbk 2008 - 111 pp

Written as an apology to all grandchildren, it analyses how the EU planned for control of UK democracy.

Reflections on the Revolution in Europe
by Christopher Caldwell

£14.99 - Pbk 2009 - 363 pp

How mass immigration affects European and UK culture and religious values extending to democracy itself.

[Special Offer £10.00]

Living In A Fascist Country
by Vernon Coleman

£15.99 - Pbk 2006 - 346 pp

An account of the conspiracies, greedy politicians, endless religious wars and disappearing freedoms and privacy.

[Special Offer £10.00]

Why Did Britain Take The Wrong Path?
by Christopher Hoskin

£9.99 - Pbk - 2009 - 270 pp

How and why the UK lost its way and ended up with a fear of self-government.

[Special Offer £5.00]

All Books plus 10% P&P (UK Only)
Cheques to June Press Ltd
PO Box 119, Totnes, Devon TQ9 7WA

Britain Held Hostage
by Lindsay Jenkins

£11.99 - Pbk -1998 - 339 pp

With a foreword by Frederick Forsyth. An exposure of the how and why the EU was formed, including the planning that took place even before World War II had even started.

[Special Offer £6.00]

Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order
by Robert Kagan

£10.00 - Hardback - 2003 - 104 pp

Europe sees the US as unrealistic and recklessly belligerent: the US sees Europe as spent, un-serious and weak.

The Shadow Liabilities of EU Member States
by Bob Lyddon

£15.00 - Pbk -2023 - 278 pp

The EU/Eurozone participate in the rules-based international order, but break its financial rules in both letter and spirit posing a threat to global finance.

Climate Eco-Socialism
by Jeremy Nieboer

£15.00 - Pbk - 2023 - 107 pp

How the dogma of eco-socialism global warming over science has created a drive to reduce CO₂ at any cost.

World War II

The First Culture War

by Robert Oulds

£18.00 - Pbk -2023 - 486 pp

How and why Hitler's drive for German governance over Europe was based on cultural factors and his ideology.

Counter Attack

Montgomery and the Battle of the Bulge

by Robert Oulds

£8.00 - Pbk - 2022 - 65 pp

A previously untold and hidden story of Monty and his British led victory of Hitler's ruthless counteroffensive. Known today as the Battle of the Bulge.

Corbyn's Britain

Land of the Superwoke:

A Travel Guide to Corbyn's Britain

by Lee Rotherham

£13.99 - Pbk - 2019 - 265 pp

With a foreword by Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, a look into the past and possible future of a Hard Left Government.

Global Conspiracy

Evidence, Examples and Explanations

by Hugh Williams

£15.00 - Pbk- 2022 - 207 pp

Covid, Climate change and more, the author questions them all, and explains how the politicians and the media silence all those who dare speak out.

Online from www.junepress.com or Tel: 08456 120175 email info@junepress.com

eurofacts

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

RATES

UK	£30
Europe (Airmail)	£42/€50
Rest of World	£55/\$95
Reduced rate (UK only)	£25

Reduced rate for senior citizens, students & unemployed only.

Subscriptions alone do not cover costs so we are also seeking donations.

Please send me the monthly *eurofacts* and any occasional papers.

I enclose my annual payment of £.....
to **The June Press Limited,**
PO Box 119, Totnes, Devon TQ9 7WA

Name

Address

.....

.....

Postcode

Date

Please print clearly in capital letters

Further Book Sales

The Trouble with Europe

by Roger Bootle

£18.99 - Hardback -2014 - 216 pp

Winner of the Wofson Economic Prize

Why the EU isn't working, how it could be reformed and what could take its place.

[Special Offer £10.00]

The UK and Euroland - Ships passing in the night

by Graeme Leach

£5.00 - Pamphlet - 2000 - 36 pp

An economic policy paper by the IoD. Why economic forces stand in the way of UK participation in the euro project.

[Special Offer £2.50]

Saying 'No' to the Single Market

Foreword by Barry Legg

£4.00 - Pamphlet -2013 - 52 pp

A collection of speeches on the Single Market by Professor David Myddelton, Professor Jean-Jaques Rosa, Dr Andrew Lilico, Ian Milne and Dr Ruth Lea.

[Special Offer £2.00]

www.junepress.com

POLITICAL PARTIES

Brexit (Reform) Party Richard Tice	0800 414 8525
Conservative Rishi Sunak MP	020 7222 9000
English Democrats Robin Tilbrook (Chairman)	01277 896000
Green Party Co-leaders: Carla Denya and Adrian Ramsey	020 7272 4474
Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer MP	020 7783 1000
Liberal Mr Rob Wheway	01562 68361
Liberal Democrats Sir Ed Davey MP	020 7222 7999
UK Independence Party Neil Hamilton	020 3476 9564

ISSN 1361-4134



9 771361 413006