



Tim Congdon's latest e-mail



[Notice: This e-mail is sent to you because I have been informed - or have good reason to believe - that you would like to receive occasional e-mails from me on why the UK must leave the European Union.

If you do not want to receive e-mails from me, I apologise and perhaps you would let me know so that I can take your e-mail address off the list.]

Dear fellow members of UKIP (and others concerned about the UK's relationship with the EU),

I have two points I want to bring to your attention,

- A comment on the EU's demand for an extra €2.1 billion from the UK, and
- A new e-book I have just written on *Privatise the BBC*.

The EU's demand for an extra €2.1 billion

Last Friday's announcement that the EU wants an extra €2.1 billion from the UK was presented in shock horror terms, as if sudden demands for more money were new. In fact, the EU has played this game a few times already. As I explained on pp. 13 – 18 of the 2014 issue of *How much does the European Union cost Britain?*, in the last two years the EU seems to have lost control of its own expenditure and then bounced its member states into paying for major cost overruns. Already in 2012/13 the UK's net contribution to the EU Budget was £2.7 billion more than originally planned.

The newspapers are giving the impression that Prime Minister Cameron is aghast at the EU's pressure for more money and that he will resist it. In fact, he has conceded that, while the UK will not pay up on 1st December (as the Commission would like), it will pay up in due course as long as the figure is rounded down by a few hundred millions. This is pathetic and deceitful, but should not be a surprise. Cameron has been consistently pathetic and deceitful in his handling of EU issues since he became leader of the Conservative Party in 2005. Like Neville Chamberlain and Lord Halifax, he does not understand that appeasing playground bullies only encourages the playground bullies to try again.

The correct response was of course to tell the EU 'no, we refuse to pay, full stop'. **Cameron has not done that.** As before, he needs to be reminded that he has lied in his claims to have cut the EU Budget. The truth is that the UK's net contribution to the EU Budget has more than doubled since 2009, the last full year before Cameron became Prime Minister. Indeed, I would not rule out that in 2015 the net cost will be treble its 2009 level.

(The 2014 *Pink Book*, the annual publication from the Office for National Statistics on the UK's balance of payments, is due out this Friday, 31st October, and the page on the EU will

attract more comment than usual. Watch out also for the 2014 *European Finances* White Paper, written at the Treasury, presumably to be published next month a year after the last one [Cmnd. 8740]. It will be nice if the ONS and HMT arrive at more or less the same numbers.)

Puff for e-book *Privatise the BBC*, published today by *Standpoint* magazine on Amazon.com

As you may know, I am the economics columnist for *Standpoint* magazine. I have just written an e-book for *Standpoint* to advocate,

- The abolition of the licence fee, and
- The privatisation of the BBC.

Neither of these is UKIP policy, but I hope the party has a major debate on the future of UK broadcasting and that these are the policy conclusions which follow from the debate. (I have presented the case for these two changes at a meeting of the New Culture Forum, the think-tank directed by Peter Whittle, UKIP's culture spokesman. Let me emphasize that Peter does not necessarily agree with my views.)

I am confident that abolition of the licence fee would be popular – indeed, very popular – among UKIP supporters and the electorate. I tend to find less support for BBC privatisation. However, the argument is straightforward. The end of the licence fee would mean that the BBC lost over 70% of its income. It would then have to seek extra revenue from market sources, just like BSkyB and ITV, or close down. If its programmes are good, widely-appreciated and worthwhile, it should be able to compete easily with BSkyB and ITV. In my view the BBC needs to be privatised, and hence liberated from government control and the constraints of its public service remit, if it is to survive and flourish in the long run.

If you want to buy the e-book, please go to <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Privatise-BBC-Tim-Congdon-ebook/dp/B00OXSXR3C/>

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Congdon". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first name "Tim" is written in a simple, blocky cursive, while "Congdon" is more fluid and connected.

Tim Congdon

Runner-up in the 2010 UKIP leadership election