

# EXTENSION OF EU POWERS

## Over 50 vetoes given up

The national veto has been given up in over 50 areas including over space policy, social security, customs cooperation and aspects of defence policy.

## Self-amending treaty

The new Treaty is self-amending. Government ministers can vote to grant the EU more power without needing electors to ratify. The Treaty allows use of the so-called passarelle clause, which enables Ministers to decide policies using qualified majority voting in areas that previously required unanimity, such as foreign and security policy and the budget.

## A single legal personality

The Treaty gives the EU a single legal personality meaning it is able to sign up to international agreements on, for example, foreign policy, crime and immigration on behalf of all 27 nations.

## Less influence for UK government

A reweighting of votes when using qualified majority voting makes it more difficult for most nations to block legislation. The UK's capacity to block laws has been reduced by around 30 per cent.

## Criminal powers

Europol's (European police force) scope is to be extended from coordination to 'operational' capabilities similar to the USA's FBI. The EU will in future be able to define what constitutes a crime and to set maximum and minimum sentences. Eurojust (the public prosecutor) is now able to investigate British citizens and undertake prosecutions on an EU-wide basis.

## Charter of Fundamental Rights

Often referred to as the "Trade Union charter", the new Charter will give EU courts powers to strike down any national law that touches on "fundamental" rights. Labour claimed to have secured an opt-out from the Charter but Article 6 of the Lisbon Treaty reaffirms that the Charter is legally binding.

# SYED KAMALL MEP FOR LONDON



**Syed Kamall has been a Conservative Member of the European Parliament for London since 2005**

Syed believes that Britain should be in Europe, but that many EU laws and decisions could be made instead by democratically accountable institutions such as national Parliaments and local councils. He opposed the Lisbon Treaty which gave away powers without the consent of the British people. Syed believes that the UK must take back powers from Europe if we are to enjoy living in a democracy where decisions are taken at the lowest possible level.

**Syed Kamall has published two other Pocket Guides:**

- **Pocket Guide to the European Union**
- **Pocket Guide to the EU and Local Government**

**You can download the guides at:**  
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# SYED KAMALL'S POCKET GUIDE TO

# THE LISBON TREATY



## Spanish Prime Minister Jose Zapatero:

'We have not let a single substantial point of the Constitutional Treaty go... It is, without a doubt, much more than a treaty. This is a project of foundational character, a treaty for a new Europe.'



## European constitution author, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing:

'All the earlier proposals will be in the new (Lisbon) text, but will be hidden and disguised in some way.'



## German Chancellor, Angela Merkel:

'The substance of the Constitution is preserved. That is a fact.'



## Labour's 2005 election manifesto:

'We will put it (the EU Constitution) to the British people in a referendum.'



## Conservative Party Leader David Cameron 2009

'We will make sure that this never, ever happens again. Never should it be possible for the British government to transfer power without the consent of the British people.'



## Conservative PM David Cameron 2010

'These changes: the referendum lock, the sovereignty bill, stopping the use of ratchet clauses, all these changes can be put in place by our own parliament. They will put in place real protection for our democracy - protections other countries have but which are missing here in Britain.'

# THE EUROCRATS VERSUS THE PEOPLE

## EU Citizens Reject the Treaties

The Lisbon Treaty was drawn up following the rejection of the European Constitution by the French and Dutch people in referenda. It is almost identical to the European Constitution.

Many EU governments refused to allow their peoples a vote on the new Treaty for fear it would be rejected. In Britain, Tony Blair had promised a referendum on the new Constitution in the 2005 Labour manifesto. When the Lisbon Treaty was agreed, Foreign Secretary David Miliband ruled out a referendum in the UK.

The Irish people had their say on the Lisbon Treaty in June 2008 and rejected it. Eighteen months later, after many special assurances were given to the Irish people, they voted to accept it. By the end of 2009, the Treaty had been ratified by all member states and became law.

## Expansion of the Brussels Bureaucracy

The Lisbon Treaty creates many more European bureaucracies including the EU Diplomatic Service, Eurojust (the pan-European magistracy), the Human Rights Agency, the Defence Agency, the External Borders Agency and the European Space Programme.

Two new posts, EU President and Foreign Minister, have been filled by Herman Von Rompuy and former Labour peer Catherine Ashton. The European Parliament estimates that the new diplomatic service will consist of between 5,000 - 7,000 civil servants.



Signing the Conservative MEPs' referendum wall.

## Conservative Opposition to the Treaty

The Conservative Party under David Cameron's leadership opposed the Lisbon Treaty and the sacrifice of UK sovereignty that it entailed.

The Party campaigned to persuade the Labour Government to stick to its pledge to hold a referendum on the Treaty. Conservatives accused Labour of running scared of the verdict of the British people.

The Conservative campaign was ultimately unsuccessful, and the Treaty came into force six months before the people got a chance to deliver their verdict on the Labour Government at the General Election of 2010.

## Coalition Pledges New Safeguards

The Lisbon Treaty and its provisions remain in force. Only if a new Treaty is agreed will it be possible to return sovereignty in some policy areas to nation states.

However, the new UK coalition government has pledged to "amend the 1972 European Communities Act so that any proposed future treaty that transferred areas of power, or competences, would be subject to a referendum on that treaty - a 'referendum lock'."

The coalition has also ruled out any use of the Treaty's passerelle clause to extend qualified majority voting to areas of vital national interest such as budgetary policy and national security.



With fellow Conservative MEPs campaigning for the EU to respect the Irish "No" vote.

# TIMETABLE TO A NEW CONSTITUTION

JULY 2003	The final first draft of the constitution is published.
APRIL 2004	The British Labour Government promises the people 'the final say' on the constitution.
JUNE 2004	An EU summit agrees the document's final wording.
OCT 2004	Constitution signed in Rome.
FEB 2005	Spain approves the text in a referendum.
MAY 2005	French voters say 'no' to the constitution.
JUNE 2005	Dutch voters say 'no' to the constitution.
JUNE 2007	Ministers negotiate a new treaty, which is virtually identical to the constitution.
JULY 2007	Gordon Brown rules out a referendum.
DEC 2007	EU leaders sign the Treaty of Lisbon.
JUNE 2008	Irish voters reject the Treaty of Lisbon.
JULY 2008	Labour government forces Lisbon Treaty through House of Commons without a referendum.
OCT 2009	Second Irish referendum approves the Treaty.
NOV 2009	Czech Republic becomes the last country to ratify the Treaty.
DEC 2009	Lisbon Treaty comes into force across the EU.
MAY 2010	UK coalition government pledges to stop the transfer of any more powers to the EU.