



Leading Business Figures support an amending Treaty.....

(The business leaders are speaking in a personal capacity, and not on behalf of any business(es) they work for).

Sir Michael Bishop
(Chairman, BMI British Midland)

Like the airline industry, the face of Europe is changing quickly. We need a Europe that is capable of acting at high-speed. As Europe competes with the likes of China and India, the EU needs to be able to take decisions quickly and implement them consistently over the long term. That is why the amending Treaty is important to business and important for Europe's future.

Roger Carr
(Chairman, Centrica)

In the area of energy and environment policy, the EU has a crucial and urgent agenda facing it. From liberalizing national energy markets and combating protectionism to addressing the climate change challenge, the EU is a key player. The amending Treaty could help boost the EU's efforts in these areas.

Guy Dawson
(Founding Partner, Tricorn Partners)

The Treaty should confirm that the EU is a collection of nation states, not a superstate. The UK will rightly wish to preserve its full control over important and sensitive areas of policy, such as tax and foreign affairs. But it should seek to cooperate on other areas where its in our interests to do so.

Niall FitzGerald
(Chairman, Reuters)

The modern world is characterized by international cooperation and pooling sovereignty on issues of mutual concern. If we want to address issues such as trade promotion, aid from the developed world to Africa and regulation of carbon emissions, the EU is an important vehicle to do this. Therefore adopting institutional changes such as a permanent Presidency and double majority voting will make the EU stronger and more accountable.

Sir Philip Hampton
(Chairman, Sainsbury)

The key aim for business is the development of an effective single market. The main provisions of the amending Treaty should help to achieve that.

Lord John Kerr
(Deputy Chairman, Royal Dutch Shell plc)

The EU matters for business; and business wants the EU to work better. Only Eurosceptics, who want it to stay inefficient, could want to keep rotating Council Chairmanship ("Buggin's turn"), and the old voting system (the new one would increase UK voting power by over 40%). British business backs reform.

Vijay Patel
(CEO, Waymade Healthcare)

Europe is changing at a break neck speed. It is now moving in a neo-liberal, business-friendly, UK-centric direction. The old stereotypes about EU are outmoded and outdated. With new reform minded leaders in France and Germany and the European Commission, the UK has a great opportunity to secure agreement on a Treaty and to drive forward a shared agenda across Europe.

Colin Perry

(Chairman, LTE Scientific Ltd)

The good intentions of the EU institutions towards SMEs have too often been dissipated or compromised by the Union's decision making process. The single market, for example, does not yet work as effectively as it should for SMEs. Now that the views of the major member states on business matters have become more closely aligned with those of the UK, we need a process which produces results and realizes the full potential of the EU. We need to support a new Treaty to deliver that.

Stuart Popham

(Senior Partner, Clifford Chance)

An amending Treaty can set the framework for the EU to pursue its results-driven agenda over the coming years. It is in the UK's and Europe's interests to resolve the institutional dimension and to reach an agreement in the coming months, so that the Commission can continue on the path of economic reform, and the UK can exert influence on debates about the future direction of the EU, such as on enlargement and the Union's budget.

Sir Mike Rake

(Chairman, KPMG International)

The old Constitutional Treaty cannot be brought back. Its defeat in the referendums in France and the Netherlands signalled its demise. But Europe must move on from here, and seek to reach agreement on a new amending Treaty which enhances its efficiency and effectiveness.

Bryan Sanderson

(Co-Chairman, Asia Task Force)

Many of the institutional measures that have been suggested are patently in the interests of democracy and transparency such as an increased role for national Parliaments and a permanent, elected "Presidency" of the Council. We should support these reforms which will make the EU more effective.

Sir Martin Sorrell

(CEO, WPP)

An amending Treaty would ensure the EU functions more effectively and reform its institutions. If the EU is to strengthen the single market and take action on energy liberalization, it will be more effective with reformed and updated institutions.

Peter Sutherland

(Chairman, BP)

Whenever a new EU Treaty is proposed, there is lots of scaremongering about its effect. But the ramifications of previous Treaties like the Single European Act were far more profound than the proposals contained in the abandoned Constitutional Treaty. As ever with debates on Europe, we need calm and perspective to reach a sensible new amending Treaty. The fact is that reactions here to the minor changes apparently now being considered are often exaggerated and wildly inaccurate. This is demonstrated not least by the fact that it appears that virtually every other Member State finds them inoffensive and it is not the UK alone that has an interest in its sovereignty.

Bill Thomas

(President - Europe, Middle East & Africa, EDS)

The new amending Treaty will ensure that we have dynamic EU institutions capable of promoting reform and delivering competitiveness and growth across Europe. With clear signs that reform is on the agenda in France, Germany and at the European Commission, the UK must play a positive role in promoting the Treaty and securing the benefits that it will bring.

Rosemary Thorne

(Non-Executive Director of both Cadbury Schweppes and Abbey National)

Europe is a major centre for business, trade and global investment. In order to maintain its economic success, we support an agreement that reflects the interests of business. That is why the Charter of Fundamental Rights should be excluded from the substance of a new Treaty. There are already widespread protections on social

and employment legislation in national law, and the Charter would do little to help and would possibly hinder Europe's economic competitiveness.

Lord Christopher Tugendhat
(Chairman - European Advisory Board, Lehman Brothers)

The mistakes with the European Constitution were both presentational and substantive. It should never have been called a Constitution. It tried to cover too much and some measures such as the Charter left many uncomfortable, including the UK business community. Now there is a fresh opportunity to make practical reforms to the way the EU actually works that are very much in line with Britain's stated objectives.

Anthony Ullmann
(Managing Director, Autofil Worldwide Ltd)

Around 750,000 companies in the UK do business with the rest of Europe, and benefit from the single market. A Treaty which makes the EU work better will make the single market work better. With an enlarged EU, we should be more optimistic about building a Europe consistent with the UK's vision, with business competitiveness and economic growth at its heart.

Philippe Varin
(CEO, Corus)

Instead of seeing the negotiations over a new EU Treaty as a threat, we should see them as a great opportunity to shape the direction in which the Europe is going. The EU is a great success story and many other continents admire it and wish to emulate it. There are many in the UK business community who understand the need for a sensible, reforming Treaty.

Hugh Morgan Williams
(Chairman Canford Group plc)

The EU is Britain's primary market place. What happens politically in Europe matters to business. EU reform is vital to business interests in the UK, and business should actively back such reform. Current attempts by the Commission to streamline bureaucracy and assist SME's will be put back by negative messages on the reform process.