

Voters Oust Incumbents, Reject EU Austerity

by Rainer Apel

The elections for the European Parliament on June 13 led to a drastic loss of votes for the governing parties in all 25 member countries except Slovakia, as a result of increasing discontent among voters with the budget-cutting policies of governments, in line with the European Union's Maastricht Treaty rules. (See box for Lyndon H. LaRouche's call: "Back to Sovereignty!") In only 5 out of the 25 member countries of the EU, was voter turnout above 50%. Among the leading, most-populated countries, turnout in Britain was 38%, France 43%, Germany 43%, Spain 46%. In some countries, voter turnout was drastically below the 50% mark: 28% in the Czech Republic and in Slovenia, 20% in Poland, and a mere 16% in Slovakia.

The fact that voter turnout was so low especially in the eastern and southeastern European countries, which joined the EU as new members on May 1, shows how much opposition there still is to the Maastricht conception of Europe, in which national sovereignty is obliterated and the continent is ruled by a supranational government, answerable to the central bankers and financiers. In Poland, where the Socialist-led transition government of Marek Belka, which has been in power since May 2, will fail to get a parliamentary majority for approval, early elections in August or September are certain to push the Socialists into the status of a mini-party, whereas the conservatives and nationalists are expected to make big gains.

But if conservatives are on the rise in Poland, they were voted down in France, Italy, Portugal, and Denmark. The socialists and social democrats lost massively in Germany, Britain, and the Czech Republic. The European Parliament elections were thus essentially a vote of no-confidence against the incumbent governments, irrespective of the political color of the governing parties. In Britain, the governing Labour Party received, with 22.6%, its worst Euro-Parliament election result ever (see accompanying article), whereas the Social Democrats of Germany, coming out of the elections with almost a third less votes than in the last European elections in 1999, had, with 21.5%, their worst result in any type of election since the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949. It cannot be ruled out that in numerous member countries, for example Britain, France, Italy, and Germany, incumbent governments will not last through the Autumn.

The conservative parties showed a net increase of voter

percentages, if one takes all 25 EU member countries together; but in terms of absolute votes, they lost too. In Germany for example, the conservatives lost almost 10% of the votes they had received in 1999. This has to do with the fact that the German Christian Democrats are calling for even harsher budgetary austerity than the governing Social Democrats. This is certainly not the kind of Europe that the citizens want. But the vast majority of citizens do not yet really know which Europe they want. Most of the “critical” voters still waste their votes on “protest” parties—populists that offer no real alternate program (especially in Poland, Britain, and the Netherlands)—or boycott the election altogether.

The vigorous election campaigning by the LaRouche Youth Movement in numerous of the big urban centers in continental Europe, exposed many voters to LaRouche’s strategic analysis, and his concept of a New Bretton Woods global

financial reorganization. Although the LaRouche slates campaigning in France and Germany did not receive large percentages, the number of votes tripled, compared to the 1999 elections for European Parliament.

The LaRouche movement, unlike the “established” parties trying to hold on to the discredited Maastricht system, does have a well-formulated programmatic alternative and addresses the danger of a global economic-financial crash. It is committed to keep fighting after these European elections for the abolition of the Maastricht austerity system, and it will recruit more members, especially to the Youth Movement. Allowing the voters to fall back into a post-election sleep in this period of deepening crisis, would cause what the LaRouche slates warned against, on one of their main election posters: “The sleep of Europe will create monsters.” The renewed recruitment drive began on the day after the elections.

New Tower of Babel Flops at Starting-Gate

The combination of the slap in the face to Britain’s Prime Minister Tony Blair in the British municipal elections, and the confusion and widespread popular indifference shown in the pattern of election-results in [June 13] European Union elections, marks the beginning of a phase-shift in Anglo-American financier circles’ policies of imperial globalization. Blair and the Cheneyacs are now being discounted for future sales on the market for scrap materials, while an alternative, equally dangerous version of Anglo-American world tyranny, is already being hatched around the financier-owned, civilian parts of the U.S. Defense establishment.

The intention of the new Anglo-American, post-Blair-Cheney, production-line model of imperial globalization, will make a laughing-stock of continental Europe’s flight into dream-world fantasies about the European Union as possibly a “Miniver Cheevy” style of “alternative” to Yankee overbearingness. The presently reigning political generation, in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, has destroyed so much, so savagely, of the continental infrastructure, agricultural, and middle-industry elements of physical economic power of presently-bankrupt both western and pre-1989 eastern Europe. This generation’s experience and policy-shaping habits feature no clear conception of the nature and role of physical capital-intensity and the essential nature of Classical modes of Hamilton-Carey-List protectionism in making even merely possible, the build-up, or relaunching of a prosperous form of modern agro-industrial economy.

Those governments must learn, that you do not become rich by winning a poker game, played at the side of an abandoned factory, with a bankrupt gambler’s worthless promises to pay (such as financial-derivatives hedges) as pledges at stake.

Without long-term-ranging protectionist measures, which, by their nature, depend on a balance between the power of national sovereignty and customs-union-like agreements among nations, there is no physical possibility that a union plunging into the form of European Union attuned to “globalization,” will not simply become a victim, to the Anglo-American powers tomorrow what the looted wreckage of cheap-labor markets once known as Central and South America are to the combined, predatory financier interests of the Spain and the Anglo-Americans, today.

It proves the age-old wisdom, that any attempt to replace national cultures with an imperial Tower of Babel, which the present trend of the European Union policy-drift implies, was always, and remains a very bad idea, an idea fit only for those who would stumble into a doom brought upon themselves. The election is a slight warning tremor of the threatened earthquake to come, a warning sign that it is time that the cry for “Back to Sovereignty” be sounded from the battlements. Perhaps, that needed return of Europe to a system of sovereign republics can be engendered only from a United States which has dumped not only what Cheney represents, but also the alternate band of imperialists now being positioned to replace the Cheneyacs as the intended carrion-crows now assembling to descend upon Europe.

Europe deserves a better future than globalization would ever allow. For that purpose, someone must teach those political parties the rudiments of a competent form of economics.—*Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.*