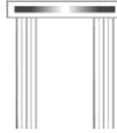


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**Saying NO to the European Constitution could lead to a better deal for the UK.
Independence and flourishing economic links with the EU, could follow a no vote, says MEP
in next Politeia pamphlet.**

25 European leaders have just signed the final Constitution for Europe in Rome. What, though, will happen if those individual countries who put it to their voters, say no? Politeia's next pamphlet, *Voting on the European Constitution**, addresses the implications of that vote for this country. Would a veto by any country conclusively put a stop to the project, or what would the next stage for the UK be?

The author, Daniel Hannan, a Member of The European Parliament and a member of the European Parliament's Constitutional Affairs Committee, explains that a 'no' vote would only mean 'no' if it came from France or Germany. 'No' from another country, like Poland or Denmark would lead, he suggests, to a blip in the timetable for the Constitution and the introduction of its various parts. A British 'no', by contrast might prompt a sigh of relief from Europe's leaders and be in Britain's own best interests. What would her options then be?

As one of Europe's most important markets, the UK would be in a strong position to renegotiate her relationship with the EU to her own advantage. Instead of stronger constitutional integration where Britain's sovereign powers were ceded to Brussels, she could have strong trading links with the EU which would allow the flexibility of a sovereign power. The precedents are there. Already some of the most prosperous European countries with higher annual income per person than in the EU, such as Switzerland or Norway, have such an arrangement as members of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) and the European Economic Area (EEA). The author discusses how both of these (EEA) and the (EFTA) operate and the benefits they already bring to their members, those who have avoided fuller EU integration. He shows conclusively that the options are already there and open. If the UK rejects the Constitution, she could strike a deal far more favourable to the country's future, in terms of independence and prosperity.

Voting on the European Constitution* will be published by Politeia on Monday 15th November, and is available from Politeia, 22 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0QP. **The text will be available by e mail in advance to journalists on application by response to this message.

Dan Hannan is a Conservative MEP and a member of the European Parliament's Constitutional Affairs Committee. He is also a leader-writer for *The Daily Telegraph*.