

## POLITEIA

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**The UK and the EU – Europe must Change if the EU is to survive, says Lord Howell in Politeia’s new publication.**

### **Publication: Immediate**

In the May 2014 European elections huge numbers across the EU voted for Eurosceptic parties. Britain’s UK Independence Party topped the poll in the UK which meant more than half the votes went to Eurosceptic parties. The prime minister has promised to renegotiate the UK’s relation with the EU, if the Conservative party is returned to power. Since then, Politeia’s UK/EU debate has been launched to consider the principles to guide UK policy, opening with Martin Howe QC’s - [Zero Plus: The Principles of EU Renegotiation](#).

In Politeia’s next publication, *Britain and the EU: The momentum for European reform*, David Howell focuses on the need for Europe-wide reform. The challenges the EU faces are great and many: energy policy is outdated and damaging to individual member states’ economic growth; Brussels imposed business and financial regulation is ill equipped for modern trade flows and production techniques; the 1950s integrationist and centralised power structure has failed to adapt to the information revolution.

Lord Howell of Guildford, who served as Minister of State in the Foreign Office from 2010-12, proposes that bilateral renegotiation of Britain’s membership cannot alone resolve these urgent questions. Negotiation alone he says, ‘will not measure up to the new challenges facing the European Union’. Instead ‘reform of the whole European architecture, to meet transformed world conditions ... should be the primary focus and in practice could prove to be the only possible course.’

The author urges Britain to take a lead in creating the momentum for a new framework of European co-operation. In particular he recommends:

- The opening of a debate on the imperatives of EU reform. ‘Britain is not alone in wanting a new direction for the EU’ and should focus on building pro-reform alliances.
- Calling an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to replace Lisbon with a new Treaty that ‘should be able to face the test of democracy in member countries’.
- The repatriation of competences and revitalisation of subsidiarity to respond to the digital age and create a less divisive Europe.

Though this may prove arduous, Howell argues for a new European vision that responds to the demands of a globalised digital world and inspires a new generation of Europeans.

\***Lord Howell** was an FCO Minister of State (2010-12) and is President of the Commonwealth Society. He is author of [Britain and the EU: The momentum for European reform](#) published by Politeia, 33 Catherine Place, London, SW1E 6DY on Thursday 11th December 2014.

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