

New CER pamphlet

NEW DESIGNS FOR EUROPE

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the Rt Hon Peter Hain MP

Everybody agrees that the EU's institutions are in bad need of reform. In the Convention on the Future of Europe, and elsewhere, a real debate has begun on how Europe should be governed. The essays in this book offer new designs for the European Union, in a spirit which is both radical and pragmatic. The essays focus not only on the key institutions – the European Council, the Council of Ministers, the Commission, the European Parliament and the European Central Bank – but also on the policies that the institutions will have to make a success of: justice and home affairs, economic reform and foreign policy.

Proposals include:

- ★ A full-time chairman for the European Council.
- ★ The creation of a new Congress, consisting of national parliamentarians and MEPs, which would play a role in the election of the Commission president.
- ★ A new system for ratifying treaty changes, which could lead to some countries having to leave the EU.
- ★ New methods for making the Lisbon process of economic reform more effective.
- ★ Expanded powers for the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- ★ A reform of the European Central Bank, so that it becomes more accountable and can take decisions more speedily.
- ★ And more powers for the EU in Justice and Home Affairs, together with greater protection of citizens' rights.

In the introduction to the book, Peter Hain argues the case for an EU constitution. The other authors all work at, or have worked at, the Centre for European Reform.

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