



PRESS RELEASE

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New CER pamphlet

## EUROPEAN CHOICES FOR GORDON BROWN

By Charles Grant  
with Hugo Brady, Simon Tilford and Aurore Wanlin

Gordon Brown becomes prime minister at a pivotal moment for the European Union. French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have emerged as powerful European leaders. They are Atlanticist, pragmatic on EU institutions, (fairly) economically liberal – and keen to work with Britain. In a new CER pamphlet, Charles Grant and his co-authors write that Brown should work with Merkel and Sarkozy to improve the EU's capacity to confront global challenges.

The pamphlet argues that “with the EU changing fast, and in ways that suit Britain, Brown has a chance to share the leadership of Europe, to reshape the way the EU works, and even to transform Britain's own European debate”.

In particular, the authors propose that Brown should:

- ★ Strike a deal with his EU partners on a new treaty, at the Brussels summit on June 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Without a deal, the EU will lack the capacity to deal with crucial challenges such as enlargement, budget reform and climate change.
- ★ Build a common European approach to Russia. If the major member-states can co-ordinate their approaches to dealing with Moscow, they are more likely to exert influence.
- ★ Team up with President Sarkozy to forge a new approach to transatlantic relations. France is ready to abandon its instinctive hostility to the US. And while Britain should remain a friendly ally of the Americans, it should abandon the Blairite principle of never criticising US policy in public. A Franco-British convergence on transatlantic issues would give the EU more weight and credibility internationally.
- ★ Rethink the ‘Lisbon agenda’ of economic reform. A new ‘innovation agenda’ should focus on creating the conditions that will encourage technological innovation. That will require new initiatives on deregulation, R&D and competition policy.

The authors suggest that Britain can best tackle a series of key challenges – such as energy security, global warming, failing states, third-world poverty, illegal immigration and counter-terrorism – by working with its European partners.

### Notes for editors:

1. **Charles Grant** is director of the Centre for European Reform. **Hugo Brady** is a research fellow. **Simon Tilford** is head of the business unit and **Aurore Wanlin** is a research fellow.
2. This publication will initially only be available in PDF format, we will be printing hard copies in the forthcoming weeks.
3. This paper can be ordered from the CER website ([www.cer.org.uk](http://www.cer.org.uk)) or by contacting Kate Meakins at [kate@cer.org.uk](mailto:kate@cer.org.uk) or on +44 20 7233 1199.

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