



## Politicians support the Treaty

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### **Rt. Hon. Tony Blair MP, Prime Minister 1997-2007 (House of Commons Debate, 25 June 2007)**

"The most important aspect of the new treaty is that it allows the European Union to move on to the issues that really matter. For too many years, we have been bogged down in a debate about institutions. With the increase from 15 to 27 member states, change is essential, but with this agreement, we can now concentrate on issues that really matter: energy security, organised crime and terrorism, globalisation, further enlargement and making Europe's voice more effective internationally."

### **Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister (No.10 Press Conference, 9 July 2007)**

"What we did accept [in Brussels] was a number of changes and these are changes that make the EU with its membership of 27 work better.....we.....secured our negotiating objectives and we want them reflected in all the detail of the agreements over the next few months. If that were the case, then I would see no need to recommend to the British people that there were a referendum."

### **Rt. Hon Ken Clarke MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1993-97 (BBC TV interview, 24 June 2007)**

"The Treaty contains all the things we had to do when we enlarged the union, you can't have a rotating different president every six months, you can't have two spokesmen on foreign affairs, you can't have the Maltese vetoing the space programme, and all these things. And the nuts and bolts are obviously quite essential and some of the Eurosceptics will have demanded a referendum just about the date on the top of the piece of paper, but they are flogging away, I think, at a dead horse. ....If Parliament's to mean anything Parliament has to decide on things like the rotating presidency and so on. I think the idea we have a referendum, and we all go out and campaign amongst our constituents saying "what do you think about the Polish deal on the voting system in the Council of Ministers is frankly absurd. This treaty's far less important than Maastricht."

### **Richard Corbett MEP**

"This is a set of pragmatic reforms that will help the Union operate and deliver on policy more effectively and will also improve parliamentary scrutiny and democratic accountability. This is a result to be welcomed."

### **Rt. Hon. David Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Daily Telegraph, 5 September 2007)**

"Alongside enlargement, Europe also needs reform. The reform treaty contains pragmatic changes to improve the way Europe works, such as getting rid of the rotating presidency.....The impact of the treaty in Britain is significantly different to the rest of the EU.....The Reform Treaty is not an EU constitution. It represents the victory of a

vision of Europe based on co-operation between sovereign states on issues of shared interest.”

**Michael Moore MP**

“The changes we are likely to see in the reform treaty are in Britain’s best interests. They will help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of a greatly enlarged EU, deliver more parliamentary scrutiny and give Europe a stronger voice on the world stage.”