



Supportive voices: Business leaders

Sir Win Bischoff (Chairman, Citi Europe)

The financial services industry is one of the big success stories of the UK and European economy. Part of this success is due to the type of regulation pursued at national and EU level. By settling the institutional arrangements for 27 members through a new Reform Treaty, the EU can now refocus its efforts on securing the single market in financial services, being mindful at the same time of ensuring regulation that is both fair to consumers and internationally competitive for providers.

Sir Michael Bishop (Chairman, BMI British Midland)

Like the airline industry, the face of Europe is changing quickly. We need a Europe that is capable of acting at high-speed. As Europe competes with the likes of China and India, the EU needs to be able to take decisions quickly and implement them consistently over the long term. That is why the Reform Treaty is important to business and important for Europe's future.

Roger Carr (Chairman, Centrica)

In the area of energy and environment policy, the EU has a crucial and urgent agenda facing it. From liberalizing national energy markets and combating protectionism to addressing the climate change challenge, the EU is a key player. The Reform Treaty could help boost the EU's efforts in these areas.

Guy Dawson (Founding Partner, Tricorn Partners)

The Reform Treaty confirms that the EU is a collection of nation states, not a superstate. The UK will rightly preserve its full control over important and sensitive areas of policy, such as tax and foreign affairs. But it can and should cooperate on other areas where it is in our interests to do so.

Niall FitzGerald (Chairman, Reuters)

The modern world is characterized by international cooperation and pooling sovereignty on issues of mutual concern. If we want to address issues such as trade promotion, aid from the developed world to Africa and regulation of carbon emissions, the EU is an important vehicle to do this. Therefore adopting institutional changes such as a permanent Presidency and double majority voting will make the EU stronger and more accountable.

Sir Philip Hampton (Chairman, Sainsbury)

The key aim for business is the development of an effective single market. The main provisions of the Reform Treaty should help to achieve that. Having said that, I am disappointed that the long-standing wording on competition has been diluted.

Lord Kerr (Deputy Chairman, Royal Dutch Shell plc)

The EU matters for business; and business wants the EU to work better. Only Eurosceptics, who want it to stay inefficient, could want to keep rotating Council Chairmanship ("Buggin's turn"), and the old voting system (the new one will increase UK voting power by over 40%). British business backs reform.

Vijay Patel (CEO, Waymade Healthcare)

Europe is changing at a break neck speed. It is Now moving in a neo-liberal, business-friendly,

UK-centric direction. The old stereotypes about EU are outmoded and outdated. With new reform minded leaders in France and Germany and the European Commission, the UK has a great opportunity to agree the Treaty and drive forward a shared agenda across Europe.

Stuart Popham (Senior Partner, Clifford Chance)

The new Treaty will set the framework for the EU to pursue its results-driven agenda over the coming years. It is in the UK's and Europe's interests that the institutional dimension is now resolved, so that the Commission can continue on the path of economic reform, and the UK can exert influence on debates about the future direction of the EU, such as on enlargement and the Union's budget.

Sir Mike Rake (Chairman, KPMG International)

The old Constitutional Treaty cannot be brought back. Its defeat in the referendums in France and the Netherlands signalled its demise. But Europe must move on from here, and the Reform Treaty will enhance the EU's efficiency and effectiveness.

Bryan Sanderson (Co-Chairman, Asia Task Force)

Many of the institutional measures likely to appear in the Treaty are patently in the interests of democracy and transparency such as an increased role for national Parliaments and a permanent, elected 'Presidency' of the Council. We should support these reforms which will make the EU more effective.

Sir Martin Sorrell (CEO, WPP)

The Treaty will ensure that the EU functions more effectively and reforms its institutions. If the EU is to strengthen the single market and take action on energy liberalization, it will be more effective with reformed and updated institutions.

Bill Thomas (President - Europe, Middle East & Africa, EDS)

The Reform Treaty will ensure that we have dynamic EU institutions capable of promoting reform and delivering competitiveness and growth across Europe. With clear signs that reform is on the agenda in France, Germany and at the European Commission, the UK must play a positive role in promoting the Treaty and securing the benefits that it will bring.

Rosemary Thorne (Non Executive Director of both Cadbury Schweppes plc and Abbey National plc)

Europe is a major centre for business, trade and global investment. In order to maintain its economic success, we support an agreement that reflects the interests of business. That is why it was right for the UK to opt-out of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. There are already widespread protections on social and employment legislation in

national law, and the Charter would do little to help and would possibly hinder Europe's economic competitiveness.

Lord Christopher Tugendhat

The mistakes with the European Constitution were both presentational and substantive. It should never have been called a Constitution. It tried to cover too much and some measures such as the Charter left many uncomfortable, including the UK business community. Now, with the Reform Treaty, there is a fresh opportunity to make practical reforms to the way the EU actually works that are very much in line with Britain's stated objectives.

Philippe Varin (CEO, Corus)

Instead of seeing the negotiations over a new EU Treaty as a threat, we should see them as a great opportunity to shape the direction in which the Europe is going. The EU is a great success story and many other continents admire it and wish to emulate it. There are many in the UK business community who understand the need for a sensible, reforming Treaty.