

Letter: Britain, beacon of hope

Independent, The (London), Jul 9, 2001 by Bernhard Karrenbrock

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Sir: As a Hun whose passport is still German but whose heart has been English ever since my first visit to your country almost 30 years ago, I totally disagree with the views of Chris Patten on what it means to be British ("The identity crisis that lies behind our fear of Europe", 29 June).

To be Eurosceptic is not some kind of misguided patriotism or even jingoism but an attempt to save many British and especially English values that make life worth living from being sacrificed on the altar of an anonymous European superstate which is not even democratically legitimised.

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Mr Patten, like all commissioners, is a part of this system, in fact gets his salary from the European Union. He is not entitled to claim the authority to give an independent or reliable view on the relationship between the British and this artificial body with a currency that has been in free fall from the beginning of its miserable existence.

The Europe of Chirac, Schroder and Blair will be boring and grey, ruled by the winners, the big multinational companies. I assure you that here on the continent of Europe many people still look upon Britain and especially England as a last beacon of hope for a democratic and more human future, as it was in many dark periods of the past, from the Spanish Armada to Napoleon and then to Hitler. This is what Britain stands for today and thanks a lot for it.

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