Britain and the EU

I. A Turbulent Relationship

II. Main EU Institutions

III. Britain and the Euro

IV. Current Issues

V. Why the 'Awkward Partner'?

A Turbulent Relationship

O Absent at the Creation -- The ECSC

O The Treaty of Rome and Falling Behind

O Application + Charles de Gaulle = *Rejection*

O Joining in 1973; referendum in 1975

O Thatcher and the Rebate

O The Single European
   Act (SEA – 1986)

When Mrs. Thatcher was pro-Europe...
from the 1975 referendum campaign

Britain's Turbulent History with the EU

O Treaty of European Union (TEA or Maastricht Treaty, 1991)

   O British Opt Outs

O New Labour, but no Single Currency

   O The Five Economic Tests

O Dodging the Constitutional Bullet

O Cameron and the Eurozone Crisis

"Can I join the conversation?"

Main EU Institutions
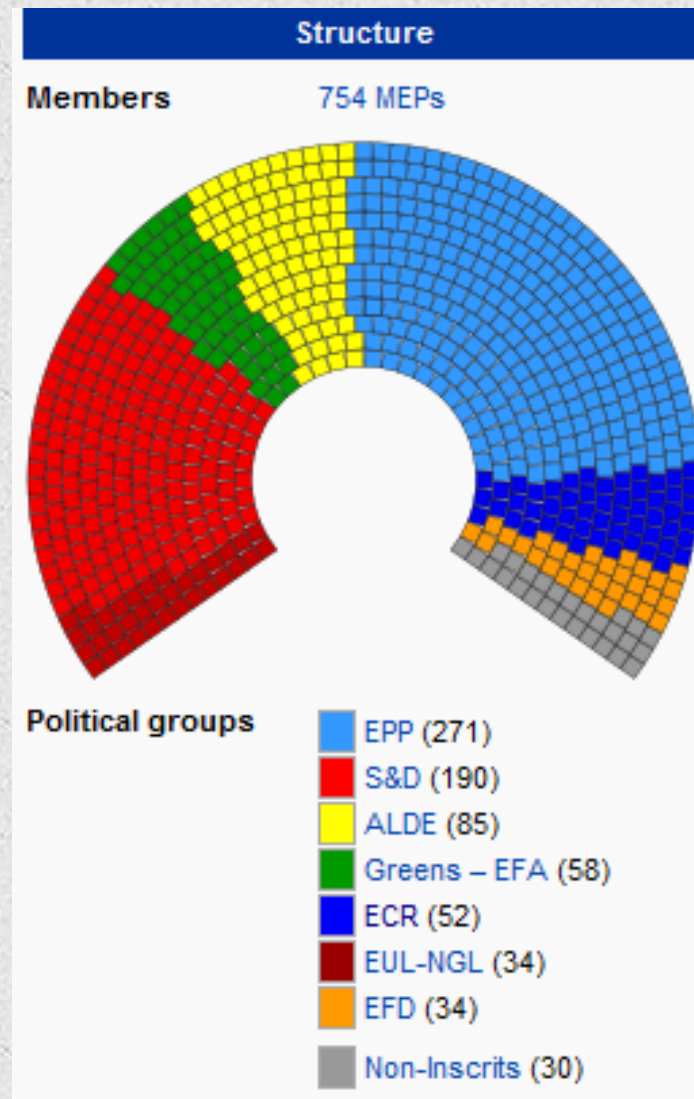
O European Council (Heads of State)

   O Biannual summit meetings

O Council of the EU (Council of Ministers)

   O One body with multiple configurations

O European Commission

   O Europe's permanent bureaucracy

O European Parliament

Commission President José Manuel Barroso
and Council President Herman von Rompuy

European Parliament

UK TOTAL MEP SEATS

Party	Votes %	+/- %	MEPs Total	+/-
CON	27.7	1.0	*26	1
UKIP	16.5	0.3	13	1
LAB	15.7	-6.9	13	-5
LD	13.7	-1.2	11	1
GRN	8.6	2.4	2	0
BNP	6.2	1.3	2	2
SNP	2.1	0.7	2	0
PC	0.8	-0.1	1	0
OTH	8.5	2.4	0	0
SF	–	–	1	0
DUP	–	–	1	0

Structure

Members 754 MEPs

Political groups

- EPP (271)
- S&D (190)
- ALDE (85)
- Greens – EFA (58)
- ECR (52)
- EUL-NGL (34)
- EFD (34)
- Non-Inscrits (30)

Britain and the Euro

_O_ The Why and How of the Single Currency

_O_ Convergence criteria (pre-euro)

_O_ Stability and Growth Pact (post-euro)

_O_ Britain and the euro

_O_ Prospects for the Near Term

Which will come
out on top?

Current Issues for the EU

O Expansion versus integration (widening v. deepening)

O The 'Democratic Deficit'

O Structural Reform (Lisbon Agenda)

O EU as a global actor

The European Parliament

Why the Awkward Partner?

O Instrumental affiliation
  O Economic return
  O Policy differences
O Britain's 'Atlanticist' orientation
O Sovereignty
O Identity and History