

***By Berther de Gither, our Brussels Correspondent***



**In a bitter blow to the Better Whining Campaign, the European Commission has denied that any letter has been sent to the House of Lords Committee on Rubbishing Scottish Independence.**

Spoof site BBC Scotland had buried the initial response from a spokesman for President Jose Manuel Barroso in their report.

"President Barroso has been invited to contribute to the House of Lords inquiry on the implications of the economic implications for the United Kingdom of Scottish independence. The president has not yet replied.

"The commission position is well known and set out in the series of responses given to European parliamentary questions. The commission has been very clear that we do not comment on specific situations, but can only give a view in general."

However, separatist cybernators at Newsnet Scotland pushed the boundaries of decency by indulging in the archaic practice known as "journalism".



# More EU Bollocks

## Brussels: separate Scotland must apply to join EU

Commission officials say European membership would not be automatic

DAVID MADDIE  
WESTMINSTER CORRESPONDENT

**A**n independent Scotland would have to apply to join the European Union if voters back the SNP's plans to break away from the United Kingdom, officials in Brussels have warned.

In a significant blow to the Nationalists, the European Commission has written to a House of Lords committee stating that, if Scots voters back independence, existing treaties which cover the UK's EU membership will "cease to apply".

Alex Salmond's Scottish Government has always claimed that because Scotland is already a member of the EU as part of the UK, it would automatically be given membership upon becoming independent.

However, in a letter to the Lords economic affairs committee, the European Commission has contradicted this claim.

The letter, seen by *The Scotsman*, states that independence "would not have a neutral impact".

It adds: "If a territory of a member state ceases to be part of that member state because it has become an independent state then the treaties would cease to apply to that territory."

The letter goes on to say that by fact of its independence, Scotland would become "a third country" - a technical term for a European state outside the EU which would need to apply to join the 27-member organisation.

As a further setback to the SNP, the letter makes clear that the rest of the UK would remain within the EU as the successor state.

On application, it says that the new state, like other applicants, would have to comply with article 49 of the Lisbon Treaty.

This means its application needs to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



## Laughing in the face of austerity

GEORGE Osborne, yesterday admitted Britain's age of austerity will extend well beyond the next general election as he pushed back the timetable for bringing down the country's £1 trillion debt mountain.

The Chancellor insisted "the British economy is healing" as he unveiled an Autumn Statement which he hopes will

restore growth. Mr Osborne announced additional spending on "shovel-ready" projects which will see Scotland benefit from an extra £38 million to be ploughed into construction.

He also axed a planned fuel duty rise and boosted the personal allowance of income tax payers.

FULL STORY, PAGES 6, 7, 8 & 9

## Deadly risk to firemen is probed

A STUDY is being launched to discover why firefighters are more prone to heart attacks than other emergency service workers.

Cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death for on-duty firefighters.

Experts suspect the reason could be due to a combination of heat and the different stresses placed on the body when fighting a fire.

The British Heart Foundation has awarded £87,000 to support the new study, in which academics from Edinburgh University will monitor 50 firefighters over a two-year period.

FULL STORY, PAGE 15

## Singletons fuel rise in households

THE number of Scottish households is set to increase by almost a quarter over the next 25 years as more people choose to live alone, according to a new survey.

There were 2.36 million households in 2010 and the number is forecast to reach 2.89m by 2035. The average household size in Scotland is also projected to fall from 2.17 people in 2010 to 1.95.

FULL STORY, PAGE 17



CROSSWORDS AND GAMES 2 & 44, TELEVISION & RADIO 42-43, LETTERS 30-31, WEATHER 45, ANNOUNCEMENTS 40, SUDOKU 44

This redundant activity includes the "journalist" doing more than just reproducing press releases

from favoured sources. Apparently their "journalist" had the temerity to ask the Commission for further details about the Hootsmon story.

While BBC Scotlandshire deprecates this practice, it appears that it actually produced additional information that was unavailable to normal media outlets.

Newsnet Scotland reports that the EC spokesman went further and added: "So to be clear – no reply has been decided or sent by the President yet so the Scotsman story is incorrect."

In a new departure for BBC Scotlandshire, I copied the Newsnet approach, and phoned the EC Press Office. Amazingly, they were willing to provide further elucidation.

"The Hootsman story was just recycled shite from George Foulkes", explained the spokesman. "Indeed it was shite on such a massive scale that it deserves the ultimate EU accolade of being thus described in all EU languages.

"Not only was it shite, it was also caca, cachi, drek, dritt, gomna, govno, govno, govno, govno, gówno, hamno, harra, hovno, hovno, kac'h, kak, kak, lort, lort, medda, mèlda, merda, merda, merda, merda, merda, merde, mierda, mut, paska, schäiss, Scheisse, sitt, skata, skit, skítur, skyt, sudas, suds, and szar.

"We look forward to the time when "keich" is officially included in that EU list."



## Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Mr Berther de Gither  
BBC Scotlandshire  
1 Atlantic Quay  
Glasgow  
England

22 November 2012

Dear Mr de Gither

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1084-12**

In answer to your first question: The 'UK government analysis of the EU legal position' that is referred to in the Financial Times article that forms the basis of your request is the memorandum of written evidence submitted by the FCO to the Foreign Affairs Committee

In answer to your second and third questions: The UK Government has provided updates on the Scottish independence referendum issue to foreign Governments on this very important issue. These briefings reflect the UK Government's position as set out in the memorandum to the FAC. Briefings by officials are part of normal Foreign Office work.

### **Related Articles**

The Hootsman: [Scottish independence: Separate Scotland must apply to join EU, warns Brussels](#)

BBC Scotland: [Scottish independence: John Swinney rejects EU reapplication reports](#)

Newsnet Scotland: [Exclusive: Scotsman EU membership story "incorrect" says EC](#)

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## Comments

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**Comments or no comments, it's still OUR job to tell YOU what to think - NOT the other way around.**