



**30 March 2005**

## **Voting power**

Sir - Your leading article (Mar 29) may be wrong to hope that France votes "No" to the proposed EU Constitution. If it does, Brussels is likely to respond by setting up another inter-governmental conference, "listening to the people" of course, which would render our own referendum redundant.

That IGC will then produce a new treaty, subtly achieving the constitution's aims, upon which we will not be granted a referendum, but which Parliament will rubber-stamp as usual.

In the meantime, the octopus will continue to devour the remains of our sovereignty piecemeal, under the treaties we have already been foolish enough to sign. So let us pray that the French run true to form.

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch,**  
Rannoch,  
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*(Not popular with the Eurosceptic movement at the time)*

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**1 July 2008**

## **The bright side of Lisbon**

Sir - Is there a bright side to being denied our promised referendum on the Lisbon Treaty? If we had got it and won it, we would have killed the treaty in a way the people of Ireland cannot. But we would have stayed where we are, ensnared in the Treaty of Nice.

Brussels has used that treaty to legislate 25 per cent faster than before the French and Dutch rejections of the original constitution. Thus, the project of European integration would have continued, surreptitiously and piecemeal. But now, as the new EU mega-state pursues its undemocratic path, conflict will grow between the political class and the rest of us. Our greatest weakness lies in those who believe that we can reform our relationship with Brussels from within the EU.

Yet, the clauses in Nice which mean that Lisbon is dead after Ireland said "no" are also those which require unanimity among all 27 member states before the smallest power can be returned to us.

Such unanimity will not be attainable; the only way out will be the door.

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch, London SW1**