

BEFORE THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT
(Richard Forsyth, June 2016)

It saddens me that so many "progressives" seem to have lost faith in our ability to govern ourselves. Somehow we expect authoritarian apparatchiks in Brussels to save us from the base instincts of our fellow citizens. I conclude that we believe the British, and especially the English, to be a bunch of turkeys who can be reliably persuaded to vote for Christmas at every election by the mouthpieces of the mega-multinationals. The EU is locked into a dance of death with the forces of klepto-corporate cyber-capitalism, yet we look to its anti-democratic institutions to protect ordinary people from exploitation by the plutocratic planetary plunderers. If the EU is so great at protecting workers' rights, how come Mike Ashley gets away with a fearful workforce on zero-hours contracts in a post-modern labour-camp in Derbyshire?

Personally I believe that, once our governing elite loses the excuse of being under the thumb of bureaucrats in Brussels, its destructive decisions are more likely to be exposed to public view, and thus more likely to be corrected. It is not axiomatic that a UK, or even a "little England", decoupled from the EU would continue to vote in rabid Tory corporatist cheerleaders for ever more. Have we given up on persuading the British people that we and our environment are being exploited? Do we expect unelected technocrats embraced by corporate lobbyists to lead us into a sustainable future of social justice -- skipping the regrettable inconvenience of consulting the voters? If so, we should be ashamed of ourselves. Do we want someone like Jean-Claude Juncker to control our destiny? Surely we haven't been intimidated by his threats to deal harshly with us if we defy his instructions! Where is our sense of adventure? Let us be bold on 23 June; let's be the turkeys who voted for Easter! Then we'll only have one gang of bastards to deal with in Westminster, not 28 gangs of bastards in Brussels.