

“The Euro: the politics of the new global currency”: A round-table on his recent book, with the author David Marsh, Denis MacShane MP, Sir Kit McMahon and John Redwood MP. To be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 from 12:30-2:15pm.

David Marsh's new book on the euro is getting rave reviews. Our own David Lascelles calls it "very entertaining", and praises its "forthright" discussion – particularly of Franco-German tensions. But then David L is a bit of a cynic on things European; David M (also an ex-FT journalist, though primarily on the German beat) is a lot more nuanced. So it may be better to quote George Soros: "...amazingly detailed and thoroughly readable... the stuff of a political thriller. Anyone interested in European politics and economics, as well as Europe's place in the wider world, will enjoy it."

It is certainly the most definitive account of the euro's rise. But what does it (and the author) say about the euro's future? Are the strains the eurozone is under the harbinger of problems for the euro, as sceptics assert? Or will they force member states towards a greater integration, as euro-enthusiasts sometimes aver?

Meat for David M to get his teeth into – and an opportunity for Denis MacShane, Britain's most euro-enthusiastic MP – to get his teeth into David.

Denis is (as I am sure you all know) Labour MP for Rotherham. He is a Privy Councillor and former minister for Europe, who has had a long interest in European affairs. (Indeed, as one of our few polyglot politicians, he is the ubiquitous face of Britain on many a Continental television programme.) I can (almost) guarantee that he and David will not see eye-to-eye on the euro's future – and I can certainly guarantee a lively discussion.

We also have two other speakers to lay into David:

- Sir Kit McMahon (the CSFI's founding chairman) is a more emollient figure than Mr MacShane – though I am sure (as an ex-Australian) he has strong views on Europe. He is a former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England and ex-Chairman of Midland Bank. Before that, he spent seven years with the Treasury, with the last three seconded to the British Embassy in Washington DC.
- John Redwood is one of the staunchest of eurosceptics. He has been a long standing campaigner to keep the pound (and in his view, thereby to save the euro). He wrote a book "*Just Say No*" giving one hundred reasons why the UK should not join the euro, was a critic of the ERM, and is a former policy adviser to Margaret Thatcher. He is currently Chairman of the Conservatives' economic policy review and an adviser on the credit crunch to the Conservative leadership.

If you (or a colleague) would like to join us, please let us know by emailing nicole@csfi.org.uk or by ringing 020 7493 0173. As usual, wine and sandwiches will be provided – and (I assume) David will bring plenty of (signed) copies of the book for sale.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Hilton.

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