

Letter from Lord Pearson, House of Lords, 13th September 2002

Lord Pearson of Rannoch



Gavyn Davies Esq.
 Chairman
 British Broadcasting Corporation
 Broadcasting House
 Portland Place
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13th September, 2002

Dear Mr. Davies -

Thank you for your letter of 2nd September.

I understand that the fact that none of the main political parties holds the view that Britain should withdraw from the EU is a factor in determining how much prominence the BBC should give to that point of view. What many people cannot accept, however, given the state of public opinion and frustration on this issue, is that the BBC should offer absolutely **no coverage or debate on withdrawal at all.**

In my letter of 29th July I asked you about the example of the considerable airtime the BBC gave to the very minority republican viewpoint this year, and indeed beforehand. Can you say how you justify that coverage, given your total silence on the question as to whether the UK should stay in or leave the EU?

I look forward to your answer, but in the meantime have to point out that it is simply not accurate for you to claim: "*The BBC will continue to reflect and report on the debate on Europe...*", because you only reflect and report on the debate about the euro, not the big picture at all.

Lastly, could you answer my question, also put in my letter of 29th July, as to whether the BBC is in fact looking for political topics to discuss with real people outside the discredited hen-coop of Westminster? If it is, can you give me examples of subjects so covered, apart from republicanism; and if it isn't, why isn't it?

I am sorry to be such a nuisance, but feel sure these are important questions.

Yours faithfully,
 Lord Pearson

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