

# GILES CHICHESTER MEP

for the South West and Gibraltar

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Conservatives launch campaign for an EU constitution referendum**

This Government must grant the British people a referendum on the EU Constitution said Giles Chichester, Conservative MEP for the South West and Gibraltar, following David Cameron's call for Gordon Brown to honour Labour's manifesto commitment.

Conservative Party Leader, David Cameron, has launched a poster campaign for a EU constitution referendum which calls upon the Labour Government to make "its next u-turn an EU-turn".

In its 2005 manifesto, Labour said: "The new Constitutional Treaty ensures the new Europe can work effectively...We will put it to the British people in a referendum." Despite Gordon Brown's assurances in June 2007 that honouring that manifesto was "an issue of trust for me with the electorate", he has failed to deliver on that pledge.

David Cameron said:

**"Today the Conservative Party is launching a new poster and internet campaign calling for an 'EU-turn' on Brown's broken promise to give the British people a referendum on the European Constitution – now re-branded as the Lisbon Treaty.**

**"Gordon Brown has flip-flopped on this before. First he was against the Constitution, then he was for it; one day he promised a referendum, the next he backtracked. While he has chopped and changed, our position has remained exactly the same. We are the only major party to have consistently said that it is up to the British people to decide on our future in Europe.**

**"That's why we have pledged that if the Constitution is not in force in the event of the election of a Conservative Government this year or next, we will hold a referendum on it, urge a no vote, and – if successful – reverse Britain's ratification.**

**"Where you stand on the referendum says a lot about your politics. It says a lot about how much you value trust between the government and the governed. I believe that if you make a promise in your manifesto, and the country votes on that manifesto, then you are honour-bound to keep that promise."**

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*Conservatives in the European Parliament*

MEP Chichester said:

**"All main political parties promised the public a vote on whether we hand over more powers to the EU; but only we Conservatives are keeping to our promise.**

**"The Lisbon Treaty is significant because it fundamentally alters the way in which we are governed. Not only would the EU have a President and Foreign Minister, it would also be given legal personality thereby enabling it to sign treaties.**

**"This campaign is important. It is about giving people a voice over the way they are governed, keeping the faith with the electorate and restoring trust in politics.**

**"If elected Prime Minister, David Cameron will rightly hold a referendum on the Treaty if it is not already in force. However we must continue to put pressure on Gordon Brown to hold one now. I urge as many people as possible in the South West and Gibraltar to sign up to our campaign on Facebook to demand their voice is heard.**

**"We shall have an opportunity to tell Gordon Brown what we think of his broken promise on June 4th. Labour and the Libdems cannot be trusted and UKIP cannot deliver. Only the Conservatives will be able to give people their say in a referendum."**

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

The Campaign includes:

- A poster, postcards, t-shirts and car stickers: 'Make Labour's next U-turn an EU-turn'.  
(Images can be found here: [http://clients.perfectday.gb.com/conservatives/eu\\_turn](http://clients.perfectday.gb.com/conservatives/eu_turn) Right click on the image you require and select 'save target as'.)
- A brand new Facebook group calling on Gordon Brown to fulfil the referendum pledge he promised  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Give-us-a-Referendum/78192673370>
- A downloadable 'Make Labour's next U-turn an EU-turn' widget for people's blogs and websites
- A website address: [www.giveusareferendum.com](http://www.giveusareferendum.com)

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