

# Neo-Cons Work Overtime To Divide Europe

by Rainer Apel

The failure of the European Union (EU) summit in Brussels Dec. 12-13, on the draft all-European constitution package, was a striking illustration of the extent to which certain potentials for sabotage inside the EU are massively exploited by the Cheney faction of U.S. politics. This faction does not want a unified Europe, with a strong Franco-German alliance at the center, they want a Europe split into numerous interest groups from which a neo-imperialist United States could select its allies for specific strategic projects like the Iraq War.

The way the Cheneyites operate, which has been clear in the destabilization of the Schröder government in Germany, became visible on the scale of Europe on Jan. 30, 2003, when—only one week after the signing by Iraq War opponents France and Germany of the updated version of the 1963 Elysée Treaty for Franco-German cooperation—a pro-war “Letter of the Eight” was placed in Europe’s leading newspapers: the signatories were Britain, Spain, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Hungary, Czechia, and Denmark. Granted, this alliance of governments, most of which later supported the United States in Iraq with either troops or militiamen, has shrunk continuously, so that on the eve of the Dec. 12-13 Brussels EU summit, only Poland remained as the nay-sayer. But the Polish “no” sufficed to block the constitution project for the time being. It was noticed in other European capitals with interest, that shortly before the Brussels summit, none other than top Cheneyite Douglas Feith arrived in Warsaw, with promises of upgraded U.S. financial and military engagement in Poland.

Just before the summit, Spain had deserted the “no” camp—because, among other things, of considerations about the continuation of substantial payments from the EU, of which the Spanish economy is the biggest single net recipient inside the EU, with 7.5 billion euros in 2003. Whereas officially, “financial blackmail does not exist in the EU,” everybody knows that it does, because getting or not getting 7.5 billion euros is not a trifle. As far as Poland is concerned, it will receive about 3 billion euros from Brussels when it joins the EU as a full member in May 2004, and the financial issue came up on Dec. 15, two days after the failed constitution summit, when France, Germany, Britain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Austria sent a “no” to the EU Commission’s plans for increasing the total EU budget to make more funds available for the new Eastern and Southeastern EU members—like Poland.

But the financial bait alone will not make the pro-Bush Europeans more European. France and Germany must expend some *thought*, to resolve these frictions with the Poles for the sake of European cooperation and integration.

## Euro Defense Initiative Succeeds

What is called the “Core Europe” around France and Germany, became visible on Dec. 12, when all EU governments passed the European Security Initiative. This calls for a real EU defense capability independent from the U.S.-controlled NATO structure. The initiative was launched in April 2003, by France, Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg—four opponents to the Iraq War—and originally mocked by the U.S. and Britain as a “chocolates summit” because it took place in Brussels, center of European chocolate production. But the initiative prevailed, and even pulled the British on its side after several months. Why Britain joined, has to do with the increasing domestic opposition that British Prime Minister Tony Blair has been facing to his pro-war course.

The new European Security policy proclaims a real difference from the present U.S. doctrine of preventive interventions; its preamble states that “European countries are committed to dealing peacefully with disputes and to cooperating through common institutions,” a clear reference to bodies like the United Nations. And although America’s role in Europe during the Cold War is appreciated, the defense paper also stresses, with reference to the American “dominant position as a military actor” since the end of the Cold War, that “no single country is able to tackle today’s complex problems on its own.” The enlarged European Union, with 25 member states and 450 million people (by May 2004), “should be ready to share in the responsibility for global security and in building a better world,” the paper adds.

At present, the paper notes, poverty and the spread of diseases pose “global challenges” that cannot be fought by military means, but rather, by “conflict prevention and threat prevention. . . . We are committed to upholding and developing International Law. The fundamental framework for international relations is the United Nations Charter. The United Nations Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Strengthening the United Nations, equipping it to fulfil its responsibilities and to act effectively, is a European priority.”

Europe wants to activate “the full spectrum of instruments for crisis management and conflict prevention at our disposal, including political, diplomatic, military and civilian, trade and development activities.” The alliance between Europe and the U.S.A. will endure, the paper states, but other strategic partners of the Core Europe are Russia, Japan, China, and India.

As long as the Cheneyites are in power, they will continue sabotaging Europe—which is a prominent reason Europeans must hope that Lyndon LaRouche succeeds in forcing Vice President Cheney out of the Bush Administration.