

# Danes could reject Maastricht Treaty

by Poul Rasmussen

Panic is spreading among the northern European elites. What until recently had been thought of as utterly inconceivable by most political observers, is gradually becoming a realistic potential: The Danes may actually reject the Maastricht Treaty on European Union in a popular referendum on June 2. If just one member country of the European Community (EC) rejects the treaty, it cannot be implemented.

As *EIR* reported last week ("European Union: The Monster of Maastricht"), the treaty, which was signed by representatives of all the EC member states on Feb. 7 in Maastricht, The Netherlands, would set up an independent European Central Bank System, not answerable to any elected body or government. Not only would the Union strip sovereign nations of their control over their own destinies; it would prohibit those dirigistic measures by nation-states that are specifically needed right now to overcome the economic crisis—such as high-technology projects for infrastructure and industrial development. In short, the proposed Union is a disaster for Denmark, and for every other nation.

## Resistance grows

Two weeks before the Danish referendum, several public opinion polls surprisingly showed the "nays" leading, with 38%, against the "yeas," with 36% (15% are undecided and 11% say they are not voting). Although Danish skepticism toward anything having to do with the European Community is well known, it was never expected that no-voters would command the lead this close to the referendum date.

The political establishment of Denmark is understandably worried. As in most other countries in Europe, almost all of the political parties and the elites have wholeheartedly embraced the idea of a European Union. Ritt Bjerregaard, a member of the Trilateral Commission and the shadow foreign minister of the Danish Social Democratic Party, described it as necessary to keep Germany in check, and prevent a "Rapallo" alliance between Germany and Russia. Eighty percent of the Parliament supports the Maastricht Treaty. Only two minor parties, the Socialist Popular Party and the Progress Party, have clearly gone against it. Another small party, the Christian Popular Party, is being torn apart by internal dissent over this question.

Impressive as it sounds, the 80% of Parliament that supports the treaty is still not enough to make the changes in the Danish Constitution necessary to make it possible for Denmark to enter the European Union. Since the treaty requires member nations to surrender part of their national sovereignty, Danish law requires a five-sixths majority in Parliament to approve such a radical measure. But since the Parliament failed to meet this requirement when it ratified the accords in the beginning of May, the vote on June 2 has changed from a merely guiding referendum, into effectively a binding one.

## Fire and brimstone

Because of the stubborn rejection of the Union idea by the Danes, the government and its allies in the European elite have started an unprecedented campaign to scare the population into submitting to their will. Some 33 million Danish crowns (\$5 million) will be spent on newspaper and television advertisements praising the Maastricht Treaty, in the last 14 days of the campaign alone.

But nice, seductive television ads won't do the job alone, and the elite knows it. Therefore, the campaign has changed into open and unrestrained scare tactics. On May 15, the general secretary of the European Council, Niels Ersboell, told the Danish newspaper *Berlingske Tidende*, that if Denmark really did say "no" to the treaty, the country would be expelled from all European political institutions. Not only that, according to Ersboell: The European Community would dissolve itself, simply to get rid of the Danes, and would proceed to form a new Union, without Denmark.

This wild story came up, because opinion polls showed that most of the Danes had correctly understood that any changes in the EC regulatory Rome Treaty require unanimity among all 12 European Community member nations, and therefore the European Union would simply cease to exist if Denmark said "no."

Next on the scene was Danish EC commissioner Henning Christophersen, who told the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-posten* on May 18, that in case of a "no" vote on June 2, Denmark would virtually go bankrupt. The country would lose at least 200,000 jobs, and with 300,000 already unemployed in a population of only 5 million, this is substantial. But not only that, the country would lose at least \$7.5 billion worth of exports, resulting in a massive drop in the standard of living.

To make sure that the Danes really got the point, Minister of Foreign Affairs Uffe Ellemann-Jensen told the newspaper *Politiken* on May 19, that the campaign against the Maastricht Treaty in reality was run by a bunch of old communists, who were trained at the KGB "Agitprop" section in Moscow.

Despite the hysterical efforts by Ellemann-Jensen and his friends, the anti-Maastricht sentiment of the Danish population is gaining ground. Therefore, Europe could be in for a surprise on June 2.