



If the Baddies of Brussels are back, it must be August

HOW THE EURO-SCARES OF SUMMER TURN INTO THE MYTHS OF AUTUMN

by VICTOR SEBESTYEN

ON FRIDAY a campaign was launched by hakers to save the British food, which, a newspaper reported, was under threat from an EU directive which would mean that grain. Earlier last week beer drinkers were warned that "useless inter-farmer" by Brussels bureaucrats will create a "brand, homogenous product". An EU directive about standardising water in foodstuffs is, apparently, about to destroy the wonderful variety of traditional British drink.

These are the first sightings, so far, of that other time national institution — the Great Summer Euroscare. But are they true? The Euroscare is directly related to that time of year in newspaper offices

different national characteristics of the male organ. Strangely, when the safety directive was published, it didn't mention the veiled question of size but wanted to ensure that all condoms had a "sell by" date on the packet.

Bluses

In 1994 the Brussels bureaucrats "forgot" was "Britain's best loved buses". The EU was planning to ban the manufacture of the double-decker bus and replace them with a harmonised "Eurocoach". Actually, as the Transport Minister Steven Norris clarified during that winter,

Apples

Last summer the English apple was facing extinction because the EU was forcing farmers to rear up orchards and allow more competition from Southern Europe. By the autumn it turned out that — on a British initiative to combat over-production of apples — the Common Agricultural Policy rules had been changed making apples a "set aside" crop and permitting farmers to claim subsidies.

Musky peas

In August last year Brussels stood accused of "banishing" musky peas. By December it became clear that the EU

is a story, this is interpreted as hounding Eurocrats threatening the Devon cream tea. Kent-que burros holiday villas — often in Italy — and pronounce that this is another example of Europe imperilling everything British holds dear, the piece is splashed all over the front page.

In the autumn and winter it becomes clear that the EU blumph means something entirely different. In January there follows another story, tucked away on page 37, saying "bathing minister wins reprieve for British clothed cream".

Here's a pick of Euroscars in years gone by — things that the EU is supposed to have banned but are still part of the British way of life.

employment provisions. In fact the EU had recommended a voluntary code of practice about sexual harassment which did not mention St Valentine's Day. Many of us are still not receiving any cards for reasons entirely unconnected with the EU.

Wine

Hotels and restaurants, it was reported in 1994, had to serve wine by the glass in quantities of 250 ml or 175 ml under a new "Brussels drink". Actually, these rules were part of our own free-market government's "Weights and Measures (Amendments) Order, which came into effect on 1 January last year and had

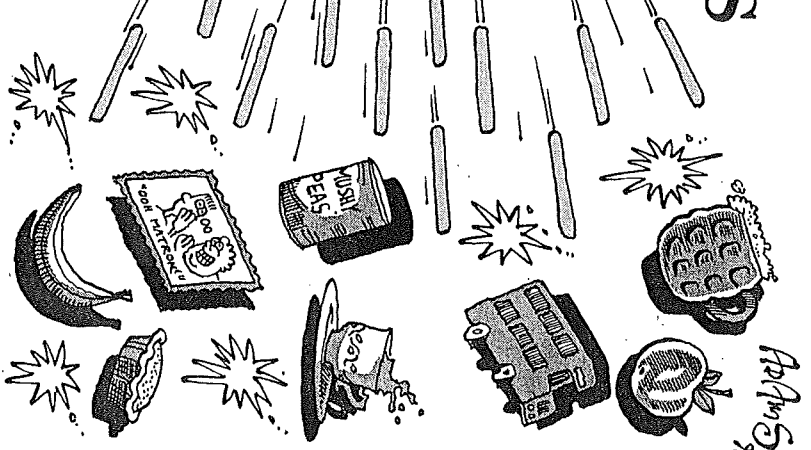
passed by our own Government relating only to places where teas were sold for profit, teas are still taken in the traditional fifty cricketer pavilion.

Potatoes

That summer the British potato was under threat and only a standardised Euro *potato de terre* was to be grown throughout the EU (or EC as it then was). By September it turned out that any potato "commonly grown in Europe" was OK.

Women's Institute

In 1993, in a move that attacked the very fibre of our nationhood, the EU had the temerity to attack the



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