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*Lord Harris of High Cross
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*Lord Pearson of Rannoch
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Dear Mr Damazer,

BBC Europhile Bias

Thank you for your letter of 22nd May about Minotaur Media Tracking's survey of the programmes in the BBC's "Europe and US" week. Once again, you appear to think that the report was compiled by Global Britain, whereas, like its three predecessors, it was compiled by an independent monitoring company which has no connections with Global Britain other than as a client.

It is also disappointing that your reply again ignores, or does not address properly, many of the points made. In those that you do answer, there is evidence of a continued lack of understanding of the issues involved. For example, with the Nicky Campbell show, you say that the composition was aimed at giving the debate a "pan-European feel" and "it is also fair to say each of the panellists had some reservations about the way the EU and its institutions operates".

It would easily have been possible, in order to achieve the former objective and avoid any suggestion of bias, to have included an expert who was overtly Euro-sceptic. On the latter point, the reservations expressed by the panellists came nowhere near to being from the Euro-sceptic arena; their points could have come from the most ardent Europhile.

Minotaur is currently working on an assessment of the BBC's election output, but it will compile a more detailed response once the election is over. In the meantime, I fear you are still missing the point about what is required to achieve fairness in the debate about Europe. We shall be pressing this further with the Governors and with the Secretary of State.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Pearson of Rannoch

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