

*Lord Stoddart of Swindon  
(Labour)*

Sir Christopher Bland,  
Chairman, BBC,  
Broadcasting House,  
Portland Place,  
London, W1A 1AA.

*Lord Harris of High Cross  
(Independent)*



*Lord Pearson of Rannoch  
(Conservative)*

11th May, 2001

Dear Christopher,

### **BBC Europhile Bias**

I know you have other things on your mind, but I feel I should record that we have not heard from you in reply to our letter of 25th April, with which we enclosed our fourth independent survey to find BBC Europhile bias. Mark Damazer has said he will let us have a reply as soon as possible, to which we look forward, but we understand this is a matter primarily for you and the Governors.

We feel we should let you know that we have commissioned another survey, this time into the BBC's coverage of the General Election campaign. We have asked the analysts particularly to examine whether the BBC fulfils its duties to balance and to its licence fee payers, a large proportion of whom now want to leave the EU altogether, under the following broad headings:

- Will the BBC delve beyond EMU and the main parties' agendas into the wider issue of the UK's relationship with the EU?
- Will the BBC force the main parties to discuss EU integration generally and whether the UK should be part of it (eg Schröder's latest plans etc.)?
- Will the BBC reveal and deal fairly with the widespread Euro-scepticism in the Labour Party, or will it concentrate, as previously, on "Tory splits"?

Please let me know urgently if you do not agree that these are fair questions to examine, and pertinent to the BBC's impartiality, or lack of it.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch**

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