

**Global Britain Press Release: 16/02/01****BBC Europhile Bias?*****"Today" Programme - 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January & 1<sup>st</sup> February***

*Mark Damazer, BBC Assistant Director of News, said on the Today Programme on 1<sup>st</sup> February:*

*"Our job is ... to make certain that a wide range of voices are heard on our relationship with the European Union."*

**A new independent survey for Global Britain finds that *Today's* recent programmes on the implications of UK withdrawal from the EU almost entirely avoided the case for withdrawal.**

Detailed analysis by Minotaur Media Tracking, an independent political monitoring company, reveals that in approximately 55 minutes of coverage over the three days, only one 'come-outer', Nigel Farage of UKIP, was allowed 5 sentences to put some of the case for withdrawal (perhaps because his interview was live). The time he had amounted to no more than 35 seconds.

Two others, who favour the UK's withdrawal after signing a free trade agreement with the EU, were edited to the point where their case was not heard at all (Christopher Gill MP and Lord Pearson of Rannoch).

Five leading eurosceptics, (who however favour staying in the EU), were given more air time, but naturally did not put the case for withdrawal (Conrad Black, Lord Shore of Stepney, Charles Moore, Edward MacMillan-Scott MEP and Bill Cash MP).

**The Europhiles on the programme filled, in total, almost twice as much air time as all the above put together** (eg Frits Bolkestein, Robin Cook, Neil Kinnock, Chris Patten, Denis McShane, Giles Radice, Raymond Seitz and Jonathan Faull).

Of the presenters, only Edward Stourton tried to keep interviewees to the subject of withdrawal.

Lord Pearson said: *"This does not bode well for the BBC's series next week on 'Europe and Us'. Consistent polls show that at least 30% of the British people want to leave the EU. The BBC would do something to honour their licence fees if it allowed their case\* to be heard in fair debate."*

Attached: summary of Minotaur Report. For full report see: [www.globalbritain.org](http://www.globalbritain.org)

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**\* For the concise case for withdrawal, see *"Better Off Out"* at [www.globalbritain.org](http://www.globalbritain.org)**