



From the Chairman

25 February 2003

Lord Pearson of Rannoch
52 Minories
LONDON
EC3N 1JJ

Dear Lord Pearson

Thank you for your letter of 3 February, which we have previously acknowledged.

I am glad you found our discussion at the BBC All-Party Parliamentary Group in December interesting. You will recall that on that occasion I drew a distinction between two aspects of the BBC's coverage: of European issues in general; and of whether or not Britain should join the euro in particular.

As far as the BBC's overall coverage of Europe is concerned, as I have said on previous occasions, it is accepted that the euro-sceptic point of view that Britain should withdraw from Europe deserves inclusion in the BBC's coverage, but the fact that none of the main political parties has adopted this position will inevitably influence the prominence with which it is covered. With regard to Britain's adoption of a single European currency, the BBC is reporting the developments as they occur, and reflecting the full range of opinions, including those of people who are against this move.

I note that you have received two further reports from Minotaur and you are welcome to send them to Anne Sloman and BBC News if you so wish. But your suggestion that they should be passed to an independent arbiter is not a course of action we wish to pursue at the present time, nor is it consistent with the role of the Governors' Programme Complaints Committee.

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