

January 1998

## Discussion after the Speech of Guy Pevtchin

Discussion

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/cuslj>

 Part of the [Transnational Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Discussion, *Discussion after the Speech of Guy Pevtchin*, 24 Can.-U.S. L.J. 99 (1998)

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/cuslj/vol24/iss/15>

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Journals at Case Western Reserve University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Canada-United States Law Journal by an authorized administrator of Case Western Reserve University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

## DISCUSSION AFTER THE SPEECH OF GUY PEVTCHIN

QUESTION, PROFESSOR KING: I wanted to ask you a question about the issue that Mr. Caccia raised today on accountability. What about the accountability issues that he has raised, do you question his statements? How do you feel about it?

ANSWER, MR. PEVTCHIN: The accountability issue and this democratic deficit are arguments used very often by political parties of the right who are against the Union. I agree that the European Parliament's powers are still insufficient, but since Maastricht and since Amsterdam, which is not yet ratified, their powers have increased considerably. Too, do not forget that decisions, with few exceptions, are not made by the European Commission, but by the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers consists of a member minister from each state. For example, the Council on Agriculture is composed of all of the agricultural ministers for each Member State. So, I doubt that this democratic deficit is as serious as they say it is. In practice it is not, and, in the near future, the Parliament's powers will be increased. They already have been increased once, and they will continue to do so.

QUESTION, MR. KASOFF: I wonder if you could reflect on your comments in a macroeconomic context. The economic performance of Europe these days leaves something to be desired, what with very high unemployment rates in France, likewise in Germany, and rather significant amounts of outward investment coming to North America from the U.K. and Germany, and so on. I wonder, as you march towards a unified currency, if perhaps there are risks of the grass roots commitment of the European Union beginning to disintegrate?

ANSWER, MR. PEVTCHIN: This, if I may say, is a sixty-four dollar question. We all know that the situation in Europe, when compared to the United States, is not good. The unemployment rate in Europe is horrific. They believe that the Euro will bring greater transparency, which it certainly will. In England the Confederation of British Industry voted strongly for the Euro, as did their counterparts in France and in Germany. I would think that these business leaders know what they are doing, but the situation is not good, I agree.

My answer to that would be a bit hypocritical, but it would be much, much worse without the Union. Conditions certainly are not good, and E.U. leaders are scratching their heads to find a solution. They are meeting next week to see what they can do to promote employment. As you know, they

have a different idea of how to address unemployment. It is much more ordered and regimented in Europe than it is in the United States.

You are extremely lucky these days. In the United States, you have a booming economy, and unemployment is limited. Strangely enough, in Europe, we also have a booming economy, but with enormous unemployment, which is a major disaster. I think they now realize it, and whether or not they find a solution depends on the future of the Union.