

Mr. Wall.



A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'JG', written in dark ink.

10 DOWNING STREET

Para 3 is wrong, since the Westminster Commission is required by statute to report by December 94. But it would be impossible to combine this work with Euro-work. So (a) may be the least bad option

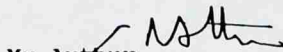
With the compliments of

James Green.

Rue Morote ✓

—
JG

From: Peter Wilson
Date: 23 November 1992
cc: PS/Baroness Chalker
Mr Appleyard
Mr Jay
Mr Greenstock
Hd/ECD(E)
Special Advisers


Mr Arthur
PS/Mr Garel-Jones
Private Secretary

in ECD (E) Cab g/f

POSSIBLE INCREASE IN BRITISH MEPS; BOUNDARY CHANGES

1. Sir David Steel suggested to the Secretary of State that, since the Boundary Commission will be too busy with Westminster redistricting to consider boundary changes brought about by an increase in the number of British MEPs, it would be better to allocate the extra MEP seats proportionately "just this once". This is unnecessary.
2. The Home Office are considering three ways of redrawing European Parliament constituencies:
 - a) setting out in legislation the boundaries of new EP constituencies for the UK;
 - b) the creation of a new body to conduct a special review to redraw boundaries;
 - c) modifying the EP Elections Act 1978 (as amended) to enable the existing Boundary Commission to carry out a special ad hoc review.

Two of these options do not involve using the Boundary Commission at all.


3. Under any of these options timing will be tight if redistricting is to be complete in time for the EP elections in 1994. Considerations of timing make option (a) the most attractive. Option (c), using the existing Boundary Commission, has the disadvantage that it risks delaying the review of Westminster constituencies as Sir David Steel has noted. |||

4. All these options require new legislation, including option (c). This can take the form of either primary legislation or subordinate legislation under section 2 (2) of the European Communities Act 1972. Subordinate legislation cannot be amended, but its use may generate political controversy.

But the change to the Treaty & these would require an EC (Amendment) Bill.

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5. The Home Office will take a decision on how best to proceed only once the Edinburgh outcome is known. They have booked a place on a contingency basis for a Bill in the legislative programme for 1993 in order to keep all these options open.


Peter Wilson
European Community Department (Internal)