



25 July 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have been asked to make a statement clarifying the nature of Christian democracy, which has, apparently, been characterised as 'far right' in an electoral communication sent out by the Labour party in South Yorkshire.

As a recognised expert on the topic, having produced a book which is regarded as a standard reference\* as well as numerous articles, I can state unequivocally that to describe Christian democracy as belonging to the far right reveals at best political ignorance and at worst the desire to mislead.

The Christian democrat movement and its European instance the EPP (European People's Party) are recognised by all political scientists as located firmly in the tradition of centrist or moderate centre-right politics. Christian democracy has always been firmly opposed to the far-right .

I trust that this clarifies the position.

*\*Christian Democracy in Europe: a comparative perspective (London: Pinter, 1994).*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David L Hanley'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

D L Hanley

Professor Emeritus, Cardiff University  
Visiting Professor, University of Portsmouth