

Robert Kilroy-Silk writes on...Europeanisation – British Athletes Competing under the E.U. Flag?

*Note: This article was first published in the Sunday Express on 5 September 2004*

Do you remember how Tony Blair insisted that there was no intention and no danger of the E.U. becoming a superstate? Do you recall how he insisted, still does, that the new E.U. Constitution will not create a United States of Europe nor rob us of more of our sovereignty?

Well, if we believed him then, we know him to be deceitful now and we have no less a figure that the august President of the E.U. Commission, Romano Prodi, to thank for unmasking the lie.

Prodi wants the athletes from Europe to parade under the E.U. flag at the next Olympics in Beijing. It will enable the E.U. to “compete with the U.S.”.

Fortunately our athletes are having none of it. They're British and proud of it - as we saw when, whatever their colour or ethnic origin, they proudly adorned themselves with the Union flag or, as in Amir Khan's Dad's case, made a waistcoat out of it.

As gold medal winner Darren Campbell said: “I won't be competing under any other flag, ever. I am British and proud to be representing Britain”.

What Blair and Prodi and all the other mad Europhiles who want us to see our identity submerged in Europe fail to understand is that it is our nationality - our common history, traditions, values and culture, and the flag - that binds us together as a people. And we won't let it be taken from us.