

PRESS RELEASE: The Rt Hon. Frank Field MP and The Hon. Nicholas Soames MP

Immediate Release: Wednesday 11 March 2009

UK population will be bigger than Germany in mid-century

The UN world population projections, issued today, show that Britain is expected to be the third largest recipient of foreign migrants in the world, after the US and Canada. They also underline the huge differences between the major countries of Europe. They show, for example, that the UK is projected to become the largest country in the European Union, overtaking Germany by mid-century. England has already overtaken Holland as the most crowded country in the EU and is also the fourth most crowded major country in the world.

Commenting on these new population forecasts, the co-chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration, Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, said:

"This is yet more evidence of the pressure that uncontrolled immigration will place on our population, and therefore, on our quality of life. At least 70% of this increase will be due to immigration. With England already being the most overcrowded country in Europe, the question for politicians is simple. If you want to stop our country's population rising to unacceptable levels, when will you get a grip on immigration?"

The UN has made different assumptions about future immigration from those of the British Office for National Statistics (ONS). Separate statistics from Eurostat, which are not directly comparable, also underline the differences. Without any immigration at all, the population of Germany would fall by 25% by mid-century while that of the UK would increase slightly.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The UN Press Release is available here:
<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wpp2008/pressrelease.pdf>
2. The UN Tables are available here:
http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wpp2008/wpp2008_text_tables.pdf
The relevant table is A.3
3. The Rt Hon Frank Field MP and The Hon Nicholas Soames MP are Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration. The Group's Vice-Chairmen are Lord (Bill) Jordan CBE (former President of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union) and Daniel Kawczynski MP (Conservative, Shrewsbury & Atcham). Other members include Tobias Ellwood MP, Roger Godsiff MP, David Taylor MP, Lord Ahmed, Lord Carey (former Archbishop of Canterbury) Baroness Cox, Field Marshal Lord Inge KG, GCB, PC, DL and Lord Skidelsky. Further members will be announced in due course.

4. Balanced Migration would seek to bring the number of immigrants into line with the number of emigrants. The main change would be to limit the number of non-EU citizens who are given the right to settle permanently in the UK. Under these proposals, there would be no fundamental change to arrangements governing asylum; foreign students coming to the UK; genuine marriages; and the new Points Based System although some aspects will need to be tightened up. Non-EU citizens would be able to work here for up to four years, after which they would be expected to leave. Permanent settlement would be subject to a small annual limit with applicants selected by a further points system. Balanced Migration, once achieved, would mean that new household formation would be reduced by about a third, and the population of England, now nearly 51 million, would stabilise at about 56 million by mid century; by contrast, at present levels of immigration it will be 68 million in 2056 and the population of the UK will be 78 million while still rising sharply.

5. “Balanced Migration – A new approach to controlling immigration” is available to download at <http://www.balancedmigration.com/>