

THE INDEPENDENT

Letter: European party

Dec 5, 2001 by Jorrit Kamminga

Sir: As a Dutch student of International Relations, I am following the continuous discussion about whether or not Britain should join the euro zone with much interest. The delay, however, sometimes gives people from the continent the impression that Britain only wants to join when it seems totally safe and profitable, without sharing the costs and possible initial setbacks of this major and unprecedented European project. A German friend of mine used the somewhat ironic analogy of a party, where a person only wants to go at the moment he or she realises that the party has turned out to be a success and the people are already dancing. My friend concluded with the remark that if this happens to be the case, Britain should be prepared to bring a lot of beer when actually joining.