

THE HOROSCOPE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

by Simon Bentley

It seems that hardly a day goes by without some mention in the media of matters involving the European Union; certainly it is a national grouping of some significance in the modern world. As such, study of its horoscope is an important task for astrologers, especially those specialising in mundane astrology.

As so often, I am indebted to Nick Campion's *BOOK OF WORLD HOROSCOPES* for this chart. He states clearly in that book that although the Treaty of Rome, which resulted in the birth of the EU, or Common Market as it was then known, was signed the previous spring, the official moment of birth is 00.00 hours CET on 1 January 1958 at Brussels, Belgium. This chart is reproduced below.

EUROPEAN UNION

Natal Chart (3)

1 Jan 1958

00:00 CET -1:00

Brussels, Belgium

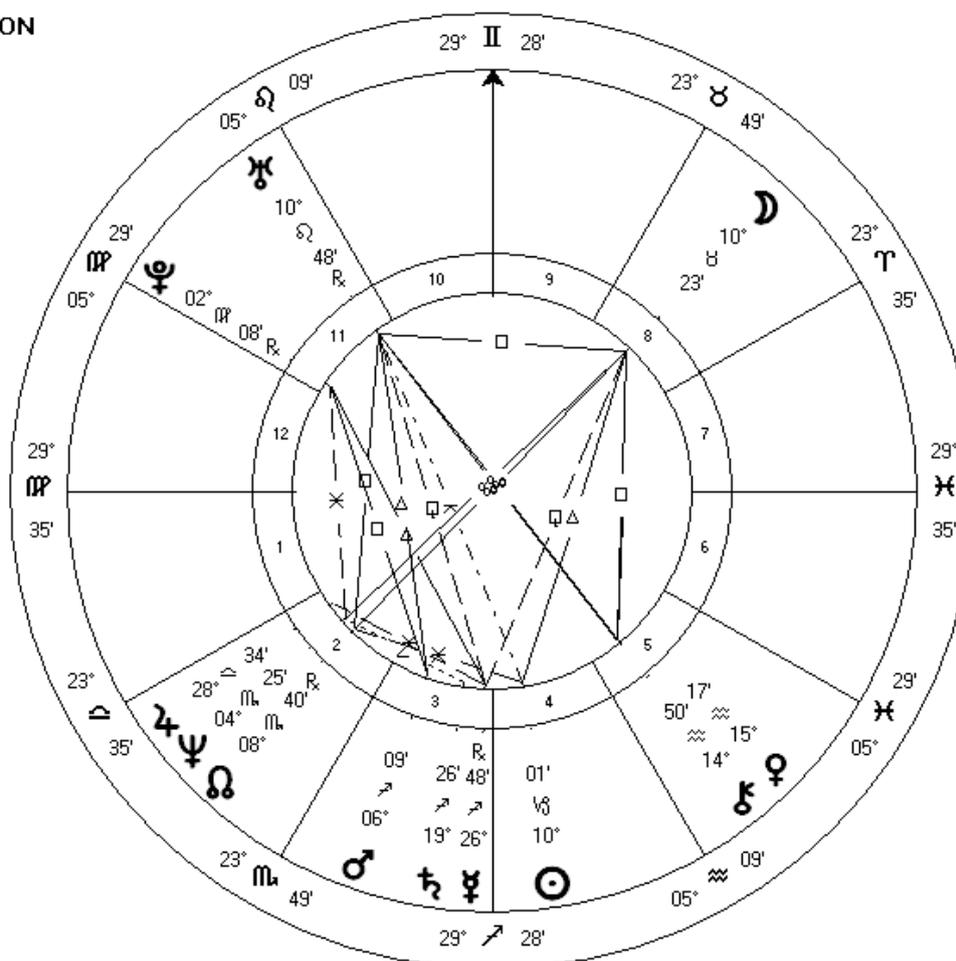
50°N50' 004"E20'

Geocentric:

Tropical

Topocentric

True Node



An initial appraisal quickly reveals that earth is the dominant element, being occupied by Sun, Moon and ascendant as well as Pluto, with which the Lights form a weak grand trine. The mutable quality also dominates, occupied by the three Sagittarian planets (Mercury, Mars and Saturn), Pluto and both angles. The Virgo ascendant is thus truly descriptive of the overall balance of the horoscope, so one would expect the organisation to display many Virgo characteristics as indeed it does. In the public mind perhaps the strongest trait is the obsession with detail and bureaucracy, often referred to in disparaging terms! This can also

be seen reflected in the rather complicated third house, especially the conjunction there between Saturn and retrograde Mercury, a combination that will often 'bang on' about things endlessly. Mercury is also sextile Jupiter in the second, hence the other frequent accusation that much money is wasted on bureaucracy.

Public opinion is one thing, the truth sometimes quite another. The strong Virgo and Mercury also has its positive side. Attention to detail is in itself a useful thing, constructively applied, while no organisation can run without some kind of bureaucratic structure. Mercury retrograde and conjunct Saturn can be expected to study things closely and if necessary retrace its steps to sort out something that has been missed. This may exasperate others, but may also be essential to sort out problems. It all depends on one's viewpoint. However, there is one feature of the EU above all others which is characterized by this conjunction in Sagittarius in the third, and that is the large number of languages to be found within the community, and all the challenges that this presents. Communication (third house) is a top priority but also a hard one to accomplish with real success when so many documents have to be made available in every single language spoken in the Union. Looking at it more deeply, one can certainly say that this is a huge exercise in brotherhood. Mutual understanding between all the nations involved is paramount, and the chart suggests that ultimately no effort will be spared in this direction.

The strong Sagittarian influence also illustrates the preoccupation with legalities and the endless and involved discussions in the European Parliament and elsewhere. However, it is worth remembering that Sagittarius is also about guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of humanity. The perceived challenges shown horoscopically are also typical of the odd legal situation within the community that some countries, indeed many in mainland Europe, have inherited the Napoleonic legal code, whereas others, notably the UK, have not. If you are not fully aware of the import of this, it is sufficient to understand that in essence, under Napoleonic law nothing is legal unless and until the law permits it; in the UK system (and a number of other countries's systems too), the reverse is the case, that anything is legal so long as the law does not forbid it. This is the main reason why the legal work of the EU always gives rise to such controversy, and the oft-stated opinion here in the UK that the EU 'is a threat to our sovereignty'. It is of interest to note here that the British 1066 horoscope's square between Uranus and the Moon is triggered by Mercury and both the angles of the EU chart.

While it may be said that the detail, bureaucratic, discursive and legal sides of the EU's *modus vivendi* are shown by the mutable nature of the chart in general and Virgo and the strong third in particular, the earthy nature of the chart manifests in much more practical ways, most of all in the emphasis the Union places upon agriculture. This too has been much criticised, but the fact remains that whatever else happens in life, we all have to eat, and many would say that this emphasis is most important. Note particularly the position of the Moon. It is exalted and belongs to both the major configurations in the chart, the grand trine in earth and the fixed T-square involving Uranus and Venus/Chiron [almost a cross if you include Neptune]. Thus the Moon is tremendously powerful, but it is also technically debilitated by house position. This has major implications for the EU, especially as the Moon has so much to do with its collective inheritance from its constituent nations. As the chart implies, the agricultural history is very strong, and in various countries very different in

nature according to climate and past political concerns. The lunar position and aspects say it all. Taurus is traditionally stubborn and immovable and likes its security and creature comforts, having also a keen sense of what is beautiful and harmonious. However, the Moon finds itself in the eighth house, so the need to share resources – and not just agricultural ones, of course – is very great. This is also indicative of the need to let go of past habits and patterns of behaviour, so we can see encapsulated in the Moon-Taurus-eighth, for example, the various traditional farming methods that although now outmoded are being grimly clung to in some countries. The conjunction of the Moon with its own south node emphasises this, of course. Clearly, a much more flexible approach has to be developed although, as we have seen, moves in that direction remain fraught with difficulty.

This may seem a major problem, but there is another connected issue here, that of environmental concern. The great value of the stubbornness of the old-style farmers of the EU is that it makes the politicians think before enforcing change, and this forces them to consider the environment more carefully than might otherwise be the case. In this respect, the old traditions can be said to be both useful and important. This is shown to some extent by the very close trine between the Moon and the Sun. The weak trine from Pluto in Virgo to the Moon may emphasise the obsessive nature of the tendency to cling to – and need to let go of – the old practices, but the trine to the Sun shows that it will be possible, and desirable, to blend the best of the old with the new.

The Sun in Capricorn in the fourth house shows clearly the need to concentrate on 'homeland' types of issue, and particularly to focus the 'service in action' which is the keynote of Capricorn on to both the land in the physical sense of earth and on the people who constitute the EU 'family'. The Sun is also crucial in that it mediates the difficult fixed T-square. The Moon squared by both unconventional Uranus and by Venus in Aquarius shows only too well the painful clash between old ideas and new ones, the old feelings of possession and belonging and the new ones of brotherhood, equality, joint effort and the sharing and pooling of resources. Chiron with Venus points this up even more, being unconventional itself. The configuration formed by Sun, Moon and Uranus lies at the heart of this horoscope, just as the mutable-earth dominance covers the surface. The old ways, denoted by the strong Moon, are being broken up by new ideas, denoted by Uranus, and by internationally growing ideas of world citizenship and group effort, shown too by Uranus to some extent but also by the Aquarian planets. However, Uranus is disposed by, as well as in aspect with, the Sun, which in this horoscope as in all horoscopes represents 'the heart of the matter'. Ultimately, the EU exists to serve, and especially to serve all those people who together form the EU's family. At present it may sometimes seem that the reverse is true, but this bold configuration of Sun-Moon-Uranus will bring together the old (Moon), the new (Uranus) and the urge to serve (Sun in Capricorn). Whatever the current public opinion, the EU has an important future in the world. White Eagle spoke many years ago of the 'United States of Europe', which he stated unequivocally would become a reality, although he did not say when! This chart suggests that the EU will come to hold a place of major importance in world affairs, and will become a major force for progress.