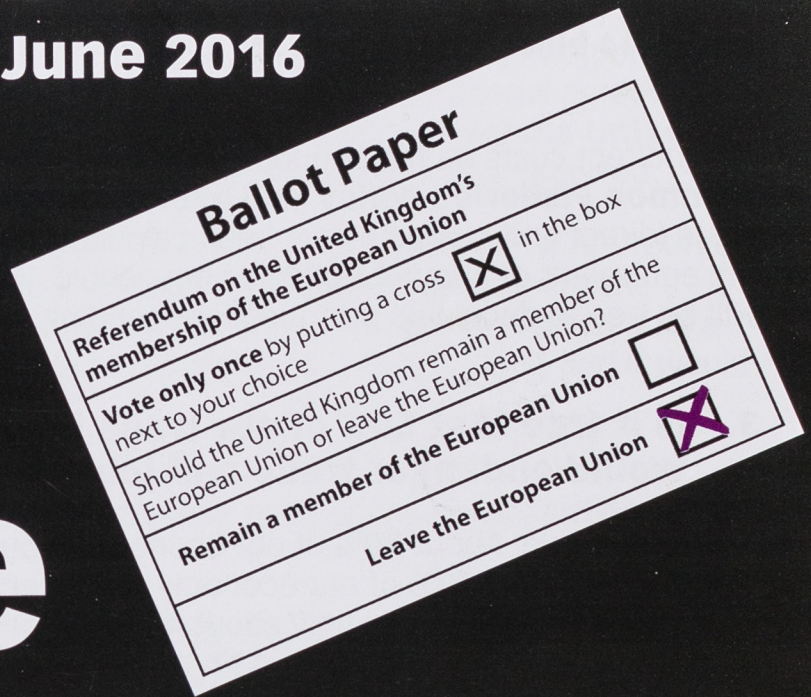


# EU Referendum

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

Vote  
to  
Leave



## Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the European Union, and why are we having a referendum?

In 1957, six European countries formed **The European Economic Community**. The **European Union**, as it is now called, has **28** member states. Britain joined in 1973, and we last had a referendum on continued membership in 1975.

The **Treaty of Rome** that created the EU, states its purpose as the "**ever closer union among the European peoples**". This means political and economic integration. The EU makes most of our laws; our Government and Parliament are subordinate to the EU; and EU law takes precedence over UK law.

The reason we are having a referendum on continued membership now is because David Cameron was forced to promise it in order to win the general election of 2015. Having won the election he is forced to deliver on that promise.



## 2. How much does EU membership cost?

Britain's direct contribution to the EU budget averages out to about **£19 billion** per annum gross (budget period 2014-2020). After receiving our rebate, this reduces to about **£14 billion** per annum. This is roughly **£270 million** per week or **£38.5 million** per day.

The indirect costs on the economy include the **Common Agricultural Policy**, the **Common Fisheries Policy**, and **over-regulation** of business. The total combined costs (direct and indirect) have been calculated as about **£190 billion**<sup>1</sup> per annum, or the equivalent of about **£7,000** per household. When we leave the EU, our government will be free to decide its priorities for spending our taxes.

## 3. Is it true that 50% of our trade is with the EU and leaving would endanger trade and jobs?

No it is not true. About **70%** of our economy is purely domestic and contained within the UK, and about **30%** of our economy is concerned with **international trade**. Of our international trade, only about **43%**<sup>2</sup> of that is with the EU. Trade with the EU therefore represents just under **13%** of our total economy. And while only **5%** of UK businesses trade with the EU, **100%** of our businesses (big, medium and small) have to comply with EU law and incur the associated costs.

International trade is governed by **World Trade Organisation** rules and not by EU rules. The EU cannot put up discriminatory trade barriers against the UK; and since they sell us far more than we sell them, they would not want to do so even if they could. **When Britain leaves the EU, trade would continue as normal, and there would be no loss of trade or jobs.**

## 4. Hasn't David Cameron renegotiated a "reformed European Union" and can't we influence the EU by remaining a member?

David Cameron's 'renegotiations' achieved nothing meaningful. Even so, his meagre package will require changes to the EU Treaty and to existing Directives. These will have to be voted through by the **Council** (heads of governments) and the **European Parliament**. Those votes will not take place until well after the referendum and they could be changed or rejected altogether. **Mr Cameron is selling us a pig in a poke.**

Britain has very little influence inside the EU. Since 1996, British governments have objected to new laws on 55 occasions – and been defeated 55 times.<sup>3</sup> We currently command only **8.2%** (rising to 12.6% in April 2017) of the vote in the **Council** (heads of government) and in the **Council of Ministers**. The votes of all the UK's **MEPs** (of all parties) put together amount to only **9.7%** of the total. **We simply cannot protect our national interests inside the EU.**

<sup>1</sup> *How Much Does the EU Cost Britain?* (2015) By Professor Tim Congdon.

<sup>2</sup> House of Commons Library, *Briefing Paper Number 06091*, 19th January 2016.

<sup>3</sup> *Business for Britain*. Measuring Britain's influence in the Council of Ministers. Briefing Note 3.

## 5. If we left the EU would we still be able to travel, take holidays, work, study and own property in Europe?

Britons were able to do all these things long before we joined the EU, and we will be able to do them after we leave. There are about **1.2 million** Britons living on the continent and about **3.3 million** EU citizens living in the UK. International agreements protect their rights, i.e. the **Vienna Convention** and the **United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. No law-abiding citizen is going to be deported.

UK citizens living on the continent are usually employed in skilled work; or are retirees living on their pensions and providing valued income, often in blighted Eurozone countries such as Spain and Greece. EU member states are not going to try and take revenge on UK citizens because we decide to leave the EU – they cannot, and it would not be in their interests to do so.

## 6. Aren't we safer from organised crime and terrorists inside the EU?

The opposite is true. The EU's open border policy has made it easy for criminals and terrorists to enter the UK. The EU's **Directives on Freedom of Movement** means that we cannot easily bar or deport convicted criminals. Open borders have opened up the UK to criminal gangs from far and wide. **German Chancellor Mrs Merkel's** invitation to migrants from the Middle East, Africa and beyond to come to Europe has resulted in over one million flooding in to Europe since last summer, with millions more waiting to follow. When Germany gives them citizenship they will be perfectly entitled to come to Britain. **How does that make us safer?**

## 7. If we left the EU, how would that effect immigration?

Under the EU's **Freedom of Movement Directives** all EU citizens are perfectly entitled to come to Britain if they wish – and millions have. They can claim benefits and public housing and use the NHS and public services on exactly the same basis as a British citizen. Net migration to the UK is adding another million people to the population every three or four years. That is simply unsustainable in our geographically small country.

When we leave the EU, we will be free once again to decide our own immigration policy. We want people to visit, work and study in the UK, but our government must be able to decide whom it lets in, in what numbers, and on what basis.

## 8. Do big business and the trade unions want us to remain in the EU?

Some big businesses and some trade unions want Britain to remain in the EU, but equally, other big businesses and trade unions want Britain to leave. In February, **36** of Britain's top **100** companies signed a letter calling for us to remain in the EU – but **64** of the top companies **did not sign it**. In April **100** top City companies



called for Britain to leave the EU because it represents a **"genuine threat"** to Britain's finance industry. The **RMT** transport union wants Britain to leave the EU. Opinion differs among businesses and unions, as elsewhere on this question.

## 9. What is TTIP and how is it relevant to the EU?

TTIP stands for **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**, a trade treaty currently being negotiated between the USA and the EU. The negotiations are being conducted in secret and the European Parliament has no say in their outcome. Many people are concerned because it will open up public services, and particularly the **NHS**, to privatisation by international corporations.

The **Investor State Dispute Settlement** (ISDS) mechanism within TTIP will allow corporations to sue national governments in private tribunals if they make laws that threaten their profits. Governments elected after the treaty is signed will not be able to protect their citizens interests. If we leave the EU, Britain can negotiate its own trade treaties; if we remain in the EU we will eventually get TTIP.

## 10. What is the most important issue in this referendum?

The single most important issue is that of **democracy**. Ask yourself: Do you want to live in a country where we do not elect the real government (the European Commission in Brussels), and which we cannot sack in an election? Or do you want to live in a democratic country where we do elect the government (in Westminster) and which we can sack at election time? That is the essence of democracy.

**If you prefer to live in a democratic country then you should vote to leave the European Union.**

**Consider one last thought. If we had never joined the EU would you vote to join it now, knowing what it is and what it will become in the future?**



# **Vote to Leave!**

**Gerard Batten UKIP Member of the  
European Parliament for London**