
THEME: THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE UNITED KINGDOM

Introduction

The European Union (EU) started out as an **alliance** between old European enemies, France and Germany, after the Second World War.

Countries in Europe were determined that such a terrible war would never happen again. They thought that an economic union would prevent countries fighting. There hasn't been a war within the EU since 1945 and former enemies, such as France and Germany, are now close allies.

The European Union is the framework for **economic and political co-operation** between 27 European countries. It started in 1957 as the European Economic Community. The United Kingdom (UK) joined in 1973.

The European Community was renamed as the European Union by the Maastricht Treaty (1993).

Each country has to pay money to be a member, mostly through taxes it raises from its citizens. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are elected from each EU country.

Sixteen countries out of the 27 members of the EU use a **common currency** called the euro with many due to follow suit. The countries that still use their own currency and have no definite plans to use the euro in the future are the United Kingdom which has the pound (£), Sweden and Denmark.

Opinion in the UK is divided. Some people believe that the UK should leave the EU altogether. The UK Independence Party (UKIP) holds this viewpoint. Some people are known as **eurosceptics**. They feel that the EU is fine as long as it sticks to promoting economic cooperation. They are unhappy about any **political convergence**.

Eurosceptics have formed **pressure groups** and are found in all UK **political parties**, especially the Conservative Party. Eurosceptics are keen that the UK should keep the pound (£) as a unit of currency and not adopt the euro.

Others are more enthusiastic about the EU. These people are known as **europhiles**. They feel that adopting the euro would have advantages and that closer political links with other European countries would be an advantage. Many members of the Liberal Democrat Party hold this viewpoint.

What do you think? Should the UK leave the EU or should we integrate more closely and adopt the euro?

Key Terms	
Alliance	An agreement between two or more groups or countries to support each other.
Economic cooperation	Working together on such things as: trade; free movement of money and workers from one country to another; research and levels of taxation.
Political cooperation	Working together on such things as: defence; legal systems; laws and law enforcement; decision-making and relations with other countries.
Common Currency	Where countries have the same bank notes and coins. For this to work, the countries also have to share one central bank (to issue the money) and to have the same rate of interest. The prices of goods bought in shops can still vary between countries. So a soft drink in Italy may be cheaper than the same drink bought in Ireland.
Eurosceptic	A person who is doubtful about the benefits of EU membership.
Europhile	A person who is keen on further cooperation with the rest of Europe.
Political convergence	Bringing together a common set of laws, moving towards a shared legal system, sharing a defence force, having a shared parliament and president, etc.
Political Party	A group of people with similar views who form an organisation to get representatives elected to Parliament.
Pressure Group	A group of people with similar views on a single issue who form an organisation to persuade the public and politicians to support that view.

This Source Book is in three sections.

Pages 4 – 6 focus on the growth of the European Union.

Pages 7 – 13 describe the work of the European Union and its effect on UK citizens.

Pages 14 – 19 describe different viewpoints on the UK's relationship with the EU.

Use the Source Book and information from your studies to consider the following questions:

- How has the EU grown over the last 50 years and what challenges has this created?
- What does the EU do and what is its effect on UK citizens?
- How democratic is the EU?
- Should the UK strengthen or weaken its economic and political links with the rest of Europe?

The Growth of the European Union (EU)

Source 1. The Growth of the European Union. Adapted from BBC News
– Profile of the European Union

EU Members and when they joined

1952	Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands
1973	Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom
1981	Greece
1986	Portugal, Spain
1995	Austria, Finland, Sweden
2004	Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia
2007	Bulgaria, Romania

The Euro

In 2002, twelve countries decided to use the Euro (a single European currency). This had increased to 16 countries by 2010.

Euroland, or the eurozone, is what people call the countries that use the euro.

Which countries use the euro?

Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Malta and Cyprus.

The United Kingdom has decided not to use the Euro.

From Paris to Maastricht

1945 French politicians Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman decided that the best way to create a peaceful Europe was to develop **economic** ties between nations.

1951 At the **Treaty of Paris**, it was agreed to form the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) with 6 countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands.

1957 At the **Treaty of Rome**, these six countries founded the European Economic Community (EEC). Wider cooperation on trade and economic development began.

1992 The Treaty on European Union was signed at **Maastricht**. This founded the European Union the following year. Now there was cooperation on **political** as well as economic matters.

The Maastricht Treaty introduced a shared Foreign and Security Policy and shared policies on asylum, immigration, drugs and terrorism. EU citizenship was brought in for the first time. This allowed people from member countries to move freely within the EU.

Maastricht also paved the way for the introduction of the Euro.

The UK did not “sign up” to all the parts of the Maastricht Treaty as the Government was unhappy about closer political links (political convergence).

Source 2.**Members of the European Union**

Austria	Germany	Netherlands
Belgium	Greece	Poland
Bulgaria	Hungary	Portugal
Cyprus	Ireland	Romania
Czech Republic	Italy	Slovakia
Denmark	Latvia	Slovenia
Estonia	Lithuania	Spain
Finland	Luxembourg	Sweden
France	Malta	United Kingdom

Countries applying to join the European Union

Croatia
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Turkey

Source 3. Further Expansion and Growing Opposition. Commentary from the Chief Examiner for OCR Citizenship Studies

Supporters of EU expansion see it as the best way of building stronger ties across Europe and, especially, with countries with large muslim populations in the east.

Eurosceptics argue that the new member states will be an expensive drain on European resources because they are less wealthy than the older member countries.

Some also say that EU decision-making will become too slow as the number of members increases. To solve this problem, a new **constitution** (set of rules for making decisions) was proposed for the EU in 2004. It was hoped that this would streamline the many complex agreements that had grown up over the years. It would

also give more power to the EU Parliament.

Every EU country had to approve the constitution – through the national parliament or a public **referendum** (a vote of all the people on a single issue) - before it could take effect. In 2005, French and Dutch voters killed off the new constitution by voting “no”.

In 2007, leaders of the member states came up with a set of new agreements at the treaty of Lisbon. Governments were in favour of the EU’s expansion but voters in Ireland rejected the new treaty in 2008. In the UK, the main political parties disagreed about whether or not a referendum should be held.

Source 4. Features of the Treaty of Lisbon 2007 Adapted from the BBC News website

Europe will have a US-style president

The presidency of the council is held by a member state, not a person, and for only six months. The new idea is for a President of the European Council who will be a top politician, chosen by prime ministers and national presidents, for a term of 30 months.

A new EU foreign minister will have more power than national foreign ministers

This will be a powerful position – speaking on behalf of the EU’s 27 member states. However the new representative can only implement policies that member states have agreed unanimously.

The treaty makes it more difficult for member countries to block ideas on which the others agree

More decisions will be taken by majority vote rather than needing all member states to agree.

This means that one country will not be able to block or “veto” as many decisions as before if it disagrees with them.

The most important veto abolition probably comes in the area of Justice and Home Affairs, where police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters will now be subject to majority voting, as asylum and immigration and some other policies already are.

The Lisbon Treaty introduces a new system for voting by member states. This says that a vote is passed if (a) 55% of member states are in favour – that’s 15 out of 27 – and (b) these countries represent 65% of the EU’s population. It is also passed if fewer than four countries oppose it.

Laws will be passed more easily and it will also more difficult to block a decision from being made.

It gives national parliaments a bigger say in EU affairs

EU institutions will have to notify national parliaments of proposed laws, and give them eight weeks to comment before governments begin to discuss it.

Another change is that national parliaments will be given a chance to challenge new laws. The treaty says that if a third of them object to a proposal, the commission has to consider whether to maintain, amend or withdraw it. But if it decides to maintain it, the national parliaments have no comeback – this is just a yellow card, not a red one.

However, if a majority of national parliaments object, and the EU has to reconsider its position.

Different Viewpoints on the Lisbon Treaty

Roland Rudd, Chairman of Business for New Europe, a UK pressure group

‘The Lisbon Treaty is a logical response to the expansion of the European Union designed to make an EU of 27 countries work more effectively.’

Harry van Bommel is a socialist member of the Dutch Parliament

‘These proposals imply the further transfer of sovereignty* to the EU, without any satisfactory democratic control being exercised over this.’

* *Sovereignty – having control over your own country.*

The Work of the European Union (EU)

Source 5. The Key Aims of the EU. Adapted from the website of CBBC Newsround.



The European flag

The 12 stars in a circle symbolise the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe.

These are the five big things the EU has set out to do:

1. Promote economic and social progress

To help people earn enough money and get treated fairly.

2. Speak for the European Union on the international scene

By working as a group the EU hopes that Europe will be listened to more by other countries.

3. Introduce European citizenship

Anyone from a member state is a citizen of the EU and gets four special rights.

- Freedom to move between countries of the EU and to live in any nation in the Union.
- The right to vote and stand in local government and European Parliament elections in the country you live in.
- The right, if you are travelling outside the EU and your own country does not have an embassy, to go to the embassy of any other EU country.
- The right to put your side of the story to the European Ombudsman if you think the EU has not acted fairly.

4. Develop Europe as an area of freedom, security and justice

To help Europeans to live in safety, without the threat of war.

5. Maintain and build on established EU law

By making laws that protect people's rights in the member countries.

Source 6. The Work of the EU – an overview. Adapted from *Panorama of the European Union* published on the website of European Union

Study, Work and Residence

EU citizens can live, work, study and retire in another EU country. These rights will be extended to citizens in the 12 newest member countries. Temporary restrictions imposed on immigration by some older EU countries will be removed.

More than two million young people have already used EU programmes to study or train in another European country.

Travel and Shopping

You can travel across most of the EU without a passport and without border checks.

You can shop in any other EU country without restrictions or additional taxes, as long as what you buy is for your own use. The single currency, the euro, allows you to compare prices directly in all the countries that use it. Travel between euro countries is easier because the costs and inconvenience of changing money have gone.

A Greener Europe

EU member states have taken joint action to cut pollution. Europe's rivers and beaches are cleaner, vehicles pollute less, and there are strict rules for waste disposal.

The EU wants key activities like transport, industry, agriculture and tourism to be organised so that they can be developed without destroying our natural resources — in short 'sustainable development'.

A long-term energy strategy is a big priority as oil and gas reserves in EU countries are being used up.

Freedom, security and justice for all

To tackle cross-border crime and terrorism, police and customs officers, immigration services and law courts cooperate in all EU countries.

One practical step has been to introduce a European arrest warrant, to make it easier to transfer suspected criminals from the country where they have been arrested to the country where they are wanted for questioning or to stand trial. EU citizens have equal access to justice everywhere in the EU. Member governments have to ensure that they all apply EU laws in the same way, and that court rulings in one country can be enforced in another.

Exporting peace and stability

War between EU countries is now unthinkable, thanks to the unity that has been built up between them over the last 50 years. The EU is now working to spread peace and stability beyond its borders.

The best way to prevent conflict is to create greater prosperity worldwide. As the world's largest trading power, the EU is using its influence to establish fair rules for world trade.

The EU sends peacekeeping forces to trouble-spots. This is part of the defence aspect of the EU's common foreign and security policy.

Jobs and growth

The EU has increased wealth by removing barriers to trade and mobility.

Europe needs new jobs and a skilled workforce. New jobs can come from research and development. EU leaders plan to increase research spending by more than 50% up to 2010. New skills are needed too, and we must all spend more time learning throughout our lives.

One third of the EU's €115-billion-a-year budget is spent on attracting investment and creating jobs in disadvantaged regions, and training unemployed or under-qualified workers.

Source 7. Action by the EU (1) Adapted from the BBC News website

EU moves to free up music rights 16th July 2008

Music download stores like Apple's iTunes could soon be able to operate one shop for the whole of Europe, under new rules brought in by the European Commission.

At present, iTunes has to negotiate the right to sell music with a different society in each European country.

The European Commission says musicians should be free to choose from among the many collecting societies that handle music royalties in the 27-nation EU.

The ruling will let the societies license music in more than one country.

At present, music rights are sold separately in each EU member state. As a result, the US market for internet music downloads is much bigger.

The commission wants the collecting societies to compete with each other in Europe. This should also make it easier for broadcasters to get EU-wide licences for the internet, cable television and satellite, using a single collecting society of their choice.

At present Europe has a complex system for paying musicians' royalties

The decision was praised by two companies that had complained to the commission – the UK online music provider, Music Choice, and Luxembourg-based broadcaster RTL.

Cultural dispute

EU Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes said on Wednesday: "This decision will benefit cultural diversity, by encouraging collecting societies to offer musicians a better deal by collecting all the money they are entitled to.

It will also assist the development of satellite, cable and internet broadcasting, giving listeners more choice and giving musicians more likely income."

But the decision was condemned by the International Confederation of Authors and Composers Societies (Cisac), a body representing the collecting societies, which said the move would harm cultural diversity and the musicians' income.

That criticism was echoed by the European Composer and Songwriter Alliance (ECSA), which represents Paul McCartney and David Gilmour of Pink Floyd among other rock stars. It said the "fierce competition" would hurt smaller collecting societies and less well-known musicians.

Source 8. Action by the EU (2) Adapted from The Daily Mail website

EU forces market trader to pulp thousands of kiwi fruit because they're ONE MILLIMETRE too small 27th June 2008

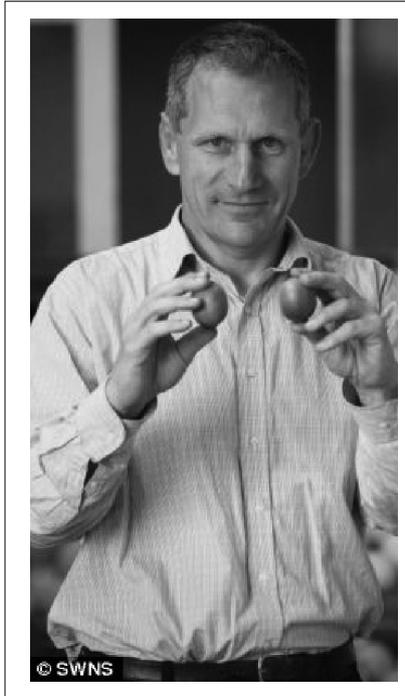
A market trader has been banned from selling a batch of kiwi fruits because they are 1 mm smaller than EU rules allow.

The inspectors conducted a random check to see if Mr Down's produce met strict European laws.

Inspectors told 53-year-old Tim Down he is forbidden even to give away the fruits, which are perfectly healthy.

The father of three will now have to bin the 5,000 kiwis, costing him £1,000 in lost sales.

Speaking yesterday from the stall in Bristol he has owned for 20 years, Mr Down said, "It's total nonsense. I work hard enough to make a living without all these bureaucrats telling us what we can and can't sell.



The regulations state that Class II kiwis must weigh a minimum of 62 g – around 2¼ oz.

But the two-hour inspection revealed that a number of the batch weighed 58 g, or about 2 oz.

Barrie Stedman, head of the agency's inspectorate, said, "Unfortunately the kiwi consignment in question failed to meet the minimum standards for saleable produce, breaking EU grading rules."

"They're saying I'm a criminal for selling this fruit, but the real crime is that all this fruit will go to waste – all because it's 1 mm too small."

Source 9. Action by the EU (3) Adapted from the BBC News website

EU seeks to halt cruelty to seals 24th July 2008

The European Commission has proposed that the EU ban all trade in seal products from countries that fail to meet high animal welfare standards.

Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas called for a ban on seal products obtained through "cruel hunting methods", which he called "repugnant". This would apply to all 27 countries of the EU. He said his office received thousands of demands for a ban - mostly from campaigners in the UK, the USA and Canada.

Some 15 species of seals are hunted worldwide

Source 10. Action by the EU (4)

Adapted from the BBC News website

Military approves EU Chad mission

11th January 2008

Military officials have approved a European peacekeeping force in Chad and the Central African Republic.

The force will have the task of protecting refugees from Darfur and people displaced by internal fighting.

EU ministers will still have to rubber-stamp the 3,500-strong force in time for a launch in early February.

Diplomats said that a shortage of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft had been solved by further contributions from France, Belgium and Poland.

Repeated delays

The mission has been delayed several times since November 2007, but a French government spokesman said on Thursday that President Nicolas Sarkozy had authorised additional resources to help “unblock” the situation.

The Italian government has also offered to provide a hospital.

Chiefs of staff and EU ambassadors will consider the plans. These will then go to an EU Council of Ministers meeting at the end of January for approval.

**Source 11. Action by the EU (5)**

Adapted from the BBC News website

EU healthcare proposals

2nd July 2008

Patients in the EU may in future choose to shop around Europe for the best and quickest medical treatment, under proposals presented by the European Commission.

The proposals will be subject to lengthy discussion and probably changes before becoming law.

Few patients choose other EU countries for their health care at present.

The new draft directive follows European Court of Justice rulings confirming the right of EU citizens to seek healthcare in other EU member states and get a refund at home.

Increasing numbers of EU citizens are now opting to retire in another EU country – Britons in Spain and France, for example. So the proposals are aimed at giving them easier access to healthcare abroad.

Conservative health spokesman Andrew Lansley said “the reality is that if patients are able to exercise choice amongst a range of health providers within the UK, then EU single market rules mean that we can’t treat the English Channel as a barrier to competition”.

Source 12. European Institutions at a Glance Adapted from the BBC News website

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Proposes new laws to Council and Parliament.
- Manages the introduction and enforcement of EU laws.
- Commissioners appointed on five-yearly basis by Council in agreement with member states.
- The Commission is answerable to the European Parliament.

COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN UNION

- Main EU decision-making body.
- Represents interests of individual member states.
- Each member state represented by its own ministers.
- Presidency shared between member states – each member state has the presidency for six months.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Members – MEPs – elected every five years by EU citizens.
- Votes on and checks the EU budget.
- Considers Commission proposals on new laws.
- Works with the Council on main decisions.

Source 13. More Details on the European Commission Adapted from *Panorama of the European Union* published on the website of European Union

The European Commission represents and upholds the interests of Europe as a whole. It is independent of national governments. It proposes new European laws, which it presents to the European Parliament and the Council. It manages the day-to-day business of implementing EU policies and spending EU funds. The Commission also makes sure that everyone sticks to European treaties and laws. It can act against rule-breakers, taking them to the European Court of Justice if necessary.

The Commission consists of 27 men and women — one from each EU country. They are assisted by about 23000 civil servants, most of whom work in Brussels.

The President of the Commission is chosen by EU governments and endorsed by the European Parliament. The other commissioners are nominated by their national governments in consultation with the incoming president, and must be approved by the Parliament. They do not represent the governments of their home countries. Instead, each of them has responsibility for a particular EU policy area.

Source 14. More Details on the Council of the European Union Adapted from *Panorama of the European Union* published on the website of European Union

The Council usually meets in the Justus Lipsius Building in Brussels

The Council of the European Union — formerly known as the Council of Ministers — is the ‘voice of the member states’. It is the EU’s main decision-taking body. It shares with Parliament the responsibility for passing EU laws. It is also in charge of the EU’s foreign, security and defence policies, and is responsible for key decisions on justice and freedom.

The Council consists of ministers from the national governments of all the EU countries. Meetings are attended by whichever ministers are responsible for the items to be discussed: foreign ministers, ministers of the economy and finance, ministers for agriculture and so on, as appropriate.

Each country has a number of votes in the Council linked to the size of its population, but weighted in favour of smaller countries. Most decisions are taken by majority vote, although sensitive issues in areas like taxation, asylum and immigration, or foreign policy, need agreement from everyone.

Up to four times a year the presidents and/or prime ministers of the member states meet as the European Council. These ‘summit’ meetings set overall EU policy.

Source 15. More Details on the European Parliament Adapted from *Welcome to the European Parliament* published on the EU website

The European Parliament is the only directly-elected body of the European Union. The 785 Members of the European Parliament are there to represent you, the citizen. They are elected once every five years by voters right across the 27 Member States of the European Union on behalf of its 492 million citizens.

The work of the European Parliament is important because in many policy areas, decisions on new European laws are made jointly by Parliament and the Council of the EU, which represents Member States.

Parliament plays an active role in making new laws. These have an impact on the daily lives of citizens: for example, on environmental protection, consumer rights, equal opportunities, transport, and the free movement of workers, capital, services and goods. Parliament also has joint power with the Council over the annual budget of the European Union.

You can contact the Parliament as a citizen. This includes the right to write to Parliament with a question, to express your views, to receive all public documents. Should you wish to formally petition Parliament, you will also find all the necessary information here.

Hans-Gert Pöttering
President of the European Parliament, 2008

Different Viewpoints on the United Kingdom's (UK) relationship with the European Union (EU)

Source 16. Opinion Poll on Level of Support for the EU Adapted from the Independent website

British support for EU reaches highest level for 11 years 7th July 2006

Support for the European Union in Britain has jumped to its highest level for a decade, a survey shows.

Asked whether membership of the EU is a good thing, 42 per cent of Britons agreed, a jump of eight points on the last poll in the autumn of 2005, the highest figure since 1995.

Asked whether the UK has benefited from membership, there was a more modest rise of five percentage points, again to 42 per cent. It was the highest figure since 1992, but those who believe Britain has not benefited from

membership are still in a slight majority at 44 per cent.

Reijo Kemppinen, head of the European Commission office in London, said, "The absence of negative stories in the media has allowed people to see a different Europe, one of co-operation on energy, the environment and climate change, something that people can relate to."

Across the EU, support for membership increased by five points to 55 per cent with Ireland the most enthusiastic at 77 per cent.

Source 17. Opinion Poll on Level of Support for the EU by all United Kingdom (UK) adults Adapted from a YouGov poll commissioned by the pressure group Open Europe. The survey was completed in June 2008

	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 +
All UK adults	1312	628	684	385	462	465
	%	%	%	%	%	%
'The EU is out of touch with normal people'						
Strongly agree	33	38	29	18	34	44
Agree	32	30	34	36	29	32
Neither agree nor disagree	15	15	15	19	17	10
Disagree	7	8	7	10	7	6
Strongly disagree	5	6	4	2	6	6
Don't know	8	4	11	16	7	2
Which one of the following statements comes closest to your views?						
The UK should stay in the EU	29	35	24	40	27	23
The UK should stay in the single market but pull out of the other political elements of the EU	38	42	35	34	37	44
The UK should leave the EU altogether	24	18	28	13	28	28
Don't know	9	4	13	14	9	5

Source 18. Viewpoints on the EU Adapted from the BBC News website and based on the BBC TV programme *How Euro are You*, January 2006

DAME TANNI GREY-THOMPSON, record breaking paralympic athlete

“ **I’m genuinely in favour of Europe** as I believe that, in terms of the way the world is going, we need to do as much as possible to foster co-operation.

There are things that I don’t like about Europe but I believe that we have to be in it to change it.

We also need to do more to make the EU better understood, especially to young people. At the moment it feels like an exclusive political club and this is not healthy. ”

PETER HITCHENS, Mail On Sunday columnist

“ **Britain should withdraw from the EU as soon as possible.**

We gain nothing, economically or politically, from our membership.

Our parliamentary government, common law, adversarial justice system and many other traditions and institutions do not fit with those of the other European nations and cannot co-exist happily with them.

As one of the largest economies in the world and one of its major military and diplomatic powers with the world’s most widely-used language, we are quite capable of negotiating our own agreements with any nation we choose to deal with, and flexibility is far more use than size in a competitive world.

Our relations with the EU nations would improve immensely once we were no longer trying to reach an impossible compromise between national independence and EU membership. ”

ARMANDO IANNUCCI, writer and comedian

“ **I find my heart and my head divided over Europe.**

At heart, I’m an instinctive European and would love the EU to work as an institution. I believe, whatever its flaws, it does act as a safety-valve, easing pressure between rival European nations and avoiding violent conflict.

On the other hand, my head tells me that we’re left confused by a clumsy attempt to force 20 or so nations to behave as if they were all the same.

I think most European citizens now see this as an impractical ideal from a political elite which has failed to consult them over why this is happening. ”

Source 19. A Pressure Group in favour of closer ties with the EU. Adapted from the website of *Business for a New Europe*



Principles

- We support the UK's membership of the EU and oppose withdrawal to the edge; we support positive and constructive engagement with the EU as the only sensible approach and as vital to our national interests.
- We support a prosperous free-market Europe able to compete in the world.
- We oppose excessive EU regulation, centralisation and red tape.
- We support further cooperation between EU member states where it is in Britain's interests.
- We support the enlargement of the EU including Turkey, and recognise the benefits that the recent wave of enlargement has brought.

Our membership of the EU is vital to our continued economic success. It contributes to UK employment, trade and prosperity. The single market has allowed UK businesses to trade with and invest across continental Europe. We should celebrate its success in opening up markets and opportunities.

Vijay Patel, CEO, Waymade Healthcare

In the twenty first century, the world economy is becoming ever more competitive. In order to compete with large countries such as China and India, the UK will need the help of the EU. As an economic bloc, the EU continent is large enough to compete and flourish on the world stage.

Sir Philip Hampton, Chairman of Sainsbury

The EU brings together member states to cooperate on issues which go across national borders, such as terrorism, energy policy and, most recently, combating bird flu. If it did not exist, we would have to invent a forum to provide such international cooperation across Europe.

Sir Nigel Rudd, Chairman, Boots

Survey of 200 large and medium size UK businesses May 2008

Q I'm going to read out some statements about the European Union. For each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree

■ % Agree

■ % Neither/DK

■ % Disagree

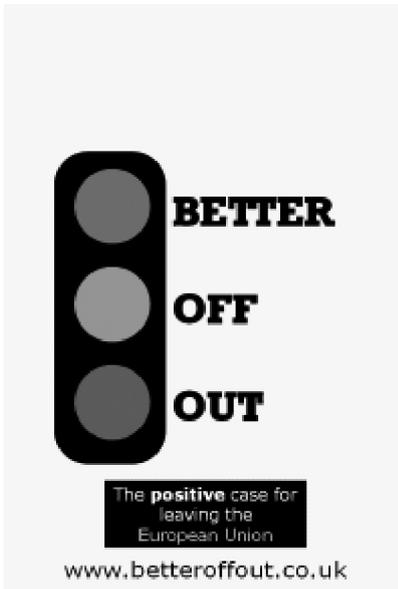
The enlargement of the European Union (EU) from 15 to 27 member states since 2004 has benefited the British economy

48

19

33

Source 20. A Pressure Group against the UK's membership of the EU
Adapted from the *Better Off Out* website



Whilst we are happy to trade with our European neighbours, we are keen to see the UK trade globally, too.

As China and India boom, it would be foolish to restrict ourselves to trading only with Europe. Like it or not, Europe is not going to be as important in the future as it has been in the past.

There is a great chance for the UK to take advantage of the economic boom in Asia. Missing out on these opportunities can only cost us jobs and income.

Membership of the EU, which restricts trade with the outside world, severely threatens that positive future.

Over recent years, people have felt that our elected representatives do not represent their views.

This is especially the case where the European Union is concerned: over 50% of people now feel that the EU is a bad thing for the United Kingdom, but until recently only one of our MPs agreed.

The BETTER OFF OUT campaign is a non-party organisation committed to making the positive, constructive case for Britain leaving the European Union.

"I support the Better Off Out Campaign because I believe that the European Union is fast moving towards the creation of a European Superstate. This will result in a further loss of British sovereignty, which will bring the end of our parliamentary democracy and reduce many of our hard won freedoms."

Jeffrey Donaldson Democratic Unionist Party MP for Langan Valley, Northern Ireland.

"We British have a thousand year history of self-government. We have been free and democratic longer than any other nation. The European Union is too diverse, too bureaucratic and too big to be democratic. We are happy to trade with our European friends and the rest of the world – but we would prefer to govern ourselves."

Lord Tebbit (Conservative)

Virtually every serious review of the costs and benefits of the EU shows that Britain would be better off out of the organisation in most, if not all, respects"

Lord Stoddart (Labour)

Thousands of people nationally have joined the campaign, distributing 450,000 leaflets in six months.

Slowly but surely, our representatives are coming round, too. A whole range of MPs, Lords, MEPs and Councillors from across the political spectrum have promised their support.

With your help and the millions of others who agree, we can build a positive future for the UK as a nation trading with the whole world.

Source 21. The Liberal Democrat position on the EU Adapted from the website of the Liberal Democrats.



Making Europe work for us

Liberal Democrat Policy Briefing

19 January 2005

Policies for the future of Europe

The EU has a vital role in guaranteeing peace and freedom in Europe. By promoting enterprise, protecting the environment, supporting global development and fighting discrimination, the EU brings great benefits to Britain.

We believe that the EU must have the powers and resources to act effectively in areas where problems cannot be solved at a national or regional level. At the same time, the EU should keep out of areas where policy can be successfully managed at local levels.

Liberal Democrats want to see a Citizen's Europe, where all power is exercised at the lowest practical level.

Source 22. The Conservative Party position on the EU Adapted from the website of the Conservative Party.

SPEECH. Europe - a vision for the future, a speech by Nick Bourne AM Welsh Assembly Member (Leader of the Official Opposition in the National Assembly for Wales) Thursday 15 May 2008.

Britain has an important and central role to play in the EU of the future, and I believe that this is the right place for us to be. I do not see the Union as a United States of Europe and do not agree that we should transfer more sovereignty from the UK to the EU.

Instead, I am a strong supporter of a EU where nations work together through strategic alliance for each other's benefit. After all, the co-operation and strategic alliance between European countries has brought many benefits, of which peace is the most important.

Our continued involvement with the EU in the future is essential if we are to be ready for the growth of the new super-powers of China, India and Brazil. I certainly cannot see any situation where we would be better off by leaving the EU.

We should be working together in a way that strengthens our economies and gives power to our consumers.



We should take action together on the great issues facing our world today: climate change and global poverty. This is where the European Union's greatest strengths lie.

However, success for the EU in the future to tackle these global issues can only be achieved if we have a strong alliance between governments rather than an integrated single European state. For my part, I believe in a wider Europe, not a deeper one.

Source 23. The Labour Party position on the EU Article written by the Labour MEP Robyn Corbett, adapted from the website of the Labour MEP Glyn Ford.

Half a century of building the European Union has been vital for peace and prosperity in Europe.

It has brought an end to bloody conflict. In removing barriers to trade and commerce it has brought massive development to Europe.

An integrated economy needs proper management. A market that is a simple free-for-all is neither fair nor efficient. To work well, it needs to be given fair rules and high standards. The EU gives us a common market with common rules and standards in areas such as:

- Social standards, to prevent companies moving to the country with the weakest workplace rights.
- Consumer protection, with goods and services flowing freely across frontiers, a common approach is essential.
- Assistance to less prosperous regions and groups, so that all can benefit from the new wealth.
- Public services, which are vital to the cohesion of our societies and which need support and sometimes protection within the market.
- Competition policy, to ensure that our common market is not dominated by a few multinational companies.
- A commitment to democracy and fundamental rights for all citizens in all member states.

Source 24. The UK Independence Party (UKIP) and the EU Adapted from the UKIP website



Independence

The UK Independence Party is the fourth largest political party in the UK. We have 9 members of the European Parliament who use their positions exclusively to expose the true nature of the EU and to campaign for British withdrawal. Our party has a full range of policies including a firm line on immigration. A policy of non-discrimination is part of our party's constitution.

Interview with UKIP's Deputy Leader, David Campell-Bannerman. From *Young Independence Newsletter* – June 2008

I joined UKIP because the European Union is such a serious and dangerous threat to the democracy, freedoms and traditions of the United Kingdom. UKIP is the only Party telling the truth about the issue and standing up for Britain. I love Europe, but I fear the EU.

The truth about the scale of the stranglehold the EU has on Britain is that the EU decides 75%

of the laws we must obey as British citizens, imposes 120,000 regulations and costs us £50 billion a year.

By leaving the EU, we can take back control of our laws, not just the 25% in Parliament now, recover £50 billion in costs, including a £15 billion gross cash contribution, and have the freedom to scrap 120,000 EU regulations. This is something only UKIP can do, and I believe that young people and their support for an exciting new future as an independent country will be our salvation.

**Copyright Information**

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations, is given to all schools that receive assessment material and is freely available to download from our public website (www.ocr.org.uk) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact the Copyright Team, First Floor, 9 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1GE.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group; Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.