The BREXIT Debate
The United Kingdom and the European Union

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The BREXIT Debate
The United Kingdom and the European Union

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Britain may not need the EU, but the EU needs Britain

By Leopold Traugott

Britain needs Europe a lot more than Europe needs Britain

The UK will hold a referendum on its EU membership before the end of 2017. Dennis Norg writes that a divorce from the EU would risk putting the UK in a weaker economic position. Among the reasons he quotes, he mentions an often overlooked issue: that Britain simply does not have the administrative expertise to carry out some of the functions that the EU currently fulfils on behalf of its member states.
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The BREXIT Debate: The Government’s position

The government is working with allies to reform the European Union to make it more open, competitive, flexible and democratically accountable, for the benefit of the UK and the whole of Europe.

The review of the balance of competences will be an audit of what the EU does and how it affects the UK.
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The Review of the Balance of Competences between the UK and the EU


Background
Against a backdrop of continuing and often intense political debate in the United Kingdom about its relationship with the rest of the European Union (EU), the Coalition Agreement of May 2010, underscoring the 2000-05 Conservative-Liberal Democrat government, stated that the new administration would examine the balance of the EU’s existing competences in the context of an overall government commitment to ensure that there is no further transfer of sovereignty or power to the EU during that Renewable parliamentary term. This process was taken forward in a formal ‘Review of the Balance of Competences between the UK and the EU’, which was launched in July 2012 and concluded in December 2014.

The UK government’s official communication to the House of Commons and House of Lords to launch the Balance of Competences Review (Command Paper 8413) used a broad definition of EU competence, covering everything deriving from EU law that affects what happens in the UK. The review was to seek to examine all the areas where the Treaty gave the EU competence to act (see box below) and, to audit what the EU did and how this affected the UK. The whole process would be ‘comprehensive, well-informed and analytical’, gathering evidence to help inform public debate. Whilst the review would be government-led, it would also involve outside experts, organisations and individuals who wished to feed in their views on the issues covered.

The competences of the European Union
The Treaty of Lisbon amended the Treaty on European Union and clarified the division of competences between the EU and Member States, introducing a precise identification of such competences for the first time. The treaty sets out three main types of EU competence:

- Exclusive competence (Article 5 TFEU). The EU alone is able to legislate and adopt binding acts in these fields. The Member States’ role is therefore limited to applying these acts, unless the Union authorises them to adopt certain acts themselves.
- Shared competence (Article 5 TFEU). The EU and Member States are authorised to adopt binding acts in these fields. However, Member States may exercise that competence only in so far as the EU has not exercised, or has decided not to exercise, its own competence.
- Supporting competence (Article 5 TFEU). The EU can only intervene to support, coordinate or complement the action of Member States.

The Balance of Competences Review

The Review of the Balance of Competences国内外报告是否认同欧盟干涉的协议被否决

The BREXIT Debate: Review of the Balance of Competences

Find more information via ESO on the Review of the Balance of Competences
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United Kingdom: Referendum on EU membership: Background
Reforming the EU: UK plans, proposals and prospects

Standard Note: SN/IA/7138
Last updated: 16 March 2015
Author: Vaughne Miller and Constance Woollen
Section: International Affairs and Defence Section

The UK Government has stated that membership of the European Union is in the national interest, but the Prime Minister David Cameron would like to reform the EU and renegotiate the UK’s relationship with it, before holding an in/out referendum in 2017 if a Conservative government is elected in May 2015. The UK’s new relationship with the EU would be put to the electorate, who would decide whether the UK should remain in the EU under new terms or be the first Member State to leave the EU.

David Cameron identified areas for reform in his ‘Bloomberg speech’ on 23 January 2013. His five principles for a European Union “fit for the 21st Century” were: competitiveness, flexibility, repatriating powers to Member States, democratic accountability and fairness. In March 2014 he set out proposals for reform:

- Powers flowing away from Brussels, not always to it;
- National parliaments able to work together to block unwanted EU legislation;
- Businesses liberated from red tape;
- UK police forces and justice systems able to protect British citizens, without interference from the European institutions;
- Free movement to take up work, not free benefits;
- Removing the concept of “ever closer union”.

This Note looks at what the Government is doing to tackle some of the perceived weaknesses of EU policy and procedures and looks at prospects for future reform.
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Judy Dempsey’s Strategic Europe

And Britain Voted for . . .

Posted by: JUDY DEMPSEY

EU Law Analysis

Expert insight into EU law developments

Friday, 8 May 2015

Is Brexit inevitable? The UK's EU membership after the General Election

#ElectionEconomics: The research evidence on key issues for voters in the 2015 UK General Election

UK general election May 2015 ... and aftermath
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European Union Referendum Act 2015

Type of Bill: Government Bill
Sponsors: Philip Hammond, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Baroness Anelay of St Johns, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Progress of the Bill

<table>
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Last events
A Royal Assent (Hansard) 17 December, 2015 | 17.12.2015
A Royal Assent (Minutes of Proceedings) 17 December, 2015 | 17.12.2015

Read debates on all stages of the European Union Referendum Act 2015

UK Government 2015 – 2016 : The EU Referendum Bill / Act
What is happening with the negotiations autumn 2015

- Cameron targets Brussels over Brexit, Sept 2015
- Renegotiation Scorecard, Sept 2015
- UK to set out EU reform demands in November letter to EU President, Oct 2015
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What is happening with the negotiations Nov 2015 – Jan 2016

- **David Cameron sends European Council President Donald Tusk further details of UK calls for EU reform**, 10 November 2015
- **Letter from European Council President Tusk to EU governments on the UK negotiations**, Dec 2015
- Find more information in [ESO](#)

EU Law Analysis

Expert insight into EU law developments

Cameron’s Chatham House speech: Full speed ahead for the renegotiation of the UK’s EU membership?

EU reform - UK negotiates with EU and other Member States 2015/16
United Kingdom and the European Union

The United Kingdom: Referendum on EU membership

The referendum on UK membership of the EU: assessing the reform process

Referendum on membership of the European Union
Assessment of the Electoral Commission on the proposed referendum question

September 2015

United Kingdom: Referendum on EU membership
+ EU referendum: Prime Minister's minute to ministers, January 2016
+ Speech by David Cameron at the World Economic Forum, Davos, 21 January 2016

EU referendum: Prime Minister's minute to ministers, January 2016

TO ALL MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES

EU REFERENDUM

In my Statement to Parliament on Tuesday, I announced that there will be a clear government position after the conclusion of the EU negotiation and I also explained that, from that point, there will be a special arrangement to permit individual Ministers to take a different personal position from the official position of the Government. Having consulted the Cabinet Secretary, this letter sets out in more detail what this means in practice.

First, this arrangement will come into effect following a Cabinet discussion, after the negotiations have concluded with our EU partners. Until that point – when it will become clear whether a deal can be negotiated that delivers the objectives I have set out – all Ministers should continue to support the position set out in our Manifesto and say or do nothing that will undermine the Government’s negotiating position. The Government’s policy, explained in our Manifesto and discussed at Cabinet, is to negotiate a new settlement for Britain in the EU and then ask the British people in a referendum whether they want to stay in the EU on this reformed basis or not. As I have said many times, if the renegotiation is successful, the Government’s position will be in favour of Britain remaining in a reformed EU. If the renegotiation is unsuccessful, then we rule nothing out. This referendum must take place by the end of 2017. I am grateful to all colleagues for the support provided to date.

Second, this wholly exceptional arrangement will apply only to the question of whether we should remain in the EU or leave. All other EU or EU-related business, including negotiations in or with all EU institutions and other Member States, and debates and votes in Parliament here on EU business will continue to be subject to the normal rules of collective responsibility and party discipline. This also of course applies to policy discussions within government. The existing machinery of government for making policy on EU business will continue to function in the normal way. In Parliament, the rules state that Ministers speak from the Front Bench, and when they do so they support government policy.

Speech by David Cameron at the World Economic Forum, Davos, 21 January 2016

Electoral Commission to open registration for EU Referendum campaigners

News release published: 20-01-2016
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Letter by President Donald Tusk to the Members of the European Council on his proposal for a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union

Press release
PM calls and Brussels meetings: 29 January 2015

EU reform - UK negotiates with EU and other Member States 2016
The United Kingdom and the European Union

UK negotiates with EU and other Member States – European Council, 18-19 February 2016

+ EU countries react to the Tusk proposals for a new settlement for the UK within the EU, February 2016
+ European Council, Brussels, 18-19 February 2016
Find more information in ESO on the lead-up, negotiations at, and implications of the decisions relating to the EU settlement with the UK at the European Council, 18-19 February 2016
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PM's statement following Cabinet meeting on EU settlement: 20 February 2016

The PM made a statement in Downing Street today following a Cabinet meeting on Britain's new settlement with the European Union.

+ UK Prime Minister David Cameron holds special Cabinet meeting, 20 February 2016 to report back on outcome of the European Council, 18-19 February 2016. He announces 23 June 2016 as the date of the EU referendum

Find more information in ESO on the announcement of the EU referendum and the start of the campaigning by the Remain / Leave groups

David Cameron announces the date of the EU referendum – the campaign begins
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Campaigning to remain in the EU…
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Campaigning to remain in the EU…
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Stakeholders and interests: The UK should stay in the EU
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Stakeholders and interests: The UK should stay in the EU
Leaving EU poses “very significant risks” to UK’s future. TheCityUK reports provide critical analysis of the Economic case for UK’s EU membership and Legal implications of alternatives.

Published 27/1/2014

Two new reports commissioned by TheCityUK show that leaving the EU poses very significant risks to the UK’s future, undermining economic well-being and the ability of business to grow and compete in world markets. The research also reveals that the EU has a positive impact on driving UK trade, high productivity and growth.

Brexit and the City
Take the City out of Europe and there won’t be much left of its current global lustre; warn London-based bankers and financiers.

By PIERRE BRIANCÖN | 10/6/15, 5:30 AM CET | Updated 10/6/15, 6:47 AM CET

LONDON — It’s a strange world when you can’t trust a conservative UK government to defend the global interests of the City of London.

And that’s why the financial industry isn’t bothering to wait for talks between Prime Minister David Cameron and his European partners to state clearly on which side it will stand on a referendum on the UK’s European Union membership: a resounding, unqualified “yes” for staying in, whatever the outcome of London’s attempt to reform the way Europe works.

Stakeholders and interests: The City of London
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Stakeholders and interests: Business and Labour
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Campaigning to leave the EU…
Stakeholders and interests: The UK should leave the EU
EU Law Analysis

Expert insight into EU law developments

Showing posts with label Brexit. Show all posts

Sunday, 29 November 2016

The EU or the Commonwealth: a dilemma for the UK – or a false choice?

Steve Peers

The United Kingdom has its finger in many pies: the EU, NATO, the United Nations Security Council and the Commonwealth, to name just a few. Of these, the Commonwealth – which has just finished its latest summit meeting – obviously has the closest specific link to British culture and history, since it’s mainly comprised of our former colonies. (A few Commonwealth members are not former colonies, and some obscure ex-colonies like the USA chose not to join. For a full list of members, see here).

The BREXIT Debate: Academic perspectives

Should We Stay or Should We Go? The economic consequences of leaving the EU

Swati Dhingra, Gianmarco Ottaviano and Thomas Sampson

Key characteristics of EU migrant citizens in the UK

In the earlier years of the European Union, the number of citizens of EU Member States exercising their right to work and live in another Member State remained low. However, in the last couple of decades an improved legal framework for EU migrant citizens, improved access to higher education, educational mobility programmes, and steady union economic and employment opportunities have facilitated an increase in intra-EU migration. Overall numbers of EU citizens moving from their country of origin to another Member State nonetheless remain relatively small.

In January 2014, the UK had one of the highest overall numbers of EU migrant citizens, as a percentage of the national population (4.1%). However, the UK’s population of EU migrant citizens ranks behind Luxembourg (8.9%), Cyprus (8.3%), Ireland (8.1%) Belgium (7.4%), Austria (6.1%), and Spain (4.3%) (Eurostat data, January 2014).
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Stakeholders and interests: The debate continues...
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Stakeholders and interests: The debate continues...
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Stakeholders and interests: The debate continues …
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Stakeholders and interests: The debate continues …
Stakeholders and interests: The debate continues …
The origin of UK law – what % from the EU?

Find more information in ESO on this topic
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EU membership: Benefits and challenges for Wales

A research report for Jill Evans MEP

Lila Haines
With Anna Nicholl
July 2015

The BREXIT Debate: Wales and Scotland

7. Wales and Europe

The European Union has a major impact on the lives of people in Wales and plays an important role in our nation's prosperity.

The EU makes decisions and passes laws that affect Welsh policy interests such as business and trade, agriculture and rural development, regional development, transport and the environment.

Membership of the EU brings significant benefits to Wales. EU Structural Funds are worth around £2.4bn to Wales over the period 2014-2020. This package, together with match funding, will drive a total investment of approximately £3.7bn and will help us deliver growth and jobs. This partnership also gives us access to the EU Research and Innovation programme with nearly £600m of funding available between 2014 - 2020.

The EU remains Wales' largest trading partner with a market of more than 500 million people, the world's largest economy in GDP terms. Access to the Single Market also forms an essential part of the Welsh offer to foreign investors.

More than 500 firms in Wales export over £8bn annually to other EU Member States and some 1,000 jobs in Wales depend on that trade. In addition, more than 1400 firms from other Member States operate in Wales, employing over 53,000 people.

The Welsh Government's office in Brussels promotes and protects Welsh interests at the heart of the EU, and provides intelligence and interpretation on EU affairs where Wales has an interest.

The office also acts as a platform for networking, growing our influence and raising this profile of Wales in the European Union.

Welsh Ministers participate in the Council of Ministers and we utilise all relevant EU bodies to pursue our objectives.

In order to promote and protect Welsh interests, we identify forthcoming EU policy initiatives with a potentially positive impact on Wales and engage in those areas while also working to mitigate measures that could have adverse consequences for Wales.

Among EU programmes, our priorities are:
- the Single Market to promote Trade and Investment;
- the Europe 2020 Strategy to stimulate Jobs and Growth;
- Structural Funds;
- Erasmus+;
- the Connecting Europe Facility;

Areas of direct relevance to Wales include: Agriculture and Fisheries, Education and Skills, Energy, Climate Change, Environment and Health.

We will maximise the benefits of EU membership for the peoples of Wales through the objectives set out in our EU Strategy.

Welsh European Funds

Our Welsh European Funding Office (WESO) engages directly with the European Commission over the negotiation, implementation and delivery of the EU Structural Funds Programmes in Wales, wider Cohesion Policy issues and directly managed EU programmes such as Horizon 2020.

Scottish and Welsh nationalists pledge to stop the English leaving EU

Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood: 'The votes in each of the countries should be added up separately and we should only pull out of the EU if all four countries want to do that'

Brexit should not be decided by the ceaseless complaints of the Scots

By Iain Martin | iainmartin1

5 November 2015

How the EU divides Scotland

26 October 2015
The United Kingdom and the European Union

England – Scotland – Wales – Northern Ireland
The United Kingdom and the European Union

The international perspective
The international perspective
The United Kingdom and the European Union

European views on the UK’s renegotiation, Sept-Oct 2015

- France, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Latvia
- Italy, Poland, Bulgaria and Malta
- Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark and Romania
- Austria, Portugal, Croatia and Ireland
- Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden and Lithuania
- Germany, Greece, Slovakia and the EU Institutions
- Other EU States

Briefing
What Think Tanks are thinking
19 February 2016

The United Kingdom and the European Union

European Union leaders meet on 18-19 February to discuss Prime Minister David Cameron’s renegotiation of the United Kingdom’s EU membership, ahead of an in-or-out referendum on the outcome.

This note provides links to recent commentaries, studies, reports and books from major think tanks on Britain’s relations with the EU and renegotiation of the terms of the country’s membership.
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Summary

The debate surrounding a potential BREXIT has largely focused on the costs and disadvantages for Britain of making such a move. However, Britain leaving the EU would also alter the strengths and profile of the European Union. Britain is the EU’s second largest economy, a significant net contributor to the EU budget, hosts Europe’s only global financial centre and is an important driver of single market reform on the European stage. In her absence, the EU will lose a key proponent of the market economy and free trade as drivers of economic growth and prosperity. In this context, while BREXIT would be a catastrophe for Britain, it would also, as this INFOCUS identifies, fundamentally change the profile and focus of the EU.

The ongoing debate over BREXIT symbolises Britain’s detachment from Brussels based European affairs, a process hastened by the economic crisis of recent years. From a London perspective, long-term doubts over the viability of the Euro have been reinforced by the depth of Britain’s economic recovery (relatively to the Euro zone) and by the EU’s rule based approach to furthering economic governance. This detachment is physically apparent across the EU’s institutions. Although currently accounting for over 12% of the EU’s total population the proportion of British nationals employed in policy influencing roles in the European Commission has declined to just 5.9% in 2014.

Commentary

UK in-out referendum firmly on the agenda

Fabrizio Zumbo

The results of the UK General Election are in and, in part, it is in line with the polls – but only in part; the Liberal Democrats are decimated, the Scottish National Party (SNP) has decisively won Scotland and UKIP, despite making large gains in the share of votes, has only gained a small number of seats.

What was more than unexpected is that the Conservatives and the SNP did not do better than predicted, the Liberals had a truly catastrophic night and Labour did worse than expected, not picking up seats in England to compensate for the heavy losses in Scotland. Consequently, the Conservatives will continue in government, with David Cameron as Prime Minister. A referendum on EU membership ...

But what does all of this mean from the European perspective? A UK referendum on EU membership is now almost certain, and there’s even a question whether it will come earlier than 2017. The lack of contingency planning and preparation for such an eventuality is now going to be a major issue for the EU. There is no credible list of reforms that could be agreed upon and, at least partially, be implemented by 2017, or even earlier. While the opinion polls currently suggest a margin in the UK wanting to stay in the EU, a substantial reform package would certainly help to convince the UK electorate. But the EU must have a real discussion on what price the rest of the EU is willing to pay to keep the UK in.

... leading to BREXIT?

The campaigning for an in-out referendum will start immediately. Some of its predictable. Most of big business is going to campaign heavily for staying in the EU, highlighting the cost of economic uncertainty. While most of the broadsheets are broadly Eurosceptic, they are unlikely to campaign strongly for a Brexit. The more of the smaller parties is also clear: UKIP, Greens and SNP will campaign intensely to stay in the EU (not least because a different result in an EU referendum in Scotland than in the rest of the UK will immediately resuscitate the Scottish independence question), with UKIP demanding an immediate exit.

But the real question is how the two big parties will campaign. This is far from certain. Within the Conservatives, Cameron’s more pragmatic stance on the EU has been strengthened. But with the threat of UKIP somewhat diminished – even though they still had a significant win in terms of votes – Tory backbenchers might flex their muscles, demanding an ambitious reform package to be convinced of EU membership, which is unlikely to materialise.

But the problems are not only limited to the Conservatives. Labour faces an even greater challenge. With the (almost) complete loss of its Scottish base, it needs to defend the North of England while losing gains in the Midlands and in the South, having seen voting moving to UKIP in the North, likely related to the marginalising mobility argument, and knowing that the South tends to be more Eurosceptic, it is likely that Labour will move towards supporting an EU referendum, and in a referendum, being at best, lukewarm about staying.

Can’t they work?

But a referendum on EU membership is far from lost from a pro-EU perspective. Opinion polls suggest that there is now a majority in the UK in favour of staying in the EU. The economic argument is likely to be key, with many suggesting that a Brexit would imply losses of investment, which would be painful for UK jobs and growth. While there are many risks, on
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EU-India relations: Why Narendra Modi is likely to make the case against Brexit on his visit to the UK

Supported by the LSE's European Institute

Views on the UK's renegotiation: Russia, Ukraine and Turkey

Beijing drops hint it would like UK to stay in EU

The international perspective – Non-EU countries
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Public opinion
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Public opinion
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The United Kingdom and the European Union

EU Law Analysis
Expert insight into EU law developments

Wednesday, 10 February 2016

The draft UK/EU renegotiation deal: is it 'legally binding and irreversible'?
The United Kingdom and the European Union

News sources: BREXIT / Role of UK Media
The United Kingdom and the European Union

How Wayne Rooney could help keep Britain in the European Union

BREXIT - Miscellaneous
The Cardiff EDC provides a professional and neutral information service on the European Union and the wider Europe.

Enquiry service – Publication of European Sources Online – Events
Further information: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/insrv/edc/

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