

## **Will the UK have regained UK Parliamentary sovereignty?**

Yes - - formally but with significant restraints. However, as a member of the EU we have a say currently in the making of both the regulations and directives generated by the EU. Our Commissioner represents the UK and is voted in by the European Parliament. Our directly elected Euro MPs to the European Parliament have to approve EU legislation, together with the Commissioners, so we have always exercised influence over EU directives. The UK is a member of many organisations [NATO] which have treaty obligations that can potentially override Parliament's sovereignty. We live in a world of global interdependence both for security and trade and World Trade Organisation operation would require us to abide by rules which would be merely different from the EU. As a trading nation we have to abide by many international rules outside the control of the UK Parliament, so the importance of Parliamentary sovereignty has to be judged in relation to many other relationships.

## **How will we spend the money we presently pay into the EU?**

Each person in UK in 2017 made a net payment of £134 to the EU in 2017. However previous commitments made by UK Governments to the EU budget will need to be honoured and the cost of this will be £622 per person according to the UK's Office for Budget Responsibility. So it's going to take nearly 5 years before we see any Brexit dividend, just on EU related monies. While it is quite true that we shall no longer pay money into the EU, if our economy slows, the money available to the government reduces, unless taxes rise.

## **How will it affect the NHS?**

There will be a period of around 5 years before the Brexit dividend appears. The Government has committed to an annual increase of 3.4% a year to the NHS during this period. This is around £315 per person per year but it isn't clear where this funding is coming from. There is a shortage of 11,500 doctors to meet the 2020 target and in any case 30% of doctors in the UK are foreign. Since the UK voted to leave the EU, there has been a 96% drop in the number of European nurses applying for positions in Britain. Leaving the European Medicines Agency would mean delayed access for the UK to the latest medicines and no part in shaping Europe-wide medical regulations. Concerns are being expressed regarding the availability of drugs and medicines imported into the UK after March 2019.

## **How will it affect your travel to EU countries?**

Border checks would have to be re-imposed, and transport between the UK and the EU would be severely affected. It's unlikely that UK citizens will need visas for EU countries or vice-versa, but UK citizens could not use EU countries' faster passport queues. Our European Health Insurance will cease to be valid in the EU. One pound is now worth €1.12, 20% down from €1.42 in August 2015, so a weaker pound is already making holidays more expensive.

## **What is the cost of a NO-DEAL for each UK citizen?**

There are too many unknowns to make it possible to calculate exactly. What we do know is that last year British households spent £900 more than they earned because of the squeeze on living costs. Given the forecast effect of a NO-DEAL on the economy, this situation will probably get worse. Studies reported in the FT suggest that every household would be about £1,000 a year worse off due to WTO tariffs. For every 5% the exchange rate falls, household costs will further increase by £380 a year.

## **How will it affect your food?**

30% of the UK's food comes from EU countries. NO-DEAL will probably cause the pound to fall further so that food will cost more to import. Delays at ports because of customs hold-ups could cause food shortages which is why the Government is asking retailers to ensure stocks are adequate. Will they be?

Food costs have already risen by 5%. The UK would have no say in setting EU food standards. Supermarkets are suggesting food prices will rise by 12%.

## **How will it affect farming and fishing?**

Farmers now get £3 billion per year from the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. The Government has said that it would match EU subsidies for 3 years and up to possibly 5 years after Brexit. As there is no immediate Brexit dividend presumably this money will come from higher taxes or benefit reductions? Britain exports 75% of its fish catch to the EU which would presumably charge WTO duties on it (there are no duties now) hence hurting fish exports. The quota, access and other agreements with EU and other countries would end. New agreements between the UK and the EU and other countries (e.g. Norway, Iceland) would take time to reach.

## **What about immigration?**

The numbers of non-EU immigrants has risen in the past year, whereas EU immigration has fallen. Net immigration figures for the UK for 2017 were 220,000 non-EU citizens and of these 170,000 visas for study were issued. 100,000 EU citizens applied to come to the UK. From all of those immigrating 188,000 had a definite job. We need workers to man all sectors of the UK economy from agriculture to health and limiting workers from the EU coming here will throttle the UK economy. We have the lowest unemployment rate of since 1975 at 4.0%, but in many sectors there is already a skills shortage which we cannot fill from our existing labour force.

## **How will it affect the economy of the UK?**

Before the referendum the UK was the fastest growing G7 economy, we are now the slowest. The UK public debt is 87% of our GDP. The interest on that cost the Government £43 Billion each year or about £691 per person. Changes to the GDP and the value of the pound will affect how much taxes need to be raised. UK businesses are now considering postponing investment in the UK or moving themselves and/or investment to another EU country. Foreign businesses will be less likely to invest in the UK because they would no longer have the same access as now to other EU countries, a further hit to employment. As a relatively small nation we shall not have the negotiating power of the EU and are unlikely even in the long term to be able to replicate the trade agreements the EU has with some 60 other countries. Indeed some of those countries are likely to use any trade negotiations to their own advantage forcing us to permit imports hitherto banned and making us non-compliant with the rules of our biggest outlet, the EU single market.

## **What about EU laws and British laws?**

Existing EU laws and regulations have already been transposed into UK legislation. EU laws have minimal impact on public order, crime, defence, health, but in others such as workers' rights, trade, etc the impact is greater. Between 2004 and 2015 the UK voted for and was successful in 97% of the EU legislation passed. The UK would have no say in future EU legislation introduced after NO-DEAL, even if we thought it would damage our interests.

## **What about the US-UK relationship?**

President Trump has made it clear that his policy is US first in any trade deals, so expecting any favours may be unrealistic.

## **What about security and countering terrorism?**

In her speech in 2016 before the referendum, Mrs May, then Home Secretary said "*So my judgement, as Home Secretary, is that remaining a member of the European Union means we will be more secure from crime and terrorism.*".