

BRITAIN STRONGER IN EUROPE

EXPERTS ON INFLUENCE

In Britain, we choose to co-operate with our neighbours in Europe because it makes us stronger, safer and better off. Nobody forces us to do this and the EU does not control us. The UK is highly influential in the EU, and our membership amplifies our influence and power.

Key quotes

- **Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England:** “In my experience, we have substantial influence. We do not dictate, but we have substantial influence over the development of European regulation. [...], I would say that the UK has influenced the EU, which has influenced international best practice. This has been in our interest, given that we do host the leading international financial centre, which is a substantial multiple of our GDP.”
- **President Obama.** ‘Having the UK in the EU gives us much greater confidence about the strength of the transatlantic union, and is part of the cornerstone of the institutions built after [the second world war] that has made the world safer and more prosperous. We want to make sure that the United Kingdom continues to have that influence.’
- **Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General NATO.** ‘I believe that a strong Europe is good for NATO, and that a strong NATO is good for Europe. Based on that common understanding, we very much welcome that we are expanding our cooperation’
- **Prime Minister Modi.** (At a State Visit press conference with the PM) ‘If there is an entry point for us to the European Union, that is the UK...And if we have economic co-operation with any country then the largest economic co-operation is with the UK...Yes, we are going to other European Union countries as well, but we will continue to consider the UK as our entry point into the European Union as far as possible’

Key facts

The UK is influential within the EU.

- **The UK’s agenda is often served by EU legislation.** Our government’s priorities are closer to EU outcomes than most other EU governments – an independent study has shown that 73% of the time the UK preferred the policy of adopted legislation to the status quo.
- **The UK retains influence within the EU.** Independent studies have shown that the UK is on the winning majority side almost 9 out of 10 of the time in the EU Council.¹ The leave campaigns have claimed that the UK is outvoted in the EU Council, yet this has been rebutted by independent fact-checkers.²

¹ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/datablog/2015/nov/02/is-uk-winner-or-loser-european-council>

² https://fullfact.org/europe/eu_council_voting_uk_overruled_55-32228

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The UK has led on key policies at EU level.

- **The EU single market.** Margaret Thatcher was an enthusiastic supporter and key figure in driving the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade. She signed the Single European Act in 1985, laying the foundations for the single market which now drives prosperity and growth across Europe.
- **Free trade.** The EU has ambitious and deep free trade agreements with over 50 countries around the world, with many more are in the pipeline, including the United States, New Zealand, Australia and Japan. The UK has led the drive for these negotiations, and has been influential in accelerating the timing and number of deals. The EU would be more protectionist without the UK.
- **Sanctions.** The UK has lobbied and pressed hard for EU sanctions against countries like Russia, Syria, North Korea and Iran. The LSE has said that “no other European power arguably has played such an instrumental role in the use of EU sanctions as the UK”. Outside of the EU, we would lose the clout of a collective single market of 500 million people in applying these sanctions, which would mean the loss of a vital foreign policy pressure tool.
- **Services.** The UK has spearheaded the single market in services across the EU. An example of this is the UK’s Commissioner Jonathan Hill creating a Capital Markets Union for all of Europe, which will make it easier for small businesses to access venture capital finance.
- **Climate change.** The UK Government is a world leader on climate change, and our country is home to some of the best researchers and knowledge centres on this issue. We have successfully used this strong position to drive the EU’s ambitious approach to climate change, delivering not only the Emissions Trading Scheme, a pioneering cutting-edge policy framework to incentivise low emissions, but locking the EU into a firm commitment to reduce greenhouse emissions by 20% by 2020.

The UK has a unique deal, which gives us the best of both worlds – economic partnership with national control

- The Prime Minister’s renegotiation has agreed the UK will: never be part of the Euro; never be part of the Schengen borderless area; never be part of a European Army; and never be forced to bail out the Eurozone with our taxpayers’ money.