

 **SPRING CONFERENCE 2019 POLICY MOTION**

**Stop Brexit!**

**Conference observes tha**t:

A. The Conservative Government has failed to unite even its own party and, in an attempt to appease its extreme anti-EU wing, has set red lines separating the UK from its largest market and closest partners.

B. The Labour Party is also divided and led by Jeremy Corbyn, who says that the UK does not need to take part in European Parliament elections, so revealing that he accepts EU exit by 22 May without a People’s Vote, while his close allies in the Shadow Cabinet continue to say Labour wants to ‘respect’ the result of the 2016 referendum.

C. Liberal Democrats campaigned to stay in the EU during the 2016 referendum and have led the campaign for a People’s Vote with the option to stay in the EU.

D. The Welsh economy, consisting of businesses of many types and sizes, including agriculture, manufacturing and financial services, will suffer from leaving the EU on any foreseeable terms and is already beginning to suffer from the prospect of being separated from the EU’s Single Market and Customs Union.

E. The Government is requiring EU citizens (other than Irish citizens) to apply for pre-settled or settled status by 2021, with those who do not receive it because of lack of paperwork at risk of deportation – as happened to some long-term UK residents of the Windrush generation.

F. The European Court of Justice has ruled that the UK can unilaterally revoke Article 50 and over 6 million British people have signed the petition calling for such revocation.

G. European Parliament elections are due to take place on 23-26 May 2019, with new MEPs taking their seats on 2 July 2019 and the proposed new European Commissioners facing appointment hearings in the Autumn.

**Conference believes that**:

i) There is no deal that could be negotiated which might be more beneficial to the UK economy, environment and security than continued membership of the EU; therefore leaving the EU would be damaging to the UK’s fundamental national interests.

ii) The impact of losing influence on key decisions affecting our country – made by the EU or by international bodies in which the EU is a powerful player – would harm the prospects of future generations.

**Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:**

a) Fight for a People’s Vote enabling the public to choose between ‘the deal’ or the UK remaining a full member of the EU; with an extension of EU membership to enable that referendum to be held and the result implemented.

b) Campaign for Britain to remain a full and influential member of the EU.

c) Press the Government to remove the deadline for settled status applications, provide additional support to those who need it, enshrine in law the right to appeal for those whose applications are refused, and provide physical documentation to those who receive their settled status – all to provide assurance ahead of a decision on whether Brexit happens.

**Conference calls upon**:

1. Parliament to ensure that the Government seeks an extension of EU membership of sufficient length to enable a referendum to be held and the result implemented, to amend legislation to give effect to any such extension granted by the European Council and to make provision for a People’s Vote giving a choice between ‘the deal’ or the UK remaining a full member of the EU.

2. The Government to revoke the Article 50 notification if a situation arises where the UK could leave the EU within a week without having adopted a resolution approving a negotiated Withdrawal Agreement.

3. The Party speedily to adopt candidates for the European Parliament elections and to organise an effective campaign, so as to maximise UK representation within the large pan-European ALDE political group.

4. Members to continue the campaign to stop Brexit – through an extension of membership to hold a People’s Vote, election of Lib Dem MEPs and then winning a clear majority in that referendum.