

The UK-EU Balance sheet

| The Assets (Benefits) | The Liabilities (Obligations) |
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| <p>Our acquired rights to travel, live, work and study freely anywhere in the EU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enjoy visa free entry into any country within the EU and to work without the need for a work permit. • To retire to your country of choice with your pension protected whether paid by the UK or an EU state. • For our children to be able to attend any European school while parents live and work in the EU. • To have our secondary education qualifications gained in other EU countries recognised for access to UK universities and for our professional and educational qualifications to be recognised. • For university students to be able to benefit from the Erasmus student exchange programme, which currently allows periods of study or work abroad for between three and twelve months. <p>For the economy - unimpeded access to the markets of 27 other EU countries (population approximately 440 million) for goods and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting for 44% of the UK's total trade with all countries. • Including participation in free trade agreements that the EU has with 60 other countries. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The membership fee – approx. £9bn per annum which is a little under 0.5% of GDP but note: estimates of the impact of Brexit on GDP vary widely but most are negative up to as much as 6%. • Acceptance of EU laws and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice but note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU law-making is limited a) to areas defined in the treaties b) to what is necessary to achieve the objectives of those treaties and c) only where an action can be better achieved by the EU e.g. to secure the benefits opposite. • EU laws are proposed by the commission in consultation with member state governments and are approved by directly elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and by the heads of national government e.g. the Prime Minister. • Free movement of people but note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-EU immigration has consistently been higher than immigration from within the EU. • The EU's own rule whereby an EU migrant can be asked to leave if not in work or not self-supporting after three months has never been implemented in the UK. • Key sectors of the economy are reliant on workers from the EU for their effective and efficient functioning. • The UK is not in the Schengen area and so does not have open borders. |

- Including participation in significant FTA negotiations in progress with South America, Mexico, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.
- With a £14bn surplus on trade in services which accounts for 80% of the UK's economy.
- Facilitated by a Customs Union which has abolished customs duties and proof of origin checks for all goods crossing borders within the EU.

For the consumer:

- **Making our food safe** – The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) ensures quality and safety of food production and supply including animal feed
- **Making our medicines safe** – The European Medicines Agency (EMA) carries out scientific evaluation of all medicines developed by pharmaceutical companies for use in the EU.
- **Ensuring the safety of chemicals** – Risk assessment through REACH (Registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals) legislation and the advancement of the safe use of chemicals through the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).
- **Making flying safe** – The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) ensures airworthiness of aircraft, safe work time limits for air crew and safety compliance by third country operators.

- **A cooling-off period** – the right to return goods or cancel services purchased online, by mail order or door-to-door within fourteen days from receipt of goods, for a full refund.
- **A two-year guarantee** – on all goods purchased in the EU, for repair or replacement if faulty or not as advertised.

For the traveller:

- **Surcharge-free roaming** – “Roam Like at Home” (RLAH means no surcharges when making mobile phones anywhere within the EU.
- **The right to compensation** – for delays, cancellations and lost luggage for flights within the EU operated by any airline, or for flights arriving in the EU from outside the EU and operated by an EU airline or for a flight departing from the EU to a non-EU country operated by any airline.
- **The availability of low-cost air travel** – a product of the EU’s deregulation of Europe’s aviation market.
- **Emergency Health Care** – with the European Health Insurance Card which provides for reduced cost (or sometimes free) state-provided healthcare when travelling in the EU.
- **The freedom to shop and bring home goods from anywhere in the EU** (subject to laws concerning illegal or restricted items) without paying tariffs or excise duties.

For the environment:

- **Making our drinking water safe** – ensuring the quality of water intended for human consumption everywhere in the EU.
- **Ensuring safe and effective treatment of waste water** - before discharge into the water environment.
- **Managing pollution from agricultural nitrates** - through specific measures to identify vulnerable land and to be taken by farmers.
- **Providing us with clean beaches** – through rules to ensure that bathing waters are clean and which safeguard public health.

Protection for workers:

- **The right to a safe and healthy working environment** – concerning environment, equipment, hazardous materials, vulnerable workers.
- **A written statement setting out pay and working conditions** - within 28 days of starting work (under review for the inclusion of workers on zero-hours contracts and agency workers).
- **A maximum 48 hour working week** - and a statutory right to paid annual leave.
- **The right to take unpaid leave to look after a child** – up to 18 weeks per child up to the age of 18.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to equal pay for equal work - between men and women. • The right to equal opportunity and treatment - for men and women, pregnancy leave, maternity leave and paternity leave. • Protection against discrimination - based on gender, race, religion, age, disability or sexual orientation. <p>For safety and security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of Europol - the agency through which EU member states cooperate and share information. • Membership of Eurojust - through which the UK (CPS in particular) can partner with another EU country to facilitate the execution of European Arrest warrants and set up Joint Investigation Teams. • Access to the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) - which facilitates the exchange of information on convictions between member states. <p>For science and research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizon 2020 - The UK is a major recipient of funding via the EU's Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 programme. • Our membership of Euratom - supporting a secure and safe supply of isotopes for the various types of cancer treatment <p>..... and more</p> | |
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