Information Guide

The EU Referendum, 23 June 2016
The United Kingdom and the European Union
A guide to information sources
Part 1 – Before the referendum
Ian Thomson
Director, Cardiff EDC
The EU Referendum, 23 June 2016
The United Kingdom and the European Union

The Cardiff EDC can help you find information from all points of view on this important topic

Click on the images in this guide to link into a range of information sources

To find further information search in ESO

Updated to: 24 October 2016

+ An older version of this guide containing more links to sources published before 2016 is available
+ There is also a separate guide to information published after the Referendum
+ Some of the information from the campaigning organisations is no longer available (marked in this guide)
The EU Referendum, 23 June 2016
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Main sections in the guide

- Neutral sources
- Background and lead-up to the campaign
- UK Government sources
- UK Parliament sources
- Electoral Commission
- Political Parties
- Campaign Groups
- Stakeholders, think tanks and the International and regional perspectives
- News sources and social media
- Issues
- The Result
The EU Referendum, 23 June 2016
The United Kingdom and the European Union
Neutral sources
‘Neutral’ sources of information

EU Referendum
Whichever side you end up on, get the facts.

Neutral but...

In Facts
EU Referendum Hub

Not neutral but...

Neutral but...

Civitas EU Facts
The UK in a Changing Europe
EU Fact Check
THE CONVERSATION
EU Referendum
Sources of Information about the UK's Referendum on Membership of the EU

BBC
ITV News
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Background information and lead-up
The UK government carried out a review of the EU’s competences, which the Foreign Secretary launched in July 2012. This was an audit of what the EU does and how it affected the UK. It was seen as important that Britain had a clear sense of how its national interests interacted with the EU’s roles, particularly at a time of great change for the EU.

Government departments consulted Parliament and its committees, business, the devolved administrations, and civil society to look in depth at how the EU’s competences (the power to act in particular areas conferred on it by the EU Treaties) worked in practice.

The UK’s European partners and the EU institutions were also invited to contribute evidence to the review, and it also examined issues that were of interest across the EU, seeking to improve understanding and engagement.

UK Government departments then reported on areas of competence and their findings were published in four waves between 2012 and 2014.

The House of Lords EU Committee and various commentators noted that the results of the Review were largely positive of EU membership
European Union Referendum Act 2015

The European Union Referendum Act 2015 allows for the holding of a referendum in the United Kingdom and Gibraltar on whether the United Kingdom should remain a member of the European Union. The referendum should be held before the end of 2017.

The UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, announced on 23 January 2013 that if his party was elected to power following the next election expected in 2015, it would hold a referendum in the UK on European Union (EU) membership in the next Parliament.

Initially, a private members bill was introduced in 2013-14 by James Wharton, MP to allow for a referendum – it passed through the House of Commons but was defeated in the House of Lords in January 2014.

A new private members bill was introduced in session 2014-15 by Robert Neill, MP and was adopted as an Act in December 2015.

Find more information via ESO on the Referendum Act 2015.
EU reform negotiations: what's going on?

By Vaughne Miller

Inside:
1. What are the Government's proposed reforms?
2. Where does the detail?
3. Technical talks begin
4. UK scrutiny of the negotiations
5. What is happening in the EU institutions?
6. The campaign begins
7. Public Opinion

What happened 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

Visions of EU reform inquiry

Inquiry status: open - accepting written submissions

Call for evidence published.

Scope of the Inquiry

The Inquiry is exploring the vision for the future of the EU that the UK Government is seeking to realise through its current reform proposals, ahead of the referendum on UK membership to be held by the end of 2017. The Committee is assessing the extent to which there is consensus on the long-term direction of the EU, within the UK, the EU institutions and across the 28 EU Member States.
The United Kingdom and the European Union

What is happened 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

Tuesday, 10 November 2015
Cameron’s Chatham House speech: Full speed ahead for the renegotiation of the UK’s EU membership?
The United Kingdom and the European Union

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

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

Electoral Commission to open registration for EU Referendum campaigners

United Kingdom : Referendum on EU membership
What happened in the negotiations, January 2016
+ UK PM David Cameron has meetings with Presidents of the European Commission and European Parliament, 29 January 2016, and meeting with President of the European Council, 31 January 2016
+ President of European Council, Donald Tusk, circulates details of a draft settlement to EU Member States, 2 February 2016
UK negotiated with EU and other Member States – European Council, 18-19 February 2016

What happened in the negotiation 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

The UK and the European Union

PM’s statement following European Council meeting: 19 February 2016

What did the UK achieve in its EU renegotiation?

The UK Government has now wrapped up its EU renegotiation ahead of the referendum. Open Europe lays out its take on the renegotiation and sets this in the broader context of the UK’s position in the EU and the upcoming referendum.

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
David Cameron announced the date of the EU referendum – the campaign began.

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. 23 June 2016 is announced as the date of the EU referendum.


Find more information in ESO.
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UK Government sources
The United Kingdom and the European Union

On Thursday 23rd June 2016 the UK will vote either to remain in or leave the European Union. Find out why the Government believes we should remain.

Topics:
- Jobs and trade
  Our EU membership helps strengthen the UK's economy
- Safety and security
  EU membership keeps us safer
- Improving our lives
- What happens if we leave?
  Voting to leave the EU could result in 10 years or more of uncertainty
- What is the EU?
  Find out more about the EU and the Single Market

Why the Government believes that voting to remain in the European Union is the best decision for the UK.

The UK Government campaigned to 'remain' in the EU.
HM Government published a series of Policy Papers, February-June 2016

The best of both worlds: the United Kingdom's special status in a reformed European Union

HM Treasury analysis: the long-term economic impact of EU membership and the alternatives

Rights and obligations of European Union membership

The process for withdrawing from the European Union

Alternatives to membership: possible models for the United Kingdom outside the European Union

HM Treasury analysis: the immediate economic impact of leaving the EU

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The impact of a sterling depreciation on the costs of a family shop on food, non-alcoholic drink, clothing and footwear

The impact of a depreciation in the sterling exchange rate

1.1 A range of nominal studies have estimated that leaving the EU would lead to a fall in the value of the pound of 10% on average.

1.2 As shown in Table 1.1, a 10% fall in the price of sterling would increase the cost of a typical household shopping basket by around £200-400 per year. The cost of clothing and footwear spending increases by around £150-300 over the same period.

1.3 According to ONS statistics, an average 2.3 adult 2.2 child household spends £390 per week on food and non-alcoholic drink, and £320 a week on clothing and footwear.

1.4 An exchange rate depreciation would lead to an increase in the cost of imports relatively quickly, but the full effect would take some time to pass through. This analysis is based on a 2.3 year horizon, by which time most of the effect would have passed through consumer prices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual change in 2014 (£)</th>
<th>Annual increase in 2 years after depreciation (£)</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
<th>Per cent change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food and drink</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and footwear</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ONS Family Spending 2017

Technical note on methodology

1.5 This methodology is based on the assumption that the UK would join the sliding scale of the EU, which would have had a significant impact on consumer prices. The full methodology is given in Appendix A.

Regional output and house price impacts from leaving the EU

1.2 Analysis published by HM Treasury shows that a vote to leave the EU would have on UK output and house prices. The ‘no deal’ scenario, after two years, GDP would be around 4% lower and house prices would be 10% lower compared with what is expected in the EU. This note uses simple methodology to provide estimates of the impact at a regional level on the assumption that the regional effects are proportional to those at the UK level.

Impact of a vote to leave the EU on regional Gross Value Added

1.3 The estimated impact on output (as measured by gross value added) for each region and country of the EU is given in Table 1.4. The portfolio of goods that cannot be assigned to regions (which is largely offshore economic activity, such as oil and gas extraction) is also shown.

Table 1.6: Impact of leaving the EU on regional GVA after two years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>GDP Impact (£ mil)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>-1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>+0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>+0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HM Government published a series of Policy Papers, February-June 2016
The United Kingdom and the European Union

UK Government campaigned to ‘remain’ in the EU – for more...
UK Government campaigned to ‘remain’ in the EU – for more...
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UK Parliament sources

• Select Committee reports
• Library publications
The United Kingdom and the European Union

European Union Committee
9th Report of Session 2015–16

The EU referendum and EU reform

Ordered to be printed 22 March 2016 and published 30 March 2016

Published by the Authority of the House of Lords
London : The Stationery Office Limited

House of Lords
European Union Committee
11th Report of Session 2015–16

The process of withdrawing from the European Union

Ordered to be printed 28 April 2016 and published 4 May 2016

Published by the Authority of the House of Lords

House of Lords
Science and Technology Select Committee
2nd Report of Session 2015–16

EU membership and UK science

Ordered to be printed 12 April 2016 and published 28 April 2016

Published by the Authority of the House of Lords

Information sources from UK Parliament: Committees: 2016 reports
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Information sources from UK Parliament: Committees: 2016 reports
The United Kingdom and the European Union

House of Commons Library produced many informative sources on the EU referendum and the Brexit debate

Information sources from UK Parliament: Library
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Information sources from UK Parliament: Library
The EU Referendum, 23 June 2016
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Electoral Commission
The UK’s Electoral Commission played an important role in the running of the EU Referendum

- Assessment of the Question asked
- Choice of the ‘lead’ campaign organisations
- Publication of a voter guide
- Details of donations and loans received by campaign organisations
The EU Referendum, 23 June 2016

The United Kingdom and the European Union

Political Parties
What is the SNP’s position on the EU?

The SNP believes that membership of Europe Union is in Scotland’s best interests. There are a huge number of benefits for Scotland from EU membership including that the EU is the main destination for Scotland’s international exports and as citizens of the EU we are able to travel freely throughout Europe - for work, study or travel - without the need for visas. The SNP doesn’t believe the EU is perfect and agree that it needs reform but the SNP wants Scotland to have a louder voice in Europe - an increased contribution to EU policy making and an opportunity to be part of discussions about reform, rather than becoming even more distant by removing ourselves altogether.
The EU Referendum, 23 June 2016
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Campaigning groups for Remain and Leave
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Vote Leave, take control

BRITAIN STRONGER IN EUROPE

July 2016: Note that the websites of some of the campaign groups were withdrawn soon after the referendum. Archives of some of these can be found here

Information sources from the ‘lead’ campaign groups
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Campaigning to remain in the EU...

The website of ‘Business for New Europe’ is currently unavailable.
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Campaigning to remain in the EU...
The United Kingdom and the European Union

- Campaigning to leave the EU...

The website ‘www.theknow.eu’ is currently unavailable.
The group did not run an official website.
The website ‘liberalleave.org’ is currently unavailable.
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Campaigning to leave the EU...
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Stakeholders, think tanks and the International and regional perspectives

An older version of this guide contains more links to sources published before 2016
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Stakeholders and interests:
- The City of London
- The United Kingdom
- The European Union

See more on this topic in ESO
Stakeholders: Business

The UK's relationship with the European Union
What does business really think about the EU and why?
Author: Alle Leimon

British Chambers of Commerce
EU referendum briefings

fsb
Experts in Business
EU Referendum

Leaving the EU: Implications for the UK economy

BRITAIN STRONGER IN EUROPE
Vote Leave, take control
Stakeholders: Trade Unions

UNISON to campaign for the UK to stay in Europe

The UK VOTES 23 JUNE 2016
UNITE MEMBERS SUPPORT THE EU
JOBS & RIGHTS RELY ON EU MEMBERSHIP
UNITE WILL CAMPAIGN FOR REMAIN
FOLLOW YOUR UNION FOR ALL REFERENDUM NEWS

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01HRS WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE 2016

TUC

BETTER OFF IN
Working people and the case for remaining in the EU
Stakeholders and interests: The UK should leave the EU
Stakeholders and interests: The UK should leave the EU
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Stakeholders and interests: The debate continued …
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Stakeholders and interests: The debate continued …
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Stakeholders and interests: The debate continued…
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England – Scotland – Wales – Northern Ireland
The United Kingdom and the European Union

The BREXIT Debate: Northern Ireland

Starting gun to a referendum or a ticking time-bomb?

By Dr Lee McGowan, senior lecturer in European Studies at Queen’s University Belfast

Sinn Féin calls for vote on Irish reunification if UK backs Brexit

The EU referendum and potential implications for Northern Ireland

This paper examines the debate surrounding the EU referendum and the potential implications of that vote on Northern Ireland, focusing on trade and investment.
The United Kingdom and the European Union

The Scottish Government

The Scottish Parliament

The Telegraph

The CONVERSATION

The UK in a Changing Europe

The BREXIT Debate: Scotland [Find more in ESO]
The United Kingdom and the European Union

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 [Find more in ESO]
The United Kingdom and the European Union

The international perspective – International organisations
The United Kingdom and the European Union

**BREXIT could be expensive – especially for the United Kingdom...**

Exiting the EU could cost the United Kingdom more than €300 billion. The remaining EU member states would also experience minor economic losses from Brexit. But elections in the British House of Commons could be a cause for a bitter economic and above all political setback for the entire EU.

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**US President Obama urges UK not to leave EU**

7 June 2016 Last updated at 22:51 BST
Barack Obama has pressed David Cameron to maintain Britain’s commitment to meeting the Nato target of spending 2% of GDP on defence.

**Barack Obama is wrong about Brexit**

By Nick Gardiner on 10 June 2016
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

International views
The United Kingdom and the European Union

EU-India relations: Why Narendra Modi is likely to make the case against Brexit on his visit to the UK

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

US warns Britain: If you leave EU you face barriers to trading with America

Trade representative Michael Froman says UK would face same tariffs and barriers as China, Brazil or India in the event of Brexit

As your friend, let me say that the EU makes Britain even greater

BARACK OBAMA
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

21 APRIL 2016 • 10:30PM

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

CEPS SPECIAL REPORT
Thinking ahead for Europe

The EU deal to avoid Brexit: Take it or leave
Stefani Weiss and Steven Blockmans
No. 131 / February 2016

Abstract
Beyond the drama of the European Council summit of 18-19 February 2016, what became clear was the fundamental desire on the part of the leaders of all 28 EU member states to agree on a deal on the British government’s demands for a re-negotiated settlement on the UK’s relationship within the European Union. The deal has provided David Cameron with the political capital he needed to call a date for the in/out referendum and to launch a campaign for the UK to stay in the EU. Yet, for all the technical reforms packed into it, the deal is neither a crowd pleaser nor a vote winner. It does, however, mark a watershed acknowledgement that EU integration is not a one-directional process of ‘ever closer union’. Different paths of integration are now open to member states that do not compel them towards a common destination. This deal will effectively lead to a legally binding recognition that the UK is not committed to further political integration in the EU.

In this Special Report, Stefani Weiss and Steven Blockmans analyse the substance of the “Declaration of Heads of State or Government, meeting within the European Council, concerning a New Settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union” and shed light on its legal character. They do so by contextualising this EU deal to avoid Brexit, and draw on the conclusions reached in a simulation of European Council negotiations between representatives of think tanks in the European Policy Institute Network (EPIN), conducted by CEPS and the Bertelsmann Stiftung in October 2015.

Post-Summit Commentary
22 February 2016

Brexit averted through EU reform?
Falko Zieweg

After some drama, the EU Summit produced the expected result: an agreement on the UK-EU relationship that broadly reflects the demands Prime Minister Cameron set out in his letter to President Trump in November 2016. This includes all of the UK’s demands clamped to the UK’s demands for the UK to stay in the EU. Yet, for all the technical reforms packed into it, the deal is neither a crowd pleaser nor a vote winner. It does, however, mark a watershed acknowledgement that EU integration is not a one-directional process of ‘ever closer union’. Different paths of integration are now open to member states that do not compel them towards a common destination. This deal will effectively lead to a legally binding recognition that the UK is not committed to further political integration in the EU.

A domestic affair

With this deal, the rest of the EU did what it could to encourage a positive outcome of the referendum. Unless the deal unravels in some way, which is unlikely in this short timeframe, the focus of the debate will now be exclusively on the UK itself. The deal is unlikely to have a lot of resonance with the general public, with drama and counter-drama over the next few days, which is likely to be more relevant in a referendum campaign.

The debate in the UK will, most likely, focus on immigration. While opponents of EU membership will argue that this is about staying in a reformed EU, the debates in the UK will, most likely, focus on immigration and economic issues. While opponents of EU membership will argue that only a Brexit can restore sovereignty and thus control over the UK’s borders, the proponents of EU membership will focus on the inherent uncertainty of leaving the EU and the risks that it poses for growth and jobs.

Neither campaign is likely to look at the fundamental question in today’s world, how do you deal with the kind of cross-border challenges that cannot be addressed at the national level? While the EU is certainly not perfect, it provides the only available instrument for European countries. In other words, what is the alternative to EU membership?

An uncertain outcome

Referendums are difficult to predict, with momentum, internal — including the populism of the Prime Minister — and external factors, such as migrant flows or the overall state of the EU, likely to play a significant role. It will probably be a close-run affair, with no decisive majority emerging for either side. Much will hinge on participation: the silent majority is likely to be decisive, and they are more likely to back the remain campaign.

There are going to be big regional differences, with Scotland likely to vote decisively to stay in, raising the spectrum of a new independence referendum if the overall vote backs Brexit. Much of Northern Ireland is likely to be opposed to EU membership, with the exception of London, where participation is likely to be lower in the Midlands and the North of England. EU membership itself is not likely to be decisive, but migration could be.

Brexit: Strategic Consequences for Europe
A Scenario Study
Peter van Harn

Clingendael Report

The international perspective

ECFR & BREXIT

CEPS & BREXIT
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News Sources and Social Media
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Follow EU referendum messages on social media

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

News sources: BREXIT / EU Referendum Tag Links

Not all news sources use ‘Tags’
The EU Referendum, 23 June 2016
The United Kingdom and the European Union

Issues
Issues: Public opinion

The website of ‘www.businessforneweurope.org’ is currently unavailable.
Issues: The origin of UK Law: what % from the EU?

Find more information in ESO on this topic

Is two thirds of UK law made by the EU?
Issues: Costs of membership

Fact Check: how much does the UK actually pay to the EU?

The UK budget – a tough nut for the UK?

Lies, damned lies and statistics on the UK's EU membership

Vote Leave: Briefing - Cost

The UK's EU membership fee
Issues:
Migration / Free Movement

The webpage ‘www.migrationwatchuk.org/eu-referendum’ is currently unavailable.
The EU Referendum, 23 June 2016
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The Result
See separate Part 2 guide
The EU Referendum, 23 June 2016
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Miscellaneous
The title of this book changed from ‘Brexit: How Britain Will Leave Europe’ to ‘Brexit: How Britain Left Europe’ after the referendum.
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Books

IN or OUT? Europe in Cartoons

Brexit Beckons: Thinking ahead by leading economists
EU Referendum, 23 June 2016

Guide to Information Sources

Legal Deposit UK Web Archive

Archive-It: UK European Union Membership Referendum – has saved for posterity much information from the referendum campaign which might disappear

Archiving for posterity information from the EU Referendum
The Cardiff EDC provides a professional and neutral information service on the European Union and the wider Europe

Enquiry service – Find information: European Sources Online – Events

Further information: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/european-documentation-centre
Blog: http://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/european-documentation-centre/