

# Vision for the UK remaining in the EU

## Interconnected World

- The world is ever more interconnected. The resulting opportunities and problems are best addressed by more co-operation between countries and regions.
- The European Union provides an important framework to take advantage of opportunities and to solve problems
- EU membership involves handing over some of our sovereignty. This is nothing unique – the UK has 700 treaties limiting sovereignty (e.g. an attack on a NATO member commits us to war without any parliamentary vote)

## Democratic Control

- EU laws are passed by groups with UK elected representatives: the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament
- Rather than leave the EU, we should improve it, particularly its accountability (the “democratic deficit”)
- The right of a majority of national parliaments to overturn legislation is being implemented
- We can improve communication with our MEPs and so hold them more to account
- The number of regulations issued is reducing and red tape can be further cut at EU (and UK) levels

## Opportunities

- The EU offers
  - free movement for travel, work and retirement
  - international trade
  - scientific co-operation
  - cultural richness
  - shared security
- A co-ordinated approach by the EU, with its resources and 22% of world GDP, can significantly help deal with:
  - “Footloose finance”: controlling illegal flows of finance, taxing multinationals fairly and promoting competition need blocks of countries with sufficient power who are able to act together
  - Climate change: the EU continues to push and legislate for reduced pollution and more efficient energy usage (yes, even in hairdryers)

## Immigration

- High levels of immigration solves shortages of skilled workers but creates problems. These problems will exist even outside the EU since net migration from non-EU countries is 180,000 per year. Solutions include:
  - Training UK workers in the necessary skills and by paying a decent wage so that they can take available jobs
  - Using money from the increased GDP provided by immigration to increase resources in areas with a significant influx

- Requiring immigrants to learn English and UK citizenship and ruling out segregation in public services e.g. schools. British culture has successfully absorbed foreign influence for centuries, from Norman architecture to curry
- Building enough (affordable) houses

## EU expansion

- The EU shares a concept of “Western civilization” built up over 2000 years with a core set of values including democracy, freedom of speech and individual rights
- New entrants must adopt European standards in many areas (35 for Turkey) from justice and fundamental rights, through competition policy to food safety and environmental controls.

## Conclusion

- Either outcome in the referendum will require hard work and brave decisions to tackle national and international problems. There are no instant solutions
- Working together in the EU will avoid a “race to the bottom” in terms of inter-country barriers including border controls.
- Shared beliefs and interests allow us to work together and make necessary compromises despite inevitable disagreements
- I believe remaining in the EU gives us the firmest foundation for future challenges and opportunities.

Roger Stone

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