

A summary of the Advantages of the UK Leaving the EU

Sovereignty

- UK Parliament would make and amend all laws in future, and only make laws needed by the UK; the result would be a reduction in the rate of growth of new laws in the future. [nb: currently many EU regulations / directives get incorporated into UK law automatically without going through the UK Parliament]
- We would not need to worry about future erosion of our sovereignty
- We would not be locked into an ever-increasing undemocratic organisation.
- We would not need to worry about winning our arguments with 27 other nations within the EU (ie EU Parliament and Council), in which we are seldom successful.
- We would not be fined for breaking EU laws (which happened 23 times in the period 2009-2014)
- There should be reduced costs to UK businesses as a result of the removal of much of the EU 'red-tape'.

Fiscal and political union

- The UK would not be sucked into problems with EU fiscal union and the euro.

Immigration

- UK could control immigration from EU countries, possibly using a points based system related to actual labour requirements.

Membership fees

- Leaving means the UK does not need to pay membership fees to the EU, saving c. £8Bn pa in the current year (after rebate and funds remitted back to UK as part of common agricultural policy, R&D grants etc). The saving could be used in various ways such as to remove 5%VAT on domestic fuel (cost estimated at £1.2Bn), increase expenditure for the NHS and border controls etc., up to a total of £8Bn. This assumes the same level of funding for farmers and on R&D as currently funded by the EU.
- The UK would not, in the future, be subsidising farmers in mainland Europe, which increases family food costs in the UK by £400 pa more than if we were out of the EU.
- We would not need to worry about EU membership fees, which are steadily increasing, in the future.

Trade

- We would be free to negotiate our own trade agreements with countries outside the EU, potentially on better terms.
- Independent of the EU the UK would be a world force and able to represent its views directly (and not via the EU as now) with its own seat at international bodies such as the World Trade Organisation etc.
- The UK would not need to worry about the possible economic decline of the EU as an integral member, nor the poor lack of progress in agreeing trade deals with the likes of Japan, India and the UAE.

Defence

- We would not be obliged to join the proposed new EU defence force.