

## MYTHS AND MYTH BUSTERS OF STAYING IN THE EU

No more internet ‘me-me’s – just facts!

MYTH	MYTH BUSTER
<p><b>COST OF EU MEMBERSHIP FEE</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We would save <b>£350million a week</b> (£18 billion a year) which is the cost of our EU Membership fee....</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimated total cost of complying with EU regulations to UK (100 most substantial EU regulations over past 8 years) is <b>£33billion a year/</b> (£640million a week- 2% of GDP!!!)</li> </ul> <p><i>But benefits of these rules..£58.6billion a year!!!</i> Benefits from where there are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rules to protect workers</li> <li>Rules to improve environment</li> <li>Rules to stop banks needing bailouts</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...the £350 million a week figure includes the famous rebate negotiated by Margaret Thatcher -a rebate of £85million a week!!!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Leave campaigns’ figure of a £350million a week saving has assumed that we would continue to receive the rebate even if we leave the EU. The largest feasible claim the leave campaign can make is that the UK would save £275 million a week by leaving the EU.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EU also spends money in the UK to support some of our industries and aid poorer regions. In 2014 this amounted to £140 million a week, so if we were to continue supporting those parts of our country after leaving, we would save £135 million a week in total.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This also assumes that the UK would not continue to have to pay EU fees to access the single market as Norway and Switzerland do.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This money will be spent on the NHS...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assumes the UK wouldn’t have to replace any of the money the EU currently spends</li> </ul>

	<p>on British farmers and aid to poorer British regions, particularly West Wales, the Welsh valleys and Cornwall (c. £90million a week was received in 2014) and also to British businesses (c£50million a week was received in 2014).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £135m is STILL a lot of money to be sending to the EU every week..</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £135m a week is about 30p each, per day. By no means a small amount, but also not life changing either.</li> </ul>

**ECONOMIC FORECASTS TO 2030**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household income will reduce by “£4,300per household...” Chancellor George Osborne</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Conflated GDP with household income...by dividing GDP loss by the number of households”. Editor, Spectator.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GDP will be 6% smaller in 15 years time – after 15years the economy would be each year around £115 billion smaller (than it would be if we had stayed in the EU). This would be more than 10x larger than the current EU membership fee- Treasury models</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 years is a long time to make a prediction for anyone- nobody knows with 100% certainty what will happen!</li> <li>• The overwhelming majority of economic and financial experts say that leaving the EU will have an overall negative effect at least in the short to medium time due to economic uncertainty</li> <li>• Short term loss to growth agreed by Leave campaigners too- 2% to 3% or £40bn to £60bn a year- several times more than any reasonable estimate of our annual contributions to EU</li> </ul>

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**TRADE**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaving the EU will allow trade to increase with the rest of the world</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone agrees if we leave the EU trade will fall with the EU- and Trade is good for economy</li> <li>• Treasury model also presumes that inward</li> </ul>
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	<p>investment would fall eg multinational car manufacturers may not want trade outside of the EU single market</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership of EU makes it more difficult to export to places outside of EU e.g. China</li> <li>• Membership of EU makes it more difficult for the UK to be an export Powerhouse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been a major slow down in economic growth of most of emerging markets, except India.</li> <li>• From the US’s experience, trade deals with the EU took a while to get implemented- negotiating not over tariffs, but of difficult issues of standards, eg labour, product, agricultural, environmental, etc.</li> <li>• The UK has less to offer another country than the EU as a whole, reducing our bargaining power. Negotiations will likely result in less favorable terms.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freer trade allows us to buy products from overseas – and scrap trade barriers “Customs union erects a fairly substantial trade barrier around the single market”. Professor Patrick Minford, Cardiff Business school.</li> <li>• ‘Because of the gain to importers, the lower prices they pay, we get a much better economy in which there’s more growth, more jobs, more productivity and the quantity involved quite substantial about 4% GDP. Professor Patrick Minford, Cardiff Business school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we really think Politicians would embrace free trade outside the EU – it would most likely eliminate industries except design, marketing and high tech</li> <li>• Even if we unilaterally liberalised all tariff barriers by the UK, to all countries across the world, most economists agree we will STILL see a 1% drop in GDP.</li> <li>• Free trade with the rest of the world could cause the collapse of our industries as we would be unable to compete with countries that have lower standards (worker rights, living standards, etc.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>LAW &amp; BUREAUCRACY</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A large percent of UK laws arise from EU “70,75%, etc...” eroding the sovereignty and Westminster government</li> <li>• A video posted on facebook by The Daily Express highlights the statistics of the House of Commons library borrowed from a documentary on the EU by Jeremy Paxman “When they (House of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The House of Commons library estimate that if you include only the cases where British laws are in some way influenced by European rules, this accounts for roughly 15% of our laws. You get a much higher figure, 55% if you include EU regulation (which automatically applies to member states. Compare with EU rules, which EU member states must enact by</li> </ul>

<p>Commons library) used figures from 2010-2013... they calculated a whopping 59% (of UK laws come from the EU)...”</p>	<p>legislation to meet those rules, giving us more flexibility over how they are implemented). Fullfact, an independent fact checking website, contrasts merger regulations, which govern circumstances in which huge multi-national companies can take over each other with other regulations on customs codes- things like assigning a customs code to a flashing plastic skull.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Daily Express cut off Jeremy Paxman before he finished his point! He went on to say “We get all the regulations but some of them like the production of olive oil or growing tobacco clearly don’t apply to us...so the figure of 59% may be a gross exaggeration...it is impossible to get an accurate measurement”</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We don’t need help from Brussels. Most of the international regulation made at global level ie organisations like the International Labour Organisation or the UN’s Economic Commision for Europe</li> <li>• Too many regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are pretty adept at making our own onerous regulations without the help of the EU</li> <li>• Our domestic planning system already prevents us from building houses or expanding airports and is nothing to do with EU</li> <li>• The complexity of our tax system is mostly nothing to do with EU, to do with tax rules imposed by the Chancellor</li> <li>• National minimum wages are imposed by the Chancellor</li> <li>• The OECD measures regulation across countries. They find that for the two most important measures – product market regulation and labour market regulation – the UK has less onerous regulations than most other industrial countries, both inside and outside the EU.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We do not subscribe to the single currency.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2014, Nigel Farage said that the UK has been outvoted 55 times..this has since been extended to 72 times (by the Vote leave campaign) that the UK has been opposed by the EU – which goes back to 1996.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An EU vote watcher who analyses votes carried out over last two European parliaments agrees that the number of times the UK has voted no is 58. The discrepancy is because the Leave campaign included more data in their analysis, but were not forthcoming when asked to produce that data.</li> <li>We are outvoted 3 or 4 times a year. These laws that were passed were on obscure laws, including the famous EU bananas, which has since been removed.</li> <li>The UK has voted yes to 2,466 policies, comparatively higher than voting no. UK has been in the majority on almost 2,500 occasions</li> <li>UK has voted no or abstained most frequently on EU policies, since 2009 compared with other countries. France has only voted no once since 2009, but it has abstained on many occasions so they do not put it on voting records necessarily but have written statements of complaint.</li> <li>The current UK government have taken a stance that it will more readily report opposition to EU legislation than previous governments so we see the UK government voting No on more legislation than any other government. This does not reflect that the UK has lacked influenced because EU laws are shaped before they reach a final vote.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verbose regulations of bureaucrats, “26911 words on regulation of sale of cabbage”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The is no specific regulation on sale of cabbage. There was originally a <i>US regulation</i> during WW2 (pre-EU) and was 2,600 words on regulation of sale of cabbage to limit the price of cabbage seed</li> </ul>
<p><b>IMMIGRATION</b></p>	

<p>Current levels of migration are completely unsustainable.</p>	<p>Neither of two prominent Leave campaigns have suggested that migration would stop altogether, just that it would happen differently and would be more targeted to bring in skills the country needs.</p> <p>One of leave campaigners Andrew Lilico believes that long term, the number of migrants coming in to the UK after Brexit wouldn't change although we might take more migrants from outside Europe. He believes that some parts of UK need more, not less, immigration. He also expects that once we left the EU, we would have 2-3 years of the government showing it could get migration down into the 10s of 1000s just enough to prove that it could do it and once it has proved it could do it would allow things to become more relaxed again.</p> <p>Evidence suggest immigration is more benefit to economy. Immigrants have higher employment rates than native population.</p> <p>If we were like Norway and Switzerland, as part of a deal to continue to have access in single market we would STILL have to allow free movement</p> <p>There has been about 160% increase in immigration, mostly between 2004-2009, from countries particularly Poland and also Romania joining the EU having access to UK market. Also older EU countries like Spain, Italy and Portugal where unemployment has been high recently. Madeleine Sumption, Director of Migration Observatory.</p>
	<p>Net migration is 200,000-300,000 a year (over half from outside EU) – over past decade or so-high by historic standards. In 2015, net migration 333,000, net migration from EU 184,000. International Passenger survey.</p> <p>DWP, which gives out NI numbers – recorded 630,000 EU citizens registered between March 2015 and March 2016 compared with the figure 270,000 EU citizens that migrated to UK, International Passenger survey The gap between official longterm immigration figures and DWP figures is probably due to short term immigration (less than a year)</p>

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