

1922 Remain in the EU passed 12 May 2016

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Union Notes:

1. The UK government is going to hold a referendum on whether or not the UK should remain a member of the European Union. This referendum will take place on the 23. June 2016.
2. The National Union of Students has policy in support of the remaining in the European Union and the President of the National Union of Students (NUS), Megan Dunn, has joined the national campaign to keep the UK in the EU.
3. Other figures to publicly support the 'In' campaign have included Green MP Caroline Lucas, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Unite General Secretary Len McCluskey.
4. Universities UK, the organisation representing the UK's universities and to which UEA is a member of, has not only joined the national campaign to keep UK in the EU, but also launched the Universities for Europe campaign.
5. Thousands of students at UEA are from other EU member states.
6. In 2011--2012, EU students' spending generated £2.27 billion for the UK economy and 19,000 British jobs in local communities.
7. Many EU students go onto positions of leadership in their home countries, such as the current Presidents of Portugal and Ireland, the Prime Minister of Malta, the Finnish Finance Minister, the CEOs of H&M and General Motors; thus enhancing the UK's diplomatic and commercial links in Europe and beyond.
8. If the UK leaves the EU, UK universities would lose access to the €80 billion endowed Horizon--2020 research funding scheme.
9. 11% of UK Higher Education institutions' income from research grants & contracts comes from EU bodies, which represents 16% of universities' total income. This percentage has steadily increased from 7.6% in 2007.
10. The UK directly benefits from £1.2 billion annually in European research funding and is the largest beneficiary of EU research funds to universities".
11. This represents an extra 15% in addition to the UK Government's own science and research budget.
12. The Erasmus programme has benefitted over 200 000 British students and over 20 000 British university staff to date. The number of UK students on the Erasmus programme has more than doubled since 2006/07. In fact, just shy of 15,000 UK students studied in the EU in 2012 alone – students who were free to study and not struggling and having to spend money on expensive visas.
13. Students who complete an Erasmus exchange programme are 23% less likely to be unemployed 5 years after graduation and 50% less likely to experience long--term unemployment.
14. In addition, they are more likely to be engaged in further study, and those in employment have above--average salaries.
15. There are currently two prominent organisations campaigning for a 'remain' vote in the forthcoming referendum – *Britain Stronger in Europe* and *Another Europe is Possible*

Union Believes:

1. That the UK's continued membership of the European Union is therefore in the interests of UEA and its students.
2. The EU supports our education sector in Britain and ploughs close to a billion pounds a year into higher education funding and research alone.
3. Significant advances in workers' rights, environmental regulation and on liberation issues have been achieved through our membership of the European Union, including the Working Time Directive.
4. Leaving the European Union would lead to a race to the bottom on immigration rhetoric, leading to tighter border controls, more aggressive deportations and regressive curbs on migrant rights.
5. UEA prides itself in its diversity and being able to attract the world's best academics to teach its students, contribute to UEA's cultural and academic life and produce world-class research. Students and academics from other countries enrich the academic experience and campus life of home UK students.
6. UEA Students' Union and other students unions across the UK should be a strong and positive voice for EU membership throughout the campaign leading up to the EU referendum.
7. In the context of UK budgetary constraints, EU research funding represents an increasingly crucial source of research income for UK universities. EU funding now provides an additional 15% on top of the UK Government's own science and research budget.
8. Ensuring that UK students and researchers can still benefit from this funding is of vital importance.
9. Studying and working abroad through the Erasmus programme enables students to learn, become more internationally minded and more employable in today's increasingly competitive and international employment market.
10. We need to protect the Erasmus grants which UK students receive when going to study or work abroad as part of their course at university. Without this funding, many students would not be able to afford studying abroad as part of their course.
11. Beyond economic considerations, the UK and its people share more with Europe than with any other group of countries in the world. As students at UEA we know more than anyone that links between people enhance international understanding and contribute to peace and prosperity.
12. Although it is far from perfect, this is exactly why the EU is precious; it brings people together and takes great pride in its diversity.
13. As the next generation of European citizens, we want the UK to be a strong voice at the heart of this unique community of shared values and help shape its future.
14. In spite of what has been achieved through the European Union, it is, as an institution, fundamentally flawed.
15. There is substantial democratic deficit within the European Union – opinion polls show that roughly 1 in 10 people are able to name their representatives within the European parliament, major decisions are made by unelected and unaccountable bodies such as the European Commission, and significant aspects of EU work is decided and discussed behind closed doors, with members of the public across Europe unable to scrutinise this.
16. A central existing problem within the EU is the disparity between the level of access to decision makers between lobbyists and corporations and that of ordinary citizens of the EU.

17. Although there have been fantastic achievements made through the EU as described above, much of the legislative agenda and work undertaken by the European Union has been shown to be regressive, promoting free market economics, perilous austerity across the Eurozone and has created a climate of 'fortress Europe' around issues of migration and asylum.
18. Treaties such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership have the potential to be extremely damaging to progressive policies across Europe and would seek to undermine attempts to ensure public services are publicly run publicly funded without the influences of private enterprise and the profit motive, as well as causing a race to the bottom on environmental and workers' rights regulations.
19. The correct way to address these problems within the institution, however, is not to move towards isolationism and withdraw from the European Union.
20. There are countless issues which cannot be solved by the outdated concept of the nation state. Workers' rights, human rights, peace and justice, climate change and security require collaboration between nations.
21. There is a progressive case for Britain's membership of the European Union. This would consist of a vision for a reformed Europe, based on principles of international solidarity, of radical democratisation and of environmental and social responsibility.
22. The Britain Stronger in Europe campaign is an organisation which is based on supporting the status quo with regards to membership of the EU referendum, and does not propose any agenda for reform of the institution.
23. The status quo in Europe is not progressive, and if we are to campaign for a 'remain' vote, we should be doing so by making the case for a new and reformed Europe.
24. The Another Europe is Possible campaign is making an effective case for Britain's membership of the EU based on the principles outlined above.
25. To endorse and support the Remain campaign through all the duration of the run-up to the EU Referendum, utilising the values outlined above, set for the 23 June 2016.

Union Resolves:

1. To endorse and support the Remain campaign through all the duration of the run-up to the national referendum on the renegotiated terms of Britain's EU membership, set for the 23 June 2016.
2. To mandate the Campaigns and Democracy Officer to publicly issue a statement, on behalf of the Union, supporting the United Kingdom's continued membership of the European Union, as set out in this policy.
3. To mandate all SU officers to lobby the University to consistently and vocally speak out in favour of the UK staying in the European Union and about the benefits to students of remaining in.
4. To affiliate to the Another Europe is Possible campaign and support the aims it espouses.