

Dear Friend,

Our recent meeting in the rooms of the English-Speaking Union in Edinburgh proved both lively and informative and gave us quite a lot to think about. I opened the meeting with a brief explanation of my own views regarding the timing of the referendum. It is unlikely that referendum will take place in 2017 in order to avoid a clash with German and French elections but the exact timetable will depend, in part, on the result of negotiations and until these are complete there is something of a phoney war as neither the Government nor the Conservative Party can begin campaigning. The best estimate for the date of the referendum is September/October 2016.



Rising activity levels make it imperative for EMiS to supplement its voluntary resources with professional expertise. Therefore, an initial 3-month contract has been placed with Orbit Communications for help with fundraising and raising our profile. We have already seen the benefit of this. Our following on Twitter and Facebook has increased dramatically with an increase in sign-ups on our website to join our mailing list or become paid-up members. Orbit is also busy contacting businesses in Scotland asking them for financial support. Several letters have already gone out. You may have noticed the increase in the numbers of letters from us that are being printed in the press. This is also thanks to Orbit. If you'd like to see these visit our website at www.euromovescotland.org.uk/media.htm. They have also set an email to their large mailing list on our behalf. You can view that email [here](#).

At UK level, political "parties" campaigning for Yes now are Labour, Libdems and Greens. Labour will not enter a yes campaign with the Conservatives as they were badly bitten in the Scottish referendum. There is, therefore, unlikely to be an overarching political party yes campaign. The TUC will campaign separately as they will not agree with the renegotiation points.

Public Opinion on the EU in the UK

Social Attitudes Survey, March 2015

	Stay in EU	57%	
	Leave EU	35%	
		UK inc	
Comparison between Scotland and the rest of the UK	Scotland	Scotland	
	Leave EU	16.50%	24%
	Stay in EU but try to reduce powers	40%	38%
	Stay as is	24%	18%
	Stay as is and increase powers	7%	10%
	Work towards single European government	4%	4%
	No answer	8%	6%
	Sum of those who don't want to leave, excluding "no answer"	75%	70%
	Sum of those who want to stay in and/or increase powers of EU	35%	32%

Scottish Social Attitudes survey and Chatham House broadly in line but CH showing greater support for EU than SSA

The above chart demonstrates that the style of campaign north of border should differ from that south of border.

The discussion on Scottish EU membership in the Independence Referendum of 2014 forced the Scottish electorate to become relatively better informed about the EU.

My introduction was followed by a lively discussion. There were many suggestions for the campaign:

- Use case studies of Scots living/working in EU. (Below you will see one such case study which proved

very popular on our Facebook page.

- There is no need to delay until details of negotiation are known as we are supportive of EU irrespective of that outcome.
- We should think of the campaign on 2 fronts – air war (presumably media) and ground war (emphasising facts/education/grassroots dissemination.).
- There is need for positive messages re EU.
- Target younger age groups and they, in turn, would influence their parents decision.
- We need not only to be able to defend certain accusations from the sceptics but turn these around and cited “loss of sovereignty” as a key example, arguing that with Brexit, we would lose sovereignty in that we would have no say in the EU but would have to comply with the rules and still pay. In relation to this, another participant highlighted that much of the previous practice of detailed regulation had now been swept away through the use of Directives and that, in fact, all new EU regulation is now authorised only via Westminster – which therefore retained sovereignty.

I observed that it was legitimate to question the motives of all press barons as they are all non-doms. The Barclays Brothers position was influenced by failure to establish a European publication.

There was also talk on how we could form alliances:

- Italian and Irish ex-pats would be strong/relevant allies.
- We should attempt to create an alliance with the STUC as workers rights are influenced by the EU.
- We already have good contacts with Universities and with schools to a lesser extent. We can build on that and work, for example, with the Young European Movement and the European Society at Edinburgh University.

There was also concern raised about the franchise for the referendum. One participant contrasted the ability of EU citizens living in the UK to vote on such details as how their bins are collected but are to be denied a say on whether they are to become “foreigners” in the UK.

Concern was expressed about the rise of xenophobia mainly on the right but also to some extent on the left. Another participant lamented Cameron’s track record and approach of alienating potential allies.

It was suggested that there exists a risk that post-negotiation we could end up supporting a lukewarm version of UK membership.

Committee member David Clarke recommended “10 positive messages” via Richard Corbett free mobile app. More on that here <http://www.richardcorbett.org.uk/put-an-eu-expert-in-your-pocket/>

To end the discussion I suggested that we might form a number of working groups to develop the various ideas and our treasurer Bill Rodger wondered whether there might be merit in setting up a project forum for online collaboration. We will look at this.

I’m sure most members will agree with me that the franchise for the referendum does seem unfair. There is the issue of allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote. Further to that, EU citizens living here cannot vote and also British citizens living in the EU cannot vote. We were recently contacted by a Scottish couple who have been living in France for 14 years. Their current plight must apply to hundreds of thousand of UK citizens now resident in other EU countries. Below is an edited version of their comments:

We came here in 2001 in good faith under the free movement provisions, never thinking that Britain's EU membership would ever be in doubt. We started a small language business. We are now retired. Both of us receive state pensions from Britain and having paid French social security contributions, I also receive a small French pension.

We are directly concerned by the EU referendum, and depending on when it is held, hope to be able to vote in it as we are registered to vote in the Midlothian constituency. At present our pensions are updated but if Britain left the EU, this might no longer be the case. There is also the even more important question of which country pays for health provision. Having worked in France, my health care is paid for by the French state but my husband's is paid for by Britain under the S1 arrangements. We don't know what would happen should Britain leave the EU.

We feel citizens of Europe. *In my late forties I benefited from the Erasmus scheme as being a language student, a year abroad was part of my degree course. My husband's mother was German and his great-grandmother Polish. He still has family and friends in Germany.*

*The British press seems so anti-Europe and I am glad that an organisation such as yours exists. **We need to stand up for being in Europe.***

Events

Let us know of any events in your area as soon as possible.

NEW - Germans in Britain

Monday, 6th July, 2015, 6pm - 8pm

New Register House, 3 West Register Street, EH1 3YT

The Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in partnership with Heriot-Watt University and the National Records of Scotland are delighted to invite you to the Official Opening of the Exhibition, "Germans in Britain".

The exhibition explores how British sport, science, banks, business, music, monarchs, art and design have been shaped by German connections.

The evening will commence with a talk by Ullrich Kockel, Professor of Culture and Economy at Heriot-Watt University on "German Roots and Routes in Contemporary Britain", followed by German Artist Florian Kaplick performing excerpts from Kurt Schwitters' "Ursonate". Kurt Schwitters was himself a German migrant, who arrived at Edinburgh Leith docks in June 1940, having escaped Nazi Germany.

The event will end with a wine reception giving you the opportunity to enjoy the exhibition itself!

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/germans-in-britain-exhibition-opening-tickets-17546483003>

The exhibition will run from 7th July - 6th August 2015 Monday - Friday 9.00 am - 4.30 pm at General Register House.

Free Admission.