

Dear (MP name),

We noted with interest that you participated in the debate on a referendum on the UK's EU membership held in the House of Commons held on 24 October 2011.

The European Movement (www.euromove.org.uk) is an independent not-for-profit, cross-party organization that works on objectively informing the debate around the process of European integration and the UK's membership of the EU. We firmly believe that it is in the UK's best interest not only to remain within the EU but also actively participate in policies that pursue the common interest of its members.

Today's globalised world is presenting the UK with a whole host of new challenges. The breathtaking economic growth of the emerging countries is reshaping the balance of power in the world. Western countries are suffering from an ongoing process of relative decline in comparison to countries such as China, India, Russia or Brazil among others. In this international context the EU is a powerful bloc in which European nations can pursue their common interests together and enhances their position when negotiating trade agreements with these emerging powerhouses. The UK can make the most of the opportunities presented in this changing international landscape as part of the biggest common market in the world.

The EU is the largest market in the world as well as the biggest economy. The EU's single market generates enormous benefits from trade within the EU and with the rest of the world. It is in large part due to the Single Market that the City of London is today the leading European financial centre as well as one of the most important worldwide. It is in the UK's commercial interest to remain part of the Single Market, not just because of the growth and jobs it brings to our country but also because by being part of it we can influence and form the rules and conditions according to which it operates. These are rules that we will have to adhere to if we want to continue trading with it and in it, even if we leave the EU.

The UK's relationship with the USA is, and must continue being, a cornerstone within Britain's foreign policy. Our relationship with the USA is based on cultural and historical grounds as well as on the defence of our common interests. Nevertheless we must not forget that the fact that UK is a leading and influential EU member state confers Great Britain an enhanced position when dealing with the US. Britain is more valuable to the US as a member of the European Union. Disengaging from the EU will reduce the UK's political relevance to our American allies and our capacity to influence them would be severely undermined.

The current private and public debt crisis in economies in the Euro-zone, Europe (including the UK) and North America and Asia shows to what extent our economies (and our financial markets) are integrated. In such an economically integrated world the UK needs to be part of the decision-making structures that produce economic policies that affect national, European and global economic developments. The UK can contribute, as a confident, constructively engaged member of the EU, to forming the economic policies that will produce growth and jobs at home and across the EU.

Research and development, investment in telecommunication infrastructure and new technologies require the commitment of huge resources that can be hard for nations in Europe to afford individually. Pooling financial resources together at an EU level to fund projects like Galileo and CERN can produce billions in economic benefits for the EU as a whole and its member states and enable us to compete with the US, Japan, China and other global leaders in R&D and new technologies. It is important we remain part of the EU to be able to rip the benefits emanating from these collective investments.

But today's challenges are not just of an economic nature. Combating climate change, protecting the environment, guaranteeing our energy and food security, fighting international crime are all challenges of a cross-border nature that require international rather than national

solutions. The EU has been at the forefront of policy initiatives aimed at delivering pan-European solutions to these cross-border challenges because it has proven to be the most effective forum of international co-operation. Britain will be able to deliver for its citizens ways to combat climate change, reliable sources of energy, protection against international crime if it remains a member of the European Union.

There are many differing and even opposing views of the EU. Britain has its own. Only by remaining a committed, confident and influential part of the European project will the UK be able to shape the direction the EU will go in the decades ahead. Standing at the sidelines or, even worse, on the outside is against Britain's national interest.

These are just a few of the reasons why the UK must remain a member of the European Union. Please do not hesitate to contact the European Movement UK at emoffice@euromove.org.uk or me personally at petros.fassoulas@euromove.org.uk if you require more information.

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