

Some Benefits of the EU

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Security

- 1) Peace since 1945 – The EU has for 60 years been the foundation of peace between European neighbours
- 2) No inflammatory border between Northern and Southern Ireland
- 3) Counter terrorism intelligence
- 4) European arrest warrant and cooperation on extraditing criminals and terrorists
- 5) Access to crime databases
- 6) Cybersecurity – Data protection and information sharing. Europol law enforcement agency aims to support the 28 EU Member States in their fight against terrorism, cybercrime and other serious and organised forms of crime.
- 7) Safety in numbers for standing up to world bullies
- 8) Support against possible Putin poisoning and Trump trade wars
- 9) EU diplomatic efforts to uphold the nuclear non-proliferation treaty
- 10) Cross border policing to combat human trafficking, arms and drug smuggling
- 11) The EU assisted the political, social and economic transformation of 13 former dictatorships, now EU members, since 1980
- 12) European civil and military co-operation in post-conflict zones in Europe and Africa

Law-making

- 13) A say in the laws – a place at the top table – a rule-maker. The UK's elected 73 MEPs have the power to approve, amend or reject nearly all EU legislation. They hold the European Commission to account and can force it to resign. The European Parliament also decides on the EU budget and influences how EU money is spent.
- 14) Representation at the European Court of Justice – the right to appoint judges to the ECJ
- 15) Greater influence in other international organisations, e.g. the United Nations, with the UK being part of the larger EU

Trade

- 16) Membership of the world's most successful trading block
- 17) Smooth access to a market of 500 million people
- 18) Freedom to trade across 27 other countries
- 19) Membership of 750 international agencies – agreements with 168 countries, covering trade in nuclear goods, fisheries, transport, regulatory cooperation, financial services
- 20) 63% of our trade is with the EU and other countries through joint trade deals
- 21) 44% of UK exports and 53% of UK imports are with the EU (2017)
- 22) Hassle-free borders: Fast, friction-free imports and exports with minimal paperwork and customs checks throughout the single market (no lorry parks at ports) enabling "just-in-time" manufacture
- 23) Price transparency and removal of commission on currency exchanges across the eurozone
- 24) Passporting for financial services to do business across 27 other countries
- 25) Harmonised rules for products and services
- 26) Single market competition bringing quality improvements and better industrial performance
- 27) Break-up of monopolies
- 28) Europe-wide patent and copyright protection

- 29) More clout for stopping Chinese imports flooding our market
- 30) Prevent cheap poor-quality goods pricing our producers out of business (e.g. hormone-fed beef)

Cooperation

- 31) EU representation in international forums, bloc negotiating power
- 32) Medical research, EU funding and staff, benefiting patients. Participation in European Reference Networks, e.g. research in rare and complex diseases
- 33) Space research, lucrative European space contracts, satellite research
- 34) Euratom - regulating safety and the nuclear industry, particularly importing vital isotopes for cancer treatments
- 35) Defence
- 36) EU-funded research and industrial collaboration
- 37) Cheaper mobile phone charges
- 38) Broadcasting - funded grants and schemes, licensing cooperation, broadcasting rights, operating licences, 650 channels affected
- 39) Film-making – funding, freedom to move staff and equipment across borders thriving business boosting tax revenues
- 40) Musicians/Actors/Dancers' ability to travel and perform across 27 other countries
- 41) Cross-cultural exchanges
- 42) Support for democracy and human rights across Europe and beyond

Investment from the EU (about £5 billion p.a. in the UK) see www.myeu.uk/

- 43) Agriculture
- 44) Regional development
- 45) Infrastructure (structural funding to areas hit by industrial decline)
- 46) New roads
- 47) Investment across Europe contributing to better living standards and educational, social and cultural capital

Workers

- 48) Safe working hours (the right not to work more than a 48-hour week without overtime)
- 49) Workers' rights, labour protection and enhanced social welfare, e.g. maternity benefits
- 50) Smoke-free workplaces
- 51) Equal pay legislation
- 52) Holiday entitlement

Standards

- 53) Food quality (stop GM foods or chlorinated chicken)
- 54) Safety and production of chemicals (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals - REACH and ECHA)
- 55) Safety standards in building regulations, e.g. boiler safety, electrical wiring, new roofs
- 56) Improved consumer protection
- 57) Consistent food labelling
- 58) Improved product safety

Environment

- 59) Environmental protection – clean air, clean beaches, clean rivers
- 60) Lead-free petrol
- 61) Restrictions on landfill dumping
- 62) High standards of recycling and waste disposal
- 63) Strongest wildlife protection in the world

- 64) Improved animal welfare in food production
- 65) A ban on growth hormones and other harmful food additives

NHS

- 66) Experienced, already-trained doctors, nurses, researchers and other staff for the NHS
- 67) Medical research cooperation and investment
- 68) Ability to import medicines quickly across borders
- 69) Easy import of vital short-life radiotherapy treatment for cancer (Euratom)
- 70) Over 3 million EU citizens (3.7 million = 5.6% of the population) have the threat of deportation lifted and can stay in the UK, many of whom work for the NHS as doctors, nurses or caring for the elderly or infirm, contributing hugely to our welfare

Travel

- 71) Freedom to travel, study, work, and live across 27 other countries
- 72) Licences for airlines, with harmonised aviation rules, meaning cheaper air travel
- 73) Protection when flights are delayed or disrupted – compensation, overnight accommodation
- 74) Ability to use our mobile phones across Europe with reduced roaming charges
- 75) Erasmus student exchanges (funded opportunities for young people to undertake study or work placements abroad) – soft power influence for future cooperation between countries
- 76) Hassle-free pet travel, e.g. when taking a dog on holiday
- 77) Visa-free holidays with free basic health insurance cover

The £ in our pocket

- 78) Low inflation (before the Referendum: ½%, since the Referendum: up to 3.2%)
- 79) Lower cost of foreign currency (£ lost up to 20% or 1/5th of its value against the Euro after the Referendum), therefore cheaper medicines, holidays, imported food, parts for manufacture
- 80) EU workers in the UK pick fruit and vegetables, contributing to our economy
- 81) British pensioners in Europe receive their pension annual increases, as well as free reciprocal health care, avoiding the need to move back to the UK
- 82) More job security (companies relocating from the UK due to Brexit uncertainty: Nissan, Ford, Honda, Jaguar Land Rover, Dyson, Airbus, Goldman Sachs Investment Management, Morgan Stanley Investment Management, Vanguard, Schroders, JP Morgan Wealth Management and Aviva Investors.)
- 83) More inward investment, creating tax revenues and jobs. The financial services industry contributes £72 billion tax revenue and 12.5% of GDP. It employs 2.2m people. Ten large banks and investment banks are together moving £800 billion of assets from Britain - or 10% of banking assets in the country. A 10% shift in banking and finance activity would cut UK tax receipts by about 1%. Relocating abroad takes that revenue away from the government and the jobs from the people. Goldman Sachs (report 1st April 2019) said a scenario in which Britain remains in the EU would see it fully recoup Brexit-related output costs and drive a rebound in business confidence while sterling would appreciate by 10 percent. Being part of the EU attracts investment to the UK.

Sources:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jan/11/whats-eu-ever-done-us>

<https://smallbusinessprices.co.uk/remain-eu/>