

Years after Brexit: Which British Politicians Opposed the United Kingdom's Membership in the European Economic Community/ European Union?

Viona Rashica*

Summary: The United Kingdom's membership in the European Economic Community marked a very important step in British history. However, a considerable part of British politicians were dissatisfied with EEC. With its transformation into the European Union, their dissents with a number of EU policies increased and the UK's withdrawal from EU membership was seen as the right option. This article aims to specify the British politicians who held opposing views on the EEC/EU within 1974–2016. For the realization of the research was applied qualitative methodology, with special emphasis data analysis method such as content, narrative and discourse. The research results showed that within the period 1974–2016, there were British politicians who considered EEC/EU policies to be the greatest threats to the UK's national security and saw withdrawal from membership as the only solution. The conclusions of the article contribute to increasing knowledge about Brexit, which in 2026 marks a decade.

Key words: United Kingdom; British politicians; opposing viewpoints; European Economic Community; European Union

Citation: RASHICA, V. Years after Brexit: Which British Politicians Opposed the United Kingdom's Membership in the European Economic Community/European Union? *European Studies – the Review of European law, Economics and Politics*, 2025, vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 174–192, DOI: 10.2478/eustu-2025-0007.

1. Introduction

During the 2016 referendum campaign in the United Kingdom (UK) regarding its membership in the European Union (EU), there were a large number of

* Doctor of Political Sciences, South East European University, North Macedonia. Contact email: vionarashica@hotmail.com

politicians who supported Brexit. However, not only in 2016 there were British politicians who opposed Britain's membership in the EU. Since the accession of the UK to the European Economic Community (EEC), there have been politicians who expressed their skepticism with the policies and functioning of the EU. The country's sovereignty, the well-being of the people and national security, according to them, were thought to be threatened by being a member country in the EU.

Brexit, or the voluntary withdrawal of the UK from membership of the EU is considered as one of the main events of the international arena in the twenty-first century¹. It has opened new chapters in British history and will be known as one of the biggest crises of the EU². Even after 10 years, the names of the British politicians who contributed to this process have not been forgotten. Therefore, the main purpose of this research article is to present the historic of the main British politicians who have raised their voices against the EEC/EU since the UK's membership in the EEC until the Brexit vote.

The research question of the paper is: *Who were the British politicians who most opposed the UK's membership in the EEC/EU and what were the main reasons they aimed to withdraw the country from EEC/EU membership?* While, the hypothesis of this paper is: *The opposing views of a considerable part of British politicians towards the EEC/EU resulted from the fact that the UK's membership of this sui generis entity was seen by them as a threat for the sovereignty and national security of the UK.*

In order to answer the research question as accurately as possible and to verify the raised hypothesis, the paper, in addition to the abstract, introduction, conclusion and references, consists of four specific sections. The second section, in two subsections, explains the UK's membership of the EEC, as well as its decision and withdrawal from EU membership. Meanwhile, the third, fourth and fifth sections are the most important sections of this paper because they present the historic of those British politicians who constantly opposed the UK's membership in the EEC/EU. The third section mentions the British politicians who opposed Britain's membership in the EEC, as well as their reasons. The fourth section highlights the British politicians who requested the review of the UK's membership in the EU, attaching here their reasons. Meanwhile, the fifth section mentions all the British politicians who showed maximum support for Brexit. This section also includes some politicians from other countries inside

¹ RASHICA, V. The United Kingdom's Brexit decision in the context of the 2000s enlargements of the European Union. *Europa XXI*, 2025, vol. 48, p. 5.

² RASHICA, V. The Main Concerns towards the European Union that Led the British to Vote for Brexit. *European Studies – the Review of European law, Economics and Politics*, 2024, vol. 11, no. 1, p. 178.

and outside the European continent, who saw Brexit as the right option for the future of the UK.

The article has a descriptive, explanatory, analytical and comparative nature and or its realization was used the qualitative methodological approach. The method chosen to conduct the research is data analysis. Through content analysis, textual data were categorized, whereas narrative analysis has explored the experiences of British politicians during the period when the UK was a member of the EU, and discourse analysis studied the discourse of British politicians who held opposing views towards EEC/EU policies.

2. The UK's membership of the EEC and its withdrawal from the EU

2.1. The 1975 referendum regarding Britain's membership in the EEC

With the death of French President Charles de Gaulle in 1970, there were no longer any obstacles to block Britain's membership of the EEC. The UK's EEC membership treaty was signed on January 22, 1972 by the British Prime Minister, Edward Heath, whereas membership had entered into force on January 1, 1973³. However, two years after membership, a referendum was organized in the UK regarding its EEC membership. In 1974, two general elections were held in the UK⁴, in which the Labour Party led by Harold Wilson had won. When he competed in these elections, he promised to renegotiate the terms of the UK's membership in the EEC, which would determine the direction Britain would follow, member state in the EEC with the new renegotiated conditions, or leaving the EEC⁵.

The talks with the EEC were carried out by Harold Wilson and he set up a renegotiation committee which included: UK Foreign Secretary, James Callaghan;

³ UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT. *Into Europe*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/tradeindustry/importexport/overview/europe/>> Accessed: 23.01.2025.

⁴ During 1974, two pairs of general elections were held in the United Kingdom, on 28 February and 10 October. In the February election, the Labor Party led by Harold Wilson failed to secure a majority and after his party was unable to form a coalition with other parties, in September he called for early election, which was held on 10 October and in this election Labor secured the narrowest majority on record.

⁵ BUTLER, D., KITZINGER, U. *The 1975 Referendum*. 2nd ed. UK: The Macmillan Press, 1976, p. 11.

Secretary of State for Industry, Tony Benn; and Secretary of State for Trade, Peter Shore. The Referendum Information Unit was also created, headed by Martin R. Morland, whose purpose was to inform the press and provide factual data about the renegotiation process and the referendum itself. James Callaghan had called for a radical review of EEC policies and substantial changes to its budget. He also had concerns about the EEC's relations with other states, especially its disputes with the US, emphasizing that the UK intended to remain a member of an effective Atlantic alliance. The main areas in which Britain had expressed concerns about its membership of the EEC were: the Common Agricultural Policy; Britain's contribution to the EEC budget; the aim of the Economic and Monetary Union; the harmonization of Value Added Tax; and the parliamentary sovereignty in the pursuit of regional, industrial and fiscal policies⁶.

On June 5, 1975, the UK's EEC membership referendum was held, in which 17,378,581 people or 67.2 % voted for the UK to remain in the EEC, while 8,470,073 people or 32.8 % voted the option of leaving the EEC. As the table 1 shows, all British countries had voted to remain in the EEC:

Table 1. The 1975 referendum vote on the UK's membership of the EEC by British countries⁷

Countries	Participation in voting	Yes	No
England	64.6 %	68.7 %	31.3 %
Wales	66.7 %	66.5 %	33.5 %
Scotland	61.7 %	58.4 %	41.6 %
North Ireland	47.4 %	52.1 %	47.9 %

Source: Table prepared by the author.

⁶ MILLER, V. The 1974-75 UK Renegotiation of EEC Membership and Referendum, 2015, *House of Commons Library*, no. 7253, p. 12.

⁷ KING, A. *Britain Says Yes: The 1975 Referendum on the Common Market*. Washington: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, 1977, p. 145.

2.2. Britain's decision to withdraw from EU membership

The organization of the second referendum on Britain's EU membership was mentioned by David Cameron on January 23, 2013⁸. As one of the main promises of the Conservatives for the 2015 British general election, David Cameron after his victory started with the realization of this promise⁹. The EU was informed about the plans of this referendum in June 2015, while in October 2015 Cameron defined the four renegotiating issues with the EU, which were: sovereignty and subsidiarity; commercial competitiveness; non-discrimination in the Eurozone; and free movement and immigration¹⁰. For economic governance, the EU promised respect for the rights and competences of the UK as a non-member state of the Eurozone. Trade competition would increase as a result of maximum EU commitments as a whole. The UK would not commit to further political integration and the EU promised preventive measures for the abuse of free movement¹¹. In February 2016, EU leaders agreed to reach an agreement that would strengthen Britain's special status in the EU. In the same month, David Cameron presented the results of the renegotiation with the EU to the British people, showing them the consequences that could follow from Brexit, especially for the security and economy of Britain¹².

However, on June 23, 2016, the British people voted to withdraw their country from EU membership. A total of 17,410,742 people or 51.9 % of voters had voted to withdraw their country from the EU, while 16,141,241 voters or 48.1 % had voted for the continuation of Britain's membership in the EU¹³. However, not all British countries voted for Brexit, as the table 2 shows:

⁸ UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT. *EU speech at Bloomberg*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/eu-speech-at-bloomberg>> Accessed: 25. 1. 2025.

⁹ BBC NEWS. *Election 2015 – Results*. [online]. Available at: <<http://www.bbc.com/news/election/2015/results>> Accessed: 26.01.2025.

¹⁰ UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT. *PM statement on European Council: 19 October 2015: UK renegotiation*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-european-council-19-october-2015>> Accessed: 25. 1. 2025.

¹¹ EUROPEAN COUNCIL. *Letter by President Donald Tusk to the Members of the European Council on his proposal for a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/02/02/letter-tusk-proposal-new-settlement-uk/>> Accessed: 27.01.2025.

¹² UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT. *PM Commons statement on EU reform and referendum: 22 February 2016*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-commons-statement-on-eu-reform-and-referendum-22-february-2016>> Accessed: 25.01.2025.

¹³ THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION. *Report: 23 June 2016 referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union – Registration and turnout and the result of the referendum*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum/report-23-june-2016-referendum-uks-membership-european-union>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.

Table 2. The 2016 referendum vote on the UK's membership of the EU by British countries¹⁴

Countries	Participation in voting	Remain	Leave
England	73 %	46.6 %	53.4 %
Wales	71.7 %	47.5 %	52.5 %
Scotland	67.2 %	62 %	38 %
North Ireland	62.7 %	55.7 %	44.2 %

Source: Table prepared by the author.

The voluntary withdrawal of a member state from the EU is regulated by Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which states:

- *Any member state may decide to withdraw from the EU in accordance with its own constitutional requirements;*
- *A member state which decides to withdraw shall notify the European Council of its intention. In the light of the guidelines provided by the Council, the Union shall negotiate and conclude an agreement with that State, setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal, taking account of the framework for its future relationship with the EU. That agreement shall be negotiated in accordance with Article 218(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. It shall be concluded on behalf of the Union by the Council, acting by a qualified majority, after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament;*
- *The Treaties shall cease to apply to the state in question from the date of entry into force of the withdrawal agreement or, failing that, two years after the notification referred to in paragraph 2, unless the Council, in agreement with the member state concerned, unanimously decides to extend this period;*
- *For the purposes of paragraphs 2 and 3, the member of the Council representing the withdrawing member state shall not participate in the discussions of the EC or in decisions concerning it. A qualified majority shall be defined*

¹⁴ THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION. *Results and turnout at the EU referendum – Results by region*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum/results-and-turnout-eu-referendum>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.

in accordance with Article 238(3)(b)¹⁵ of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU;

- *If a State which has withdrawn from the Union asks to rejoin, its request shall be subject to the procedure referred to in Article 49^{16, 17}*

On March 29, 2017, the UK confirmed to the EU its request for the activation of the article in question. Then, on May 22, 2017, the 27 EU member states approved the decision authorizing the start of Brexit negotiations¹⁸. Both the UK and the EU selected the brightest diplomatic figures for the successful realization of the Brexit negotiations.

Officially, the Brexit negotiations were opened on June 19, 2017. Their first phase was realized in the period June-December 2017, through six rounds. The three primary issues of the talks at this phase were: the rights of EU and British citizens; financial arrangements, including the obligations of the UK while it was still a member state of the EU¹⁹; the dilemma caused by the Irish Border²⁰. In December 2017, “sufficient progress” on the main issues of this phase was reassessed and confirmed, and the guidelines for the opening of the second phase of negotiations were also approved²¹.

¹⁵ Article 238 (3) (b) of the Lisbon Treaty states: Where the Council does not act on a proposal from the Commission or from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the qualified majority shall be defined as at least 72% of the members of the Council representing the participating member states, comprising at least 65% of the population of these states.

¹⁶ Article 49 of the Lisbon Treaty states: Any European state which respects the values and is committed to promoting them may apply to become a member of the Union. The European Parliament and national Parliaments shall be notified of this application. The applicant state shall address its application to the Council, which shall act unanimously after consulting the Commission and after receiving the consent of the EP, which shall act by a majority of its component members. The conditions of eligibility agreed upon by the Council shall be taken into account. The conditions of admission and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the Union is founded, which such admission entails, shall be the subject of an agreement between the member states and the applicant state. This agreement shall be submitted for ratification by all the contracting states in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

¹⁷ EUROPEAN UNION LAW. *Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union: TITLE VI – FINAL PROVISIONS: Article 50*. [online]. Available at: <<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12012M050>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.

¹⁸ EUROPEAN COUNCIL. General Affairs Council (Art. 50), 22 May 2017. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac-art50/2017/05/22/>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.

¹⁹ CARRAPICO, H., NIEHUSS, A., BERTHÉLÉMY, Ch. *Brexit and Internal Security: Political and Legal Concerns on the Future UK-EU Relationship*. UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019, pp. 19-20.

²⁰ The Irish border or the border of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland 500 km, was one of the most complicated issues of the Brexit negotiations because with the withdrawal of the UK from the EU it had to be decided to which the border would belong, the UK outside the EU or the Republic of Ireland inside the EU.

²¹ CURTIS, J., GOWER, M., KEEP, M., KENNEDY, S., LANG, A., MILLER, V., WEBB, D. *Brexit: ‘sufficient progress’ to move to phase 2*. *House of Commons Library*, 2017, no. 8183, p. 5.

The second phase of Brexit negotiations opened on February 6, 2018. In addition to the transition period and the withdrawal agreement, part of the negotiations of this phase was also the issue of the Irish border²². However, within the UK there were many disagreements regarding the Brexit process, in which case March 29, 2019 was not Brexit day. The extension of the period defined in Article 50 was requested three times by the British government, on March 20, 2019, on April 5, 2019 and on October 19, 2019²³. The date 31 January 2020 is officially Brexit day because the Withdrawal Agreement came into force, Britain is no longer a member state of the EU, and it is considered as a third country²⁴.

The third phase of the Brexit negotiations was about the future UK-EU partnership, with the aim of reducing the economic consequences for both parties. But, in addition to the disagreements between the negotiating parties, this phase of talks was also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which received the greatest attention of the UK and the EU. Then, the movement restriction measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus made the talks of this phase take place through video-conferences²⁵. However, despite the very complicated circumstances, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement was reached on December 24, 2020. This agreement was approved by the EC on December 29, 2020 and from January 1, 2021 it was temporarily implemented²⁶, until the EP's consent was received on April 27, 2021 for full implementation²⁷. The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement entered into force on May 1, 2021²⁸.

²² MILLER, V. Brexit: who has said what about transition. *House of Commons Library*, 2018, no. 8238, p. 5.

²³ EUROPEAN COUNCIL. *Brexit: EU Council takes first formal step towards the conclusion of the withdrawal agreement*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-uk-after-referendum/>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.

²⁴ EUROPEAN COUNCIL. *Council adopts decision to conclude the withdrawal agreement*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/01/30/brexit-council-adopts-decision-to-conclude-the-withdrawal-agreement/>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.

²⁵ RASHICA, V. *Tërheqja e Mbretërisë së Bashkuar nga anëtarësia e Unionit Evropian dhe implikimet e këtij procesi*. Prishtinë: Botime Artini, 2024, p. 62.

²⁶ EUROPEAN COUNCIL. *EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: Council adopts decision on the signing*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/29/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement-council-adopts-decision-on-the-signing/>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.

²⁷ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. *Parliament formally approves EU-UK trade and cooperation agreement*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210423IPR02772/parliament-formally-approves-eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.

²⁸ EUROPEAN COUNCIL. *EU-UK trade and cooperation agreement: Council adopts decision on conclusion*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/04/29/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement-council-adopts-decision-on-conclusion/>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.

3. British politicians who opposed the UK's membership in the EEC

During the 1975 referendum campaign regarding the UK's membership in the EEC, there were two politicians who strongly supported the withdrawal of Britain from the EEC, *Tony Benn* from the Labour Party and *Enoch Powell*, a former Conservative who switched to the Ulster Unionist Party²⁹. Benn had stated during the campaign that EEC membership had cost Britain 500,000 jobs within two years. This increase in unemployment, as well as the trade deficit between the UK and the rest of the EEC, had resulted from the fact that the British had imported more from European countries than they had exported their goods to the latter. Meanwhile, Powell during the campaign had repeatedly asserted that the Common Market “had determined in stages the union of Britain with France, Germany, Italy and other countries in a single nation”, in which the UK would be only a “simple province”³⁰.

In 1979, *Margaret Thatcher* from the Conservative Party came to the head of the British government, who is also the first British female prime minister. Her first objections to the EEC began at the Dublin Summit of the EC on 29 and 30 November 1979. About 70% of the EEC budget was dedicated to agricultural subsidies, but this sector in the UK was small and the British economy was not based on it. She had opposed subsidizing European farmers to the sum of £1,000,000 per year, and as one of the poorest member of the three states that contributed the most to the EEC budget, Thatcher wanted Britain to stop providing this sum of money³¹.

Promises and ideas for Britain's withdrawal from the EEC, as well as disagreements with certain policies of the latter, were also present in the 80s. Another Labour promise for the withdrawal of the UK from the EEC was presented by their leader *Michael Foot*. In the Labor manifesto for the 1983 British general election, he promised that if he became prime minister, he would start negotiations for the country's immediate withdrawal from the EEC³². But, in this election, Margaret Thatcher won her second mandate as prime minister³³.

²⁹ The Ulster Unionist Party is a political party from Northern Ireland, which was founded on March 3, 1905.

³⁰ WHEELER, B. *EU referendum: Did 1975 predictions come true?*. [online]. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36367246?intlink_from_url=&> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

³¹ MARGARET THATCHER FOUNDATION. *Margaret Thatcher: Press Conference after Dublin European Council*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.margareththatcher.org/document/104180>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

³² BBC NEWS. *Timeline: Campaigns for a European Union*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-15390884>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

³³ BBC NEWS. *BBC Politics 97 – 9 June 1983*. [online]. Available at: <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/special/politics97/background/pastelec/ge83.shtml>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

In a speech to the British Trade Union Congress at Bournemouth in 1988, President of the European Commission Jacques Delors asserted that in the next ten years the EEC would have responsibility for 80 % of the economic legislation, perhaps also the tax and social legislation in its 12 member states, thus taking the initial steps towards the embryonic stage of a “European government”³⁴. He also said that within two years all the main decisions regarding the UK would be taken in Brussels. This statement greatly angered Margaret Thatcher, who turned into a severe Eurosceptic³⁵. The image of “a European super-state” was her worst nightmare, because, according to her, such integration would undermine Britain’s important positions in European affairs³⁶. Then, in a speech on September 20, 1988 at the “College of Europe” in Bruges, Thatcher emphasized that the UK did not prefer a comfortable existence isolating itself within the borders of the EEC. She also said that British support for resistance movements during the Second World War helped to keep the flame of freedom alive in many countries until the last day of the war. This speech received a lot of criticism, being described as harsh, infamous and offensive to those present. She stated that cooperation between sovereign states was the best way to build a successful European community. However, the attempt to suppress nationality by concentrating power in the center of the European conglomerate would be very harmful and dangerous to British objectives³⁷.

4. British politicians who opposed the UK’s membership in the EU

In 1991, the Anti-Federalist League was formed, a Eurosceptic political party, which in 1993 was renamed the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP). Its first leader was historian *Alan Sked*. The key priority of this party was the withdrawal of the UK from EU membership³⁸.

³⁴ EUROPEAN COMMISSION. 1992: *The Social Dimension: Address by President Delors at the Trades Union Congress – Bournemouth, 8 September 1988*. [online]. Available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_88_66> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

³⁵ BERLINSKI, C. *There Is No Alternative: Why Margaret Thatcher matters*. New York: Basic Books, 2008, p. 320.

³⁶ CANNADINE, D. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. UK: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 108.

³⁷ MARGARET THATCHER FOUNDATION. *Margaret Thatcher: Speech to the College of Europe (“The Bruges Speech”)*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.margareththatcher.org/document/104180>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

³⁸ UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY. *UKIP – About*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.ukip.org/ukip-page.php?id=02>> Accessed: 10.02.2025.

James Goldsmith, the billionaire businessman and investor of French-British descent, was known as one of the richest people in the UK. His critical views on the Maastricht Treaty oriented him into politics. He favored a strong society among European countries, but not a single and strong central government because, according to him, the loss of national sovereignty would follow, which would make Europe the political equivalent of a conglomerate with catastrophic consequences³⁹. In 1994, Goldsmith founded the Referendum Party, which was a Eurosceptic party. This political party took part in the 1997 British general election and was focused on only one issue, holding a referendum on the UK's membership in the EU. However, this party had not won any seats in the House of Commons. Then, Goldsmith managed to pressure the two main British political parties, which are the Conservative Party and the Labour Party, to commit to such a referendum and as a result of this pressure the UK did not join the Eurozone⁴⁰.

The British Prime Minister from the ranks of Labour Party, Tony Blair, who had been at the head of the British government for a decade (1997-2007), had pointed out two major British problems related to the EU, while he was prime minister, which were:

- *The hysterical behavior of the Eurosceptic media in the UK, which were extremely hostile to the EU, which misinterpreted what the EU was doing and considered that everything that made Brussels happy, harmed Britain;*
- *His disagreement with Gordon Brown over the euro currency, for which Blair repeatedly stated that in a world of emerging new powers, Britain needed Europe in order to exert impact and advance its interests. Brown had negative attitudes towards the euro, while Blair had claimed that even if the UK would not join the Eurozone, mainly for diplomatic reasons, such a union sounded positive. Tony Blair in relation to the Eurozone claimed that it would be better for Britain to join the latter and be full players in European economic decision-making⁴¹.*

When there is a strong constitutional issue for a direct democracy such as the UK, British politicians have sought the consent of the governed through a referendum. Referendums related to the EU were mentioned since 2007 by David Cameron. The latter promised that as long as he was in charge of the British government, he would organize a referendum on any treaty that would follow from the Lisbon process. The Lisbon Treaty was ratified by all EU member states in 2009, but regardless of UK ratification, Cameron declared that no substantial

³⁹ SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH. *Sir James Goldsmith: Financier, Politician, Thinker and Environmentalist*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.sirjamesgoldsmith.com/businessman/>> Accessed: 10.02.2025.

⁴⁰ SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH. *Politician*. [online]. Available at: <<http://www.sirjamesgoldsmith.com/politician/>> Accessed: 10.02.2025.

⁴¹ BLAIR, T. *A Journey: My Political Life*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010, pp. 1498-1499.

transfer of future British powers would take place without the approval of the British people⁴².

Nick Clegg, leader of the Liberal Democrats from 2007-2015 and known for his pro-European viewpoints, on February 25, 2008 expressed the necessity of organizing a referendum where the British people would decide whether Britain would remain in the EU or withdraw from it. Such a referendum would put an end to the poisonous debates over the reforms of the Lisbon Treaty, which destabilized British Europhile and Eurosceptic politicians. According to Clegg, those who were Europhiles faced accusations of being “sellouts”, while those who held Eurosceptic viewpoints were considered as “crazy or eccentric people”⁴³.

Conservative MP *Peter Bone*, known for his Eurosceptic viewpoints, on February 1, 2011 sought to amend the EU Bill, which currently promised referendums in Britain whenever there were major changes to the EU treaties. He proposed that if there was a “no” vote in any referendum on certain issues of the EU, the next referendum would follow on the continuation of the UK’s membership in the EU, or even the withdrawal from the latter. But, this amendment was rejected with 269 votes, because out of 295 MPs, only 26 had voted for it⁴⁴.

On October 24, 2011, former Conservative MP *David Nuttall* introduced a motion proposing a debate on the request to hold a referendum in May 2013, which would offer the British people three options for their country: The UK should remain a member of the EU under the current conditions; the UK withdraws from the EU; and renegotiate the terms of the UK’s membership of the EU in order to create a new relationship based on trade and cooperation. Described by Nuttall as a historic debate, the latter was tabled by the Backbench Business Committee⁴⁵ following the delivery of a petition supported by 100,000 signatories. But this motion was rejected with 372 votes, because out of 483 MPs, 111 MPs supported it⁴⁶.

⁴² BBC NEWS. *Timeline: Campaigns for a European Union*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-15390884>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

⁴³ WATT, N. *Clegg calls for EU referendum to end ‘crazy’ debate*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/feb/25/eu.liberaldemocrats>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

⁴⁴ BBC NEWS. *MPs reject Tory MP’s call for ‘in-out’ EU referendum*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-12340799>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

⁴⁵ The Backbench Business Committee is the first business committee which was established on 15 June 2010 by the House of Commons and which enables British MPs to bring to parliament subjects that they suggest, which are to be argued. The committee can consider any topic for debate, including subjects raised in national or local campaigns, reports from select committees and other groups, and issues suggested by constituents, including people who have signed an online petition or a traditional petition.

⁴⁶ UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT. *Backbench business debate on the holding of an EU referendum*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-es-a-z/commons-select/backbench-business-committee/news/eu-referendum-debate/>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

Former Conservative MP *James Wharton* on July 5, 2013 brought forward the bill regarding the promise made by David Cameron on January 23, 2013 to organize a referendum on Britain's membership in the EU before the end of 2017. The draft bill in question passed its second reading with 304 votes, as well as the question that had to be submitted in this referendum, which was expected to be: "Do you think the UK should be a member of the EU?"⁴⁷.

UKIP leader *Nigel Farage*, before the EP elections were held on 22-25 May 2014, declared on May 5, 2014 that he wanted an immediate referendum in the UK regarding its membership in the EU. Farage and his party achieved extraordinary success in these elections, taking 24 seats in the EP, although his party did not have any MPs in the House of Commons⁴⁸.

5. British and non-British politicians who supported Brexit

The 2016 referendum campaign in the UK regarding its membership in the EU divided British politicians into two groups, pro-EU and anti-EU. *Chris Grayling*, which served as Leader of the House of Commons in 2015-2016 and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland *Theresa Villiers*, declared that they would resign from their posts if they were not allowed to campaign for Brexit. Therefore, David Cameron on January 4, 2016 agreed to allow his cabinet ministers to join the Brexit campaign because imposing pro-EU lines risked resignation from them⁴⁹. Chris Grayling declared that the continuation of Britain's membership in the EU would be devastating for the future of the country⁵⁰. Theresa Villiers was asked to resign from her post by those who considered Britain's withdrawal from the EU a danger to the peace process in Northern Ireland⁵¹. From his cabinet, Cameron had the support of 24 members, while 6 others favored Brexit. In addition to the

⁴⁷ UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT. *European Union (Referendum) Bill 2013-14-progress of the bill*. [online]. Available at: <<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06711/>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

⁴⁸ BBC NEWS. *Timeline: Campaigns for a European Union*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-15390884>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.

⁴⁹ SHIPMAN, T. *All Out War: The Full Story of How Brexit Sank Britain's Political Class*. UK: William Collins, 2016, p. 17.

⁵⁰ BBC NEWS. EU vote: *Where the cabinet and other MPs stand – Cabinet ministers (24 for remain; six for leave)*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-35616946>> Accessed: 31.01.2025.

⁵¹ MCDONALD, H., HELM, T. *Theresa Villiers called upon to quit if she campaigns to leave EU*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jan/09/theresa-villiers-called-upon-to-quit-if-she-campaigns-to-leave-eu>> Accessed: 31.01.2025.

two mentioned above, four others were: Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport *John Whittingdale*; Secretary of State for Justice *Michael Gove*; Secretary of State for Employment *Priti Patel*, and the former Mayor of London *Boris Johnson*⁵². The latter on May 15, 2016 made a severe statement against the EU, saying that the latter was becoming a “superstate” and was violating Britain’s autonomy. According to him, the EU’s intentions to unify Europe were similar to Hitler’s efforts to dominate the European continent⁵³.

Of the Conservatives, 185 MPs were against Brexit and 138 MPs supported it. Those who supported Britain’s withdrawal from EU membership were: *Nigel Adams*; *Adam Afriyie*; *Lucy Allan*; *David Amess*; *Stuart Andrew*; *Caroline Ansell*; *Richard Bacon*; *Steven Baker*; *Stephen Barclay*; *John Baron*; *Henry Bellingham*; *Andrew Bingham*; *Bob Blackman*; *Crispin Blunt*; *Peter Bone*; *Victoria Borwick*; *Graham Brady*; *Julian Brazier*; *Andrew Bridgen*; *Fiona Bruce*; *Conor Burns*; *David Burrowes*; *Bill Cash*; *Maria Caulfield*; *Rehman Chishti*; *Christopher Chope*; *James Cleverly*; *Geoffrey Clifton-Brown*; *Geoffrey Cox*; *Christopher Davies*; *David Davies*; *Glyn Davies*; *James Davies*; *Mims Davies*; *Philip Davies*; *David Davis*; *Nadine Dorries*; *Steve Double*; *Richard Drax*; *James Duddridge*; *Iain Duncan Smith*; *George Eustice*; *Nigel Evans*; *Michael Fabricant*; *Suella Fernandes*; *Liam Fox*; *Mark Francois*; *Richard Fuller*; *Marcus Fysh*; *Nusrat Ghani*; *Cheryl Gillan*; *Zac Goldsmith*; *James Gray*; *Chris Green*; *Rebecca Harris*; *John Hayes*; *Chris Heaton-Harris*; *Gordon Henderson*; *Philip Hollobone*; *Adam Holloway*; *Gerald Howarth*; *Stewart Jackson*; *Ranil Jayawardena*; *Bernard Jenkin*; *Andrea Jenkyns*; *Gareth Johnson*; *David Jones*; *Daniel Kawczynski*; *Greg Knight*; *Kwasi Kwarteng*; *Andrea Leadsom*; *Edward Leigh*; *Charlotte Leslie*; *Julian Lewis*; *Peter Lilley*; *Jack Lopresti*; *Jonathan Lord*; *Tim Loughton*; *Karen Lumley*; *Craig Mackinlay*; *Anne Main*; *Kit Malthouse*; *Scott Mann*; *Paul Maynard*; *Karl McCartney*; *Jason McCartney*; *Stephen McPartland*; *Stephen Metcalfe*; *Nigel Mills*; *Penny Mordaunt*; *Anne-Marie Morris*; *Sheryll Murray*; *Andrew Murrison*; *David Nuttall*; *Matthew Offord*; *Owen Paterson*; *Mike Penning*; *Andrew Percy*; *Stephen Phillips*; *Christopher Pincher*; *Tom Pursglove*; *Will Quince*; *Dominic Raab*; *John Redwood*; *Jacob Rees-Mogg*; *Laurence Robertson*; *Andrew Rosindell*; *Paul Scully*; *Henry Smith*; *Royston Smith*; *Andrew Stephenson*; *Bob Stewart*; *Iain Stewart*; *Julian Sturdy*; *Rishi Sunak*; *Desmond Swayne*; *Robert Syms*; *Derek Thomas*; *Justin Tomlinson*; *Michael Tomlinson*; *Craig Tracey*; *Anne-Marie Trevelyan*; *Andrew Turner*; *Martin Vickers*; *Charles*

⁵² <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-35616946>>.

⁵³ JOHNSON, B. *The UK & Great Britain – What’s the Difference?*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/The-UK-Great-Britain-Whats-the-Difference/>> Accessed: 31.01.2025.

*Walker; David Warburton; James Wharton; Heather Wheeler; Bill Wiggin; Mike Wood; William Wragg; and Nadhim Zahawi*⁵⁴.

Then, there were MPs from other parties who had supported Brexit. Of them, there were 10 Labour MPs: *Ronnie Campbell; John Cryer; Frank Field; Roger Godsiff; Kate Hoey; Kelvin Hopkins; John Mann; Dennis Skinner; Graham Stringer; and Gisela Stuart*. Eight MPs from the Democratic Unionist Party who supported the withdrawal of the UK from the EU were: *Gregory Campbell; Nigel Dodds; Jeffrey M. Donaldson; Ian Paisley; Gavin Robinson; Jim Shannon; David Simpson; and Sammy Wilson*. Also, *Douglas Carswell* from UKIP and *Tom Elliott* from the Ulster Unionist Party were pro-Brexit⁵⁵.

The Brexit referendum was not only seen as an internal issue of the UK, as the latter served as a gateway to the EU for many countries in the world. Presidents of the US, France and China (Barack Obama, François Hollande and Xi Jinping), together with the prime ministers of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Canada, India, Japan and Australia (Angela Merkel, Mark Rutte, Erna Solberg, Justin Trudeau, Shinzō Abe, Narendra Modi and Malcolm Turnbull), called on the British people to vote for the continuation of Britain's membership in the EU. However, Brexit was just one of the main world events that showed the rise of populism in 2016. The presence of populist politicians in the founding states of the EU had incited major fear in the European continent. Their comments on the issue of Brexit were not absent. Eurosceptic politicians such as *Marine Le Pen* from France, *Geert Wilders* from the Netherlands and *Frauke Petry* from Germany, in addition of supporting Brexit, saw it as an encouraging example that should be followed in their countries in the future. Before *Donald Trump* won the 2016 US presidential election, during his campaign he suggested to the British people to vote for the withdrawal of the UK from the EU because he considered the latter to be the main culprit for the refugee crisis in 2015. It should be mentioned that there was total silence regarding the referendum on Britain's membership in the EU in 2016 from the Russian president Vladimir Putin. But, comments about such silence were not absent from David Cameron's side, where according to him Brexit would make Putin happy⁵⁶.

⁵⁴ BBC NEWS. EU vote: *Where the cabinet and other MPs stand – Cabinet ministers (24 for remain; six for leave)*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-35616946>> Accessed: 31.01.2025.

⁵⁵ BBC NEWS. EU vote: *Where the cabinet and other MPs stand – Cabinet ministers (24 for remain; six for leave)*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-35616946>> Accessed: 31.01.2025.

⁵⁶ BBC NEWS. *EU referendum: Would Brexit make Putin happy?*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36461020>> Accessed: 31.01.2025.

6. Conclusion

The UK became a member of the EEC in 1973, but immediately after a year the review of this membership began, while in 1975 the decision for the future of Britain, inside or outside the EEC, would be taken by the British people. Despite the anti-EEC voices of Tony Benn and Enoch Powell, the results of the 1975 referendum were in favor of UK membership in the EEC. The Euroscepticism of the first female British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, began with her opposition to the provision of a large sum of money in the EEC budget for agricultural subsidies. Then such declarations that the EEC can be responsible for the economic and legislative issues of its member states made Thatcher a severe Eurosceptic.

During the 90s, there were two British politicians who founded Eurosceptic parties, Alan Sked founded UKIP and James Goldsmith founded the Referendum Party. Although they did not manage to secure any seats in the House of Commons, they have continuously opposed EU policies. The UK never became part of the Eurozone and Gordon Brown is known as one of its biggest opponents. Before David Cameron entrusted the future of the United Kingdom to the British people in 2016, he had promised to hold referendums in Britain whenever changes were made to EU policies. The Lisbon Treaty reforms have sparked fierce debates between Eurosceptic and Europhile British politicians over the years. In order to escape these debates, politicians like Nick Clegg, Peter Bone, David Nuttall, James Wharton and Nigel Farage called for a referendum on the UK's EU membership.

During the Brexit referendum campaign in 2016, from David Cameron's cabinet there were six politicians who strongly supported the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, which were Chris Grayling, Theresa Villiers, John Whittingdale, Michael Gove, Priti Patel and Boris Johnson. Then, there were 138 Conservative MPs, 10 Labour MPs, 8 MPs from the Democratic Unionist Party, Douglas Carswell from UKIP and Tom Elliott from the Ulster Unionist Party who considered that Brexit was the right way for the future of the UK. Brexit was voted, processed and finalized within the period 2017-2021, and the UK is now considered a third country for the EU. Brexit negotiations have been extremely complicated, while the UK and the EU are still suffering the economic and political consequences of Brexit. The year 2026 marks 10 years since the British voted to withdraw their country from the EU. The goal of all the British politicians mentioned in this article has already been achieved, but in this world of countless problems and challenges, it cannot be denied that the UK needs the EU as much as the EU needs the UK.

List of References

- BBC NEWS. BBC Politics 97 – 9 June 1983. [online]. Available at: <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/special/politics97/background/pastelec/ge83.shtml>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.
- BBC NEWS. Election 2015 – Results. [online]. Available at: <<http://www.bbc.com/news/election/2015/results>> Accessed: 26.01.2025.
- BBC NEWS. *EU referendum: Would Brexit make Putin happy?*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36461020>> Accessed: 31.01.2025.
- BBC NEWS. EU vote: *Where the cabinet and other MPs stand – Cabinet ministers (24 for remain; six for leave)*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-35616946>> Accessed: 31.01.2025.
- BBC NEWS. *MPs reject Tory MP's call for 'in-out' EU referendum*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-12340799>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.
- BBC NEWS. *Timeline: Campaigns for a European Union*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-15390884>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.
- BERLINSKI, C. *There Is No Alternative: Why Margaret Thatcher matters*. New York: Basic Books, 2008, p. 320.
- BLAIR, T. *A Journey: My Political Life*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010, pp. 1498–1499.
- BUTLER, D., KITZINGER, U. *The 1975 Referendum*. 2nd ed. UK: The Macmillan Press, 1976, p. 11.
- CANNADINE, D. *Margaret Thatcher: A Life and Legacy*. UK: Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 108.
- CARRAPICO, H., NIEHUSS, A., BERTHÉLÉMY, Ch. *Brexit and Internal Security: Political and Legal Concerns on the Future UK-EU Relationship*. UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019, pp. 19–20.
- CURTIS, J., GOWER, M., KEEP, M., KENNEDY, S., LANG, A., MILLER, V., WEBB, D. Brexit: 'sufficient progress' to move to phase 2. *House of Commons Library*, 2017, no. 8183, p. 5.
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION. 1992: *The Social Dimension: Address by President Delors at the Trades Union Congress – Bournemouth, 8 September 1988*. [online]. Available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_88_66> Accessed: 30.01.2025.
- EUROPEAN COUNCIL. *Council adopts decision to conclude the withdrawal agreement*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/01/30/brexit-council-adopts-decision-to-conclude-the-withdrawal-agreement/>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.
- EUROPEAN COUNCIL. *Brexit: EU Council takes first formal step towards the conclusion of the withdrawal agreement*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-uk-after-referendum/>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.
- EUROPEAN COUNCIL. *EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: Council adopts decision on the signing*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/29/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement-council-adopts-decision-on-the-signing/>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.

- EUROPEAN COUNCIL. *EU-UK trade and cooperation agreement: Council adopts decision on conclusion*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/04/29/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement-council-adopts-decision-on-conclusion/>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.
- EUROPEAN COUNCIL. General Affairs Council (Art. 50), 22 May 2017. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac-art50/2017/05/22/>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.
- EUROPEAN COUNCIL. *Letter by President Donald Tusk to the Members of the European Council on his proposal for a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/02/02/letter-tusk-proposal-new-settlement-uk/>> Accessed: 27.01.2025.
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. *Parliament formally approves EU-UK trade and cooperation agreement*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210423IPR02772/parliament-formally-approves-eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.
- EUROPEAN UNION LAW. *Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union: TITLE VI – FINAL PROVISIONS: Article 50*. [online]. Available at: <<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12012M050>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.
- JOHNSON, B. *The UK & Great Britain – What's the Difference?*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/The-UK-Great-Britain-Whats-the-Difference/>> Accessed: 31.01.2025.
- KING, A. *Britain Says Yes: The 1975 Referendum on the Common Market*. Washington: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, 1977, p. 145.
- MARGARET THATCHER FOUNDATION. *Margaret Thatcher: Press Conference after Dublin European Council*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.margareththatcher.org/document/104180>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.
- MARGARET THATCHER FOUNDATION. *Margaret Thatcher: Speech to the College of Europe ("The Bruges Speech")*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.margareththatcher.org/document/104180>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.
- MCDONALD, H., HELM, T. *Theresa Villiers called upon to quit if she campaigns to leave EU*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jan/09/theresa-villiers-called-upon-to-quit-if-she-campaigns-to-leave-eu>> Accessed: 31.01.2025.
- MILLER, V. Brexit: who has said what about transition. *House of Commons Library*, 2018, no. 8238, p. 5.
- MILLER, V. The 1974–75 UK Renegotiation of EEC Membership and Referendum, 2015, *House of Commons Library*, no. 7253, p. 12.
- RASHICA, V. *Tërheqja e Mbretërisë së Bashkuar nga anëtarësia e Unionit Evropian dhe implikimet e këtij procesi*. Prishtinë: Botime Artini, 2024, p. 62.
- RASHICA, V. The Main Concerns towards the European Union that Led the British to Vote for Brexit. *European Studies – the Review of European law, Economics and Politics*, 2024, vol. 11, no. 1, p. 178.
- RASHICA, V. The United Kingdom's Brexit decision in the context of the 2000s enlargements of the European Union. *Europa XXI*, 2025, vol. 48, p. 5.

- SHIPMAN, T. *All Out War: The Full Story of How Brexit Sank Britain's Political Class*. UK: William Collins, 2016, p. 17.
- SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH. *Politician*. [online]. Available at: <<http://www.sirjamesgoldsmith.com/politician/>> Accessed: 10.02.2025.
- SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH. *Sir James Goldsmith: Financier, Politician, Thinker and Environmentalist*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.sirjamesgoldsmith.com/business-man/>> Accessed: 10.02.2025.
- THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION. *Report: 23 June 2016 referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union – Registration and turnout and the result of the referendum*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum/report-23-june-2016-referendum-uks-membership-european-union>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.
- THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION. *Results and turnout at the EU referendum – Results by region*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/elections-and-referendums/past-elections-and-referendums/eu-referendum/results-and-turnout-eu-referendum>> Accessed: 28.01.2025.
- UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT. *EU speech at Bloomberg*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/eu-speech-at-bloomberg>> Accessed: January 25, 2025.
- UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT. *PM Commons statement on EU reform and referendum: 22 February 2016*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-commons-statement-on-eu-reform-and-referendum-22-february-2016>> Accessed: 25.01.2025.
- UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT. *PM statement on European Council: 19 October 2015: UK renegotiation*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-european-council-19-october-2015>> Accessed: 25.01.2025.
- UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT. *Backbench business debate on the holding of an EU referendum*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/backbench-business-committee/news/eu-referendum-debate/>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.
- UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT. *European Union (Referendum) Bill 2013-14-progress of the bill*. [online]. Available at: <<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06711/>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.
- UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT. *Into Europe*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/tradeindustry/importexport/overview/europe/>> Accessed: January 23, 2025.
- UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY. *UKIP – About*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.ukip.org/ukip-page.php?id=02>> Accessed: 10.02.2025.
- WATT, N. *Clegg calls for EU referendum to end 'crazy' debate*. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/feb/25/eu.liberaldemocrats>> Accessed: 30.01.2025.
- WHEELER, B. *EU referendum: Did 1975 predictions come true?*. [online]. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36367246?intlink_from_url=&> Accessed: 30.01.2025.