

GERMAN INDUSTRY UK

THE VOICE OF GERMAN INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



Dr Bernd Atenstaedt
Chairman and
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The Referendum on 23rd June 2016

A personal view

As a German national who has lived and worked in the UK for more than 45 years, much longer than in Germany, I have mixed feelings about the Referendum next week and feel rather anxious now looking at the polls (FT poll of polls 17 June 48% leave, 43% remain) and the headlines in the newspapers (eg. The Sun 14 June BeLEAVE in Britain).

Surely the UK is not going to leave??

From the business point of view it does not make sense, as GERMAN INDUSTRY UK, the voice of German business in this country along with most of British business, has said many times. (See our Press Release – `Please Remain` dated 22 March).

However, the Referendum is not only about business. It is also about loss of control, immigration, terrorism and generally about the British way of life. So much about Europe is alien to a lot of British people: rules and regulations and being told by foreigners what to do.

So I understand their position to some extent but would certainly not welcome them leaving and very much hope they don't. Surely we are better off in Europe together? But we do need a much more coherent response to immigration and terrorism and the EU has to be much reformed.

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