

GERMAN INDUSTRY UK

THE VOICE OF GERMAN INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



Sent to members of GIUK and non-members in German industry, to German banks and other German businesses in the UK.

Dear Colleague,

Referendum on the UK's Membership of the EU – New Survey to find the views of German business in the UK

As you will know, the Referendum is a priority for the new Conservative Government elected on 7 May 2015. The Prime Minister is now re-negotiating the UK's relationship with the EU. He wants a reformed EU. Afterwards, he will ask the British people to decide whether to remain in the EU or to leave.

We asked a number of German companies about their views in early 2013 when we were not sure if the Referendum would take place. We now know that the Referendum will take place and would like to be able to present the views of all of German business in the UK to the Prime Minister.

The response of German business in the UK in June 2015:

German business wants the UK to remain within the EU

Whilst we agree with the Prime Minister that there should be significant reductions in EU costs, bureaucracy and regulations, we are concerned at the prospect of a UK outside the EU, should it come to that.

Our companies today operate freely across the EU, with the UK as one of our major markets and locations worldwide. A UK outside the EU, with a new set of trade agreements to be negotiated, would affect that business. Business needs stability and certainty and Mr Cameron's statement on Europe on 23 January 2013 when he first mentioned the Referendum has already created instability and uncertainty.

We would therefore like the Referendum to be undertaken earlier rather than later, in 2016 not in 2017 in order to see a clear way forward for our business in the UK.

We respect the decision made by the Prime Minister in 2013, and eventually the British people in 2016/7, but believe it is in the UK's best economic interest to stay in the EU.

Note:

German business today employs 500,000 (British) people in 2,500 companies across the UK and is therefore one of the most important foreign investors in the UK.

Would you agree with the statement above? (please mark with `X`)

YES -

NO –

If NO, comment –

Would you like to add something to the statement above?

NO –

YES –

If YES, comment –

Your answers will be treated confidentially. We will not attribute any comment to any particular company.

We very much appreciate your time and assistance with this important survey and would be very grateful if you could reply by 12 June if possible. To make it easy to reply, please copy and paste the red section above with your comment.

Many thanks.

**Mit freundlichen Gruessen/
With kind regards**

**DR BERND ATENSTAEDT
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