

GERMAN INDUSTRY UK

THE VOICE OF GERMAN INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



The Referendum

A personal view

As a German national who has lived in the UK with my (British) family for over 45 years, much longer than in Germany, I have mixed feelings about the forthcoming Referendum.

I believe the English will never be Europeans, maybe the Welsh, the Scots and the Northern Irish, so don't try and make them. Also, they will not be told by foreigners what to do unless they are Americans, they certainly will not be told by Germans, all part of their painful history with them. I would therefore not tell anyone how to vote.

In the present debate the British media is gunning for the Germans since, according to them, they run Europe. True or not, the British (English) would certainly not like to be run by Germans of all people, not that they do run Europe but they give a good impression of doing so.

I would of course prefer the UK to remain in the EU but it is not up to me, as a European citizen I do not have a vote in the Referendum. It is up to the British people and I am not sure that they want to stay in the EU.

So much is alien to the British way: rules and regulation, the British prefer the voluntary approach, order is not their idea of life. They will not be told by unelected officials, they listen at best to people they elect. They are an island, separate from the rest of Europe. They back any initiative outside their country which is in their interest or they keep away. They are alright on their own, always have been. They are a proud nation. Ever closer union with the continent, a European `superstate` is not in their interest. They would at best accept a flexible Europe, a Europe of independent nations.

The British Prime Minister got a commitment from the other EU countries at their summit on 20th February that the UK will not be part of an ever closer union, but will that check, or even question, the EU's possible ongoing drive towards a `superstate`? Regarding unwanted legislation, the UK can now throw it out if at least 14 other member states agree. But is this ever going to happen?

So I fully understand the British (English) position if they were to leave the EU although I would not welcome it. I am German after all and want all of us in Europe to face the many challenges together: immigration, security, economic recovery etc. although at the moment Europe does not seem to have much of an answer.

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