

HIST ◀ THE UK & EUROPE ▶

CS1 ◀ Britain joining the EEC : a Labour-Tory consensus 1960-1975 ▶

GUIDELINE:

When the six founding members of the European Economic Community (France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) signed the Treaty of Rome in 1957 and asked Britain whether it fancied hanging out to see what might happen, Britain said thanks, but no thanks. [...]

By the early 1960s, though, Harold Macmillan, the prime minister, had realised the mistake (it's the trade, stupid) and started making overtures towards Brussels. [...]

But this time the brush-off came from Europe, or more specifically France. In 1963, Charles de Gaulle said "non". Britain had "very special, very original habits and traditions", he said, and was "very different from continentals" – it would prove an Anglo-Saxon trojan horse in a European stable.

'Britain and the EU: the story of a very rocky marriage', John Henley, *The Guardian*, 23 June 2016.



"I suspect you of driving under the influence of America". Norman Mansbridge, *Punch*, 11 October 1967.

GUIDELINE:

As far as the functioning and the development of the Community are concerned, the communiqué [...] reported a 'complete identity of views' in this regard. In the words of Mr Pompidou, this agreement concerns the idea of 'a Europe composed of nations concerned with maintaining their identity but having decided to work together to attain true unity.' [...] The French also welcomed the acceptance by the British of the 'Community preference' in agriculture. [...]

These talks could not and were not intended to replace the negotiations that will be held between the Community and the United Kingdom. However, there has been a particularly firm and unequivocal assertion of the desire for and the possibility of success, notably on the British contribution to the financing of Community expenditure.

'The final round : the main outcomes of the May meeting between Edward Heath and Georges Pompidou', *30 jours d'Europe*, June 1971.



The conclusion to the negotiations into the European Community. Michael Cummings, *The Daily Express*, 28 January 1972.

GUIDELINE:



Mrs Thatcher at a Conservative rally, Getty Images, 1975. Source: "Britain and Europe", *BBC News*, 1 April 2014.

The champagne corks of the pro-Marketeers were still popping last night as Mr Wilson returned to Downing Street to face a double crisis involving the menacing economic situation but also the continuing unity of his Government and his party.

The homecoming was nevertheless a unique and historic triumph for a Prime Minister who had secured the backing of the country over the head of dissenters in his own party. He celebrated it with a brief statement declaring a formal end to the 14-year struggle over Europe and calling on the anti-Marketeers to join wholeheartedly in working inside Europe to solve the economic crisis.

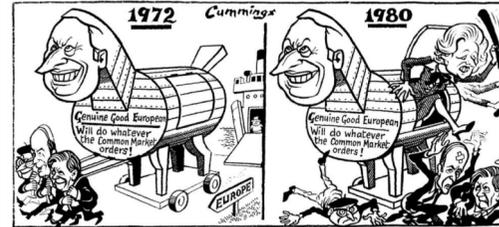
Shortly afterwards a group of the dissenting Ministers who fought hard but unsuccessfully to win a No majority in the referendum declared formally that they accepted the democratic verdict of the people.

'Now Wilson has to tackle Left', Ian Aitken, *The Guardian*, 7 June 1975.

HIST ◀ THE UK & EUROPE ▶

CS2 ◀ The Conservatives and Europe 1979-1997 ▶

GUIDELINE:



The UK in the EEC. Cummings, *the Daily Express*, 30 April 1988.

The aim of a Europe open to enterprise is the moving force behind the creation of the Single European Market in 1992. By getting rid of barriers, by making it possible for companies to operate on a European scale, we can best compete with the United States, Japan and other new economic powers emerging in Asia. And that means action to free markets, action to reduce government intervention. It is to such practical steps that the Community's attention should be devoted.

It is the same with frontiers between our countries. Of course, we want to make it easier for goods to pass through frontiers. Of course, we must make it easier for people to travel throughout the Community. But it is a matter of plain common sense that we cannot totally abolish frontier controls if we are also to protect our citizens.

Margaret Thatcher, speech to the College of Europe, Bruges, 20 September 1988.

GUIDELINE:



The Delors Plan for more integration. Cummings, *The Daily Express*, 28 June 1989.

Although the commission and supporters of progress towards European union were braced for Mrs Thatcher's onslaught, the bitterness of her language came as something of a shock. "It is ironic that just when those countries such as the Soviet Union, which have tried to run everything from the centre, are learning that success depends on dispersing power and decisions away from the centre, some in the community seem to want to move in the opposite direction," she declared. [...]

There was also resentment at her suggestion that supporters of a federal Europe necessarily backed a centralised authority in Brussels. "We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain, only to see them reimposed at a European level, with a European superstate exercising a new dominance from Brussels."

'Thatcher sets face against united Europe', John Palmer, *The Guardian*, Wednesday September 21, 1988

GUIDELINE:

Against the EMU. 'Up Yours Delors', *The Sun*, 1 November 1990.



After two days of "street fighting", as one Maastricht summit official described the negotiations, and a final night during which the summit swung back and forth on the brink of collapse, the other 11 EC countries committed themselves to a single currency and a fully-fledged social policy without Britain. [...] The deal allows 11 EC states to agree common measures on labour law and workers' rights but Britain is not obliged to join in. "Frankly, in practice, this is no more than another opt-out clause for the British," the spokesman for Mr Delors said.

An official in Mr Major's office insisted that Britain would remain untouched by any laws passed by the 11. "This is the best of all agreements. [...]" He claimed that in these circumstances Britain would become "a magnet for Japanese investment".

'EC unites on historic treaty with Britain in slow lane', John Palmer, *The Guardian*, 11 December 1991.

GUIDELINE:

The mistake of British foreign policy towards Europe for around half a century is to think that by hanging back in Europe we can avoid the debate [...]. In truth, we are in the debate anyway. Europe affects us, in or out. Economically, we are integrated with Europe. Politically, it is absurd to think Europe's decisions do not affect us. Our strategy should be: get in it, make the most of it, have the confidence to win the debate not be frightened by it.

Do we believe that the Europe our people want is a Europe of nations not a federal superstate? Yes. Do we believe Europe must reform economically to succeed? Yes. Do we believe Europe and the USA should be allies? Yes. Are our arguments good ones? Yes. Can we win the debate? It's up to us. But great nations don't hide away or follow along, stragglers at the back. They lead. They win.

Joining the EU, Tony Blair, address, Warsaw, Poland, 30 May 2003.



The Atlantic Alliance - an update. David Horsey, 2003.

GUIDELINE:

If we recommend entry to the Euro, it would be a step of such economic, and constitutional significance that a referendum would be right, which is why we have promised one. If the Constitution represented a fundamental change to the British Constitution and our system of parliamentary democracy, there would be a case for a referendum. But it doesn't.

The truth is the argument, advanced by both our countries, against a European superstate, is being won. Foreign and defence policy remains with governments and subject to unanimity. The argument that Britain or Poland could not in the future support military action in Iraq without Europe's permission is completely untrue. Tax rates will and should remain, as now, the prerogative of the British Parliament. Treaty changes will be by unanimity. Economic policy should and will be co-ordinated between governments.

Joining the EU, Tony Blair, address, Warsaw, Poland, 30 May 2003.



Ray Egan outside Parliament, 9 June 2003. Photo, Scott Barbour, Getty Images.

GUIDELINE:

Mr Brown set out his arguments on each of the treaty's most contentious elements, insisting in each case that Britain had won a good deal. [...] On the proposed pooling of sovereignty in justice and home affairs powers, Mr Brown said he had ensured that Britain had the flexibility to adopt those in its interest but reject those that were not. He said that he had successfully resisted attempts to undermine the intergovernmental nature of EU foreign policy-making and had protected a British national veto on social security. And he ruled out further European integration for the next decade.

In reply, Mr Cameron [...] said: "You have absolutely no democratic mandate to sign this treaty without a referendum. If you break your trust with the British people, they will rightly say how can we ever trust you on anything else again?"

'Gordon Brown attacked on all sides for 'running away' from referendum', Lewis Whyld, *The Times*, October 23, 2007.



The Sun front page, 14 December 2007. Note. Headline: quote from famous 1940 Churchill speech to the House of Commons.

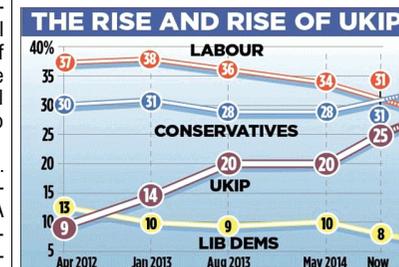
GUIDELINE:

We will be positive members of the European Union but we are clear that there should be no further extension of the EU's power over the UK without the British people's consent. We will ensure that by law no future government can hand over areas of power to the EU or join the Euro without a referendum of the British people. We will work to bring back key powers over legal rights, criminal justice and social and employment legislation to the UK.

2010 Conservative Party Manifesto for the general election.

Real change - We will deliver: • An in-out referendum on Britain's membership of the EU • More powers back to Britain • A better deal for British taxpayers • Continued control of our borders and a crackdown on benefit tourist • More control of justice and home affairs • More trade and continued economic independence - by saying no to the Euro and 'ever closer union'

2014 Conservative Party Manifesto for the EU Parliament election.



UKIP share of UKs votes, *The Daily Mail*, October 2014.

GUIDELINE:



The Sun front page, 24 June 2016.

The Brexit withdrawal agreement negotiated by Prime Minister Theresa May and approved by the EU on 25 November 2018 organises UK-EU relationship during the transition period from 29 March 2019 (when the UK leaves the EU) to 31 December 2020 (when a new trade relationship has been agreed on).

The deal codifies the rights of UK citizens currently living in the EU27 states and of EU nationals in Britain; settles the UK's bill to Brussels for a payment of around £39bn; and keeps Britain in EU single market and customs union.

If no trade agreement is reached by 31 December 2020, the transitional period would be extended and an Irish backstop (safety net) enforced: UK would stay in a customs union to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland (UK) and the Republic of Ireland (EU).

Sources: 'The Brexit deal explained', *Politico*, Institute for Government, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Week*, 2018-2019.

GUIDELINE:

On 17 October 2019, Boris Johnson came back from Brussels with a renegotiated deal. The new Brexit deal is essentially the old Brexit deal with a new chapter on the protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland. Overall the backstop has essentially been replaced by a full stop whereby Northern Ireland remains aligned to the EU, so in the single market and customs union, from the end of the transition period for at least four years.

After unsuccessfully blackmailing MPs to pass his deal in time to leave on 31 October, Boris Johnson had to ask Brussels for a third extension and MPs for a snap election. His promise to "get Brexit done" formed the centrepiece of his election campaign and he was rewarded for the Conservatives' thumping general election victory with a majority of 124 for his Brexit deal in the House of Commons.

'Brexit: MPs pass withdrawal agreement bill by 124 majority', Heather Stewart, *The Guardian*, 20 December 2019.



Brexit Day, 31 January 2020. *The Independent* front page, 1 -2 February 2020