

**A British perspective on Europe : key notions**

**Europhile** (little used) : pro-European, more European  
**integration** : a closer, deeper, stronger union ; can be economic and/or political, confederal or federal

**the British reluctance for federation** : a close union of states with a strong central, supranational government, meaning member states surrender more sovereignty to **supranational** (above state, national authority) institutions, to a superstate

**opt-out** : negotiated by a member state so as not to have to participate in some policy

**the British preference for confederation** : a loose association of state with intergovernmental cooperation and a weak central, supranational government,  
 to preserve **state sovereignty** : the exclusive right to exert legitimate power within a state ;  
 and **Parliamentary sovereignty** : only Parliament has the right and power to make or repeal law, British political principle since 1689.

due to a strong **sense of national identity**:

- based on a feeling of insularity : separated, different from Europe with a more global outlook (strong links with worldwide Commonwealth, special relationship with the USA),
- with Europe seen as the source of Britain's ills (had to be saved by the UK and the USA WWII) in popular culture (tabloids)
- attached to British symbols : Queen and Parliament, the pound, driving on the wrong side of the road, their crazy measuring system, etc...

**Eurosceptic** : criticising European integration ; can be **soft** to reform Europe from within to achieve more democracy, less bureaucracy or **hard** (anti-European) to leave Europe  
**United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) and its leader Nigel Farage** : populist party with one key policy - to leave the European Union, as the answer to a whole range of issues, notably controlling immigration, to attract disenfranchised voters from other parties.

**populism** : political program or movement that champions, or claims to champion, the common person, by contrast with a real or perceived elite.

**Brexit** : the UK leaving the EU ; can be **soft** with an agreement or **hard** without a deal

◀ **METHOD 1** ▶ **Comment on the following sources**

GUIDELINE	JOINING THE EEC: A CONSENSUS?
-----------	-------------------------------

With its own economy stuck in a rut, Britain saw France and Germany posting a strong post-war recovery and forming a powerful alliance, and changed its mind. It applied to join the EEC in 1961, only for entry to be vetoed - twice - by French President Charles de Gaulle. He accused Britain of a "deep-seated hostility" towards European construction, and of being more interested in links with the US.[...]

Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath finally led Britain into the EEC in 1973, after Gen de Gaulle had left office. When membership was put to a referendum in 1975, it had the support of Britain's three main parties and all its national newspapers. The result was resounding - with more than 67% voting in favour. But that did not end the debate. There was no immediate economic improvement - in fact power cuts continued, and rising oil prices caused double-digit inflation.

'Britain and the EU: A long and rocky relationship', Sam Wilson, *BBC News*, 1 April 2014.

The Anti Common Market League (Labour & Tories) campaign, 1975.



◀ **CASE STUDIES** ▶ **Oral presentations**

**CS1 - Britain joining the EEC: Labour-Tory consensus 1960-1975**

*Why was it so difficult for the UK to join the EEC?*

- Applying to join the EEC 1961-1973
- Entering and staying in the EEC 1973-1975

**CS2 - The Conservative New Right and Europe 1979-1997**

*How did the Conservative party show its ambivalence towards Europe?*

- 1979-1984 Margaret Thatcher setting things right: "We want our money back"
- 1985-1990 Margaret Thatcher and further integration: "No, no, no" but...
- 1990-1997 John Major, a pro-European PM against his own party

**CS3 - New Labour and Europe 1997-2010**

*How did the Labour party show its ambivalence towards the EU?*

- 1997-2005 Tony Blair's "Britain at the heart of Europe" yet...
- 1997-2010 The euro: maybe (Blair), maybe not (Gordon Brown -Chancellor 1997-2005, PM 2005-2010)
- 2002-2008 Did you say constitution?

**CS4 - The Conservatives and Brexit 2010-2020**

*How did ambivalence turn into -acrimonious- divorce?*

- 2010-2016 the run-up to Brexit: David Cameron, a soft Eurosceptic hijacked by his own party
- 2016-2020 negotiating the Brexit: from Theresa May's failures to Boris Johnson's success

Online resources @ <http://www.evoltairehg.fr> - Mail to [euro@evoltairehg.fr](mailto:euro@evoltairehg.fr) ; Translation & pronunciation @ <https://www.linguee.fr> ; Dictionary @ <https://simple.wiktionary.org> ; Encyclopaedia @ <https://simple.wikipedia.org>

◀ **METHOD 2** ▶ **Comment on the following sources**

GUIDELINE	CONSERVATIVE AMBIVALENCE TOWARDS EUROPE
-----------	---

It took Cameron barely a year after becoming prime minister in 2010 before he [...] blocked an EU-wide treaty aimed at saving the single currency after the financial crisis.

Two years later, Cameron - increasingly alarmed at the prospect of losing Eurosceptic Conservative voters (and MPs) to UKIP - promised an in/out vote on Britain's EU membership if he won the 2015 general election. As if to confirm his fears, UKIP, making electoral hay from high levels of EU immigration, finished top in the 2014 European election.

And after Cameron attempted desperately to negotiate a whole "new deal" for Britain in Europe, which wasn't much interested in Britain's problems when it had a migration crisis to deal with - it's now crunch time.

So, will it be a bad-tempered breakup? Or will it be a kiss and make-up? We will find out on 23 June.

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

And the winner is.... Clissold Scott, *The Daily Star*, 1 March 2016.

