

EU Referendum

Roundup, week 11

Friday 18 March 2016



Institute
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Past week's events

Mon 14 March	The travel industry body Abta warns for fewer flights, higher prices and says Britons risk losing free health cover and capped mobile phone charges if UK votes to leave in the EU referendum
	Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham to DWP: how many people living in each country of the EU are in receipt of the UK state pension which is currently uprated annually under EU regulations and reciprocal agreements, and what assessment they have made of what will happen to those pensions if the UK leaves the EU. Answered by Baroness Altmann : The Government has a clear position, which has remained consistent for around 70 years: UK state pensions are payable worldwide and uprated abroad where we have a legal requirement to do so for example in the European Economic Area or countries where we have a reciprocal agreement that allows for uprating. There are no plans to change this. Details of the numbers of people in receipt of the state pension, and whether they live in countries where the state pension is frozen or uprated, is included at Annex A. Countries where the UK state pension is up-rated are identified by an asterisk by the name of the country. The Government's view is that the UK will be stronger, safer and better off in a reformed EU. Of course there is uncertainty about how a vote to leave the EU could impact on access to pensioner benefits for UK pensioners living in other parts of Europe. These questions would need to be answered as part of the process of negotiating the UK's exit if there is a vote to leave. We could only consider the detail of access to pensions and benefits for people in receipt of UK state pensions who are resident in Europe as part of the process for leaving the EU. See Question HL6346 and annex with countries where people are in receipt of UK state pension
	British expats face a dark cloud of uncertainty because of the EU referendum
Tue 15 March	Sir Lynton Crosby, analyses the current polls. Nearly half (48 per cent) of voters say they do not have the information needed to make a choice. The challenge for both campaigns is the same: to raise the importance of the referendum outcome. A third (31 per cent) of voters who are undecided or likely to change their mind say their biggest hesitation in voting Remain is the potential for uncontrolled or increased immigration. A similar proportion (30 per cent) of voters who are undecided or likely to change their mind say their biggest hesitation in voting Leave is the damage it might cause to the UK economy
	Lord Hill, EU Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union says that Brexit risks ruling the UK out of its best market. ¾ of investors into the UK do so because of access to the EU Single Market.
	Chris Cummings, CEO, TheCityUK says international firms are drawn to the UK as a gateway to the EU
	CBI member survey reveals huge support for remaining in EU (80% of its members)
Wed 16 March	UK Expats launch legal action to allow them to vote. Currently, only those UK citizens living abroad less than 15 years are allowed to participate. It is said the law suit could delay EU referendum.
Thu 17 March	BoE blames 10% fall for Sterling on EU referendum uncertainty . ING says that "the BoE acknowledge that the Brexit vote has weighed on sterling and may also delay some spending decisions and depress growth of aggregate demand in the near term. This is nothing more than stating the obvious, but it could be the first step into what could become a more concerted campaign to highlight the economic risks"
	Analysis of the potential impact on expats : UK pensioners might have their pensions frozen, lose right to work, set up businesses, buy property, or bring family members, or see health care costs rise.
	The OBR, avoiding views on Brexit, was quoted by the Chancellor : "a vote to leave in the forthcoming referendum could usher in an extended period of uncertainty regarding the precise terms of the UK's future relationship with the EU. This could have negative implications for activity via business and consumer confidence and might result in greater volatility in financial and other asset markets."
Fri 18 March	Scott James, LSE, analyses the differing views within the City about the EU referendum. TheCityUK and the BBA being in favour, whereas hedge funds are supporting Brexit, and a pro-Brexit 'City for Britain campaign is in the making.

Upcoming events

31 March	Deadline for campaign groups to apply to become designated campaign Group
14 April	Formal designation of the 2 Campaign Groups (either side) by Electoral Commission

5 May	London mayoral elections + London assembly elections
5 May	National Assembly for Wales election
5 May	Scottish Parliament election
23 June	EU Referendum date
23-24 June	EU Summit