

EU Referendum

Roundup, week 15

Friday 15 April 2016



Institute
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Past week's events

Mon 11 April	The Electoral Commission is said to publish a guidance note on activities permissible for businesses once the referendum period formally begins on Friday. Many, including the CBI, have raised frustration about the ambiguity of rules concerning campaigning during the formal referendum period
	The UK's fintech sector could have an advantage when the UK decides to leave the EU, some experts suggest. There would be a greater opportunity for innovative technology start-ups to disrupt the world of finance currently dominated by big banks.
	Column explaining the uncertainty of outcomes and impacts – and why economists are not able to provide good answers
Tue 12 April	IMF says an exit from EU 'could do severe regional and global damage' by disrupting trade relationships. The IMF said that after growing 2.2% in 2015, the UK economy is now expected to expand by only 1.9% in 2016, down from a forecast of 2.2% made by the Fund in January. That compares with 2.0% growth predicted for 2016 by the government's independent forecasters, the Office for Budget Responsibility.
	EU Commissioner for Financial Services, Lord Hill, said nobody voting to leave the European Union should expect the UK to get improved terms: "If for different reasons you want to leave that is perfectly proper, but don't believe there is such a thing as a free lunch, that you can have your cake and eat it."
	Many UK workers could lose the right to holiday pay if the UK votes to leave the European Union, according to a new report. The TUC has warned that one in four workers have extra paid holidays as a result of European working rights laws.
Wed 13 April	Research from thinktank Open Europe suggests Britain would still likely experience high levels of immigration if it were to leave the EU in June
	Spain, Italy and Portugal have joined Poland, Romania and Hungary as the key nations driving the increase, according to an analysis by the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford.
	Vote Leave was chosen to lead official Brexit campaign . Vote Leave is lead by (amongst others) Michael Gove, Boris Johnson, Matthew Elliot and Dominic Cummings. The other contesters, Leave.EU and The Trade Union and Socialist Coalition, are thinking about challenging the decision.
Thu 14 April	The Electoral Commission publishes a spending guidance note for organisations during the campaign. The main point is that applicable spending is "(...) if it is intended to or otherwise in connection with, promoting or bringing about a particular outcome in the referendum."
	The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) says that uncertainty grows as the impact of Stamp Duty changes, the EU referendum and devolved elections take their toll on the UK housing market.
	Mindful of the varied views on the Referendum, the Food and Drink Federation (FDF) has created an online resource for members, and others working in or with an interest in food and drink manufacturing to use when considering their position.
Fri 15 April	No 10 issues referendum rule book to company executives on what they can and cannot do during the campaign from now until the referendum. It covers issues ranging from whether it is appropriate for a chief executive to communicate the company's views on the referendum to whether government ministers can attend company events during the campaign.
	The result of the UK's referendum on EU membership might be decided by the basic human need for safety. The large number of people answering "Don't Know" to polls on which way they'll vote in the June 23 referendum will swing the result towards staying in, according to HSBC.

Upcoming events

5 May	London mayoral elections + London assembly elections
5 May	National Assembly for Wales election
5 May	Scottish Parliament election
5 May	Northern Ireland Assembly elections
23 June	EU Referendum date
27-28 June	EU Summit