

EU Referendum

Roundup, week 47

Friday 20 November 2015



Institute
and Faculty
of Actuaries

Assessment	After last week's intense (media) attention on the EU referendum, this week things have understandably shifted towards the Paris attacks. Extreme right wing politicians abroad and in the UK, have started to use the attacks to advance their argument to limit immigration. The main EU referendum item this week was the Lords' vote to include 16- and 17 year olds to the franchise. It consequently stirred a lot of debate and will likely push the referendum date back.
-------------------	---

Past week's events

Mon 16 Nov.	Academic research warns that the UK might vote to leave the EU, despite opposition in three of the four UK nations.
Tue 17 Nov.	No EU referendum news
Wed 18 Nov.	The House of Lords has voted to extend the franchise , potentially adding a million voters and delaying the timing of the vote (perhaps until Oct.2016) as electoral officials need to work to enrol them. The House of Commons can overturn.
	The European Scrutiny Committee held a meeting the UK Government's renegotiation of EU membership: parliamentary sovereignty and scrutiny, hearing evidence from Law professors from LSE, KCL, and Cambridge. On immigration, they think changing residence conditions do not necessarily require Treaty change.
	The Treasury Committee held a meeting on the economic and financial costs and benefits of UK membership of the EU. It took evidence from large (JML, Avingtrans) and small companies, including the Federation for Small Businesses. Trade, employment and migration were discussed.
	An Ipsos MORI poll on behalf of STV News has shown that support among Scots for remaining in the EU has reached its highest level yet, finding 65 per cent support staying in, whilst 22 per cent want to leave and 13 per cent remain undecided.
Thu 19 Nov.	Tim Farron (LibDems) speeched at the IPPR conference . He said that migration is a blessing - not a curse, and that since 2000, it has added £20 billion to our economy.
Fri 20 Nov.	The BBC Trust launched an eight week consultation asking for views on a set of referendum guidelines and a set of election guidelines which will assist BBC journalists and content producers reporting on both the European Union membership referendum and on elections due to take place next May

Upcoming events

17-18 Dec.	EU Summit, where Cameron will meet his counterparts, to negotiate
Jan 2016	EU referendum bill Assent (likely)