

EU Referendum

Roundup, week 49

Friday 4 December 2015



Institute
and Faculty
of Actuaries

Assessment	<p>David Cameron's renegotiation work with other Member States is still ongoing, with the next EU Summit coming up on 17 Dec. It seems less likely he can strike a deal by then, pushing it back to the next EU Summit in February 2016. This adds to the assumption that a referendum will be held no earlier than September 2016 (but a June date could be still on the cards).</p> <p>Danes voting 'NO' to opt-in to EU Justice and Home Affairs chapters may embolden the UK Leave campaign.</p>
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Past week's events

Mon 30 Nov.	<p>Poland's deputy foreign minister indicated that his country supports many of the UK's demands, save for the migration issue (to differentiate benefit claims for EU workers).</p>
	<p>David Cameron met with EU Council President Tusk, to discuss the UK renegotiation. Both stated that "good progress" was made. Other sources said earlier they see difficulty in reaching a deal at the upcoming 17 December EU Summit</p>
	<p>A national survey of 1,000 students by the Higher Education Policy Institute found that 70% of full-time students in higher education would vote for Britain to remain in the EU.</p>
Tue 1 Dec.	<p>Alan Johnson launches, and leads, Labour's 'keep UK in the EU' campaign. In his speech, Mr. Johnson focused on workers rights and on safety issues: staying in the EU means a safer UK, due to the EU arrest warrant and cross-border data sharing.</p>
	<p>George Osborne appeared before Treasury Committee to discuss the economic and financial costs and benefits of UK membership of the EU. Amongst the things he stated were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40 per cent of EEA migrants were supported by the UK benefit system• The Single market for financial services benefits UK FS industry, but there is tension between remaining in the single market and making sure the UK was competitive as a financial sector• UK citizens benefit from common standards• BoE should have responsibility for UK's financial supervision• the bonus cap was counterproductive and had led to higher base pay• If the UK had to have a referendum in the latter part of 2017 "we will do so"
	<p>Also at the Treasury Committee, Mark Bowman, director general, International and EU, HM Treasury said there would be a "substantial reduction" in EU migrants if a deal on in-work benefits was reached. He would not give numerical estimates.</p>
Wed 2 Dec.	No EU referendum news
Thu 3 Dec.	<p>Danes went to the polls and 53% decided to keep full national control of justice and home affairs, instead of converting this "opt-out" into an "opt-in".</p>
Fri 4 Dec.	No EU referendum news

Upcoming events

17-18 Dec.	EU Summit, where Cameron will meet his counterparts, to negotiate
18-19 Feb 2016	EU Summit