



The All-Party Parliamentary  
**University Group**

**20 October 2015**





# The All-Party Parliamentary **University Group**

## **Agenda**

**The subject of the meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary University Group is Universities and Europe: why EU membership and reform matter.**

- 6.00pm**      **Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP**, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary University Group, welcome and introductions.
- 6.05pm**      **Professor Julia Goodfellow**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kent and President, Universities UK
- 6.15pm**      **Neil Carmichael MP**, Chair, Conservative Europe Group
- 6.25pm**      **Pawel Swidlicki**, Policy Analyst, Open Europe
- 6.40pm**      Questions, comments, and discussion with university leaders, MPs and Peers.
- 7.30pm**      Speaker meeting concludes. Guests move to **Dining Room B** for dinner.



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## Speaker biographies



**Professor Julia Goodfellow**

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow has been Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kent since 2007. She was appointed to both the Science and Technology Facilities Council and Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology in 2011. She took up the post of President of Universities UK in August 2015.

Julia's scientific studies pioneered the use of computational methods to study the structures of large biologically important molecules. She became Professor of Biomolecular Sciences in 1995 at Birkbeck, University of London, where she was appointed Vice-Master in 1998. Before joining Kent, Julia was Chief Executive of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

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**Neil Carmichael MP**

Neil was first elected to Parliament in 2010 and serves as MP for Stroud, re-elected this May with an increased majority. He was elected to Chair of the Education Select Committee in June 2015, having served as a member of the Education Select Committee between 2010 and 2015.

He was also a member of the Environmental Audit Committee and established two All Parliamentary Party Groups: Governance and Leadership in Education, and Vascular Diseases. He is also Chairman of the Conservative Europe Group, which campaigns for Britain's continued membership of a reformed European Union.

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**Pawel Swidlicki**

Pawel joined Open Europe in 2011, and has established himself as an expert and media commentator on a range of issues from the EU budget and EU regional policy, to the role of national parliaments in EU decision making. Pawel also follows how domestic politics in the UK, Poland and Germany impact on these countries' EU policies.

Pawel has worked on Open Europe Intelligence which has informed and shaped policy at both the UK and EU level. These include refocusing the EU budget, identifying a common Anglo-German agenda for EU reform, and changing the rules around EU migrants' access to benefits to preserve the principle of EU free movement.

Prior to joining Open Europe, Pawel worked in the City for two years and also in Westminster, where he interned for a Lib Dem MP. Pawel holds a BA in History from the University of Leicester - during which he spent a year at the University of Regensburg in Germany - and an MA in International Relations from the University of Nottingham.

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## **Briefing: Universities and Europe**

**Prepared for members of the All-Party Parliamentary University Group**

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues.

This briefing document has been produced by Universities UK which provides the Secretariat for the University APPG.



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## **European Referendum Bill 2015-16**

The European Referendum Bill was introduced into Parliament on 28 May 2015. It has already concluded its passage through the House of Commons. The second reading of the bill in the House of Lords took place on 13 October 2015. The second reading of the European Referendum Bill took place in the House of Lords on 13 October. The issue of extending the franchise to 16 and 17 years olds was raised repeatedly. The Committee stage of the bill takes place on 28 October 2015.

The European Union Referendum Bill would require a referendum to be held by the end of the 2017, but autumn 2016 and spring 2017 are seen as the most likely times for a referendum – with an earlier date made more likely by any early ‘wins’ in negotiations.

Following advice from the UK Electoral Commission, the question is likely to be: ‘Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?’

## **Negotiations**

Amongst the many articles that have been written about the European referendum the top issues and concerns that continue to appear include: jobs, the economy, immigration, membership cost, trade, influence, British citizens living abroad and EU citizens living in Britain, taxes and how the UK legal system would function.

The Prime Minister has not given full details of his negotiations but has provided a broad overview of the government’s priorities, these are:

- Allowing Britain to opt-out from the EU ambition to forge an "ever closer union" of the peoples of Europe
- Restricting access to in-work and out-of-work benefits to EU migrants
- Giving greater powers to national parliaments to block EU legislation
- Supporting the continued enlargement of the EU to new members but with new mechanisms in place to "prevent vast migrations across the Continent"
- Freeing business from red tape and "excessive interference" from Brussels and providing access to new markets through "turbo charging" free trade deals with America and Asia
- Protection for the City of London financial markets from EU legislation
- Creating safeguards to ensure changes in the single market cannot be imposed on non-Eurozone members by the Eurozone.



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## **Current polling**

Recent polls of public opinion on EU membership had shown a considerable, but not overwhelming, lead for 'in' over 'out'. However, two polls issued in mid-September by separate polling companies showed the two sides very close. It is not yet possible to conclude if this represents a change in trend or two 'rogue' polls.

Existing polling of Conservative MPs show slightly more leaning 'out' than 'in', but with many more remaining undecided – with similar proportions in the Cabinet. There is continuing debate as to whether Cabinet ministers will be permitted to campaign to exit the EU.

## **The 'Leave' Campaign**

There are two main groups vying to be the official lead of the 'leave' campaign. Vote Leave set up by Matthew Elliott of Business for Britain and Dominic Cummings, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP's former Special Adviser. Vote Leave is made up of Conservative, Labour and UKIP MPs and donors. It has also gained the association of Conservatives for Britain, led by Lord Lawson and Labour for Britain, set up by Kate Hoey MP and backed by John Mills.

The second campaign, Leave.EU, is backed by UKIP donor Arron Banks and has the support of Nigel Farage MEP. Positioning itself as a grassroots campaign, it has over 180,000 followers and has gained the support of established anti-EU groups Get Britain Out and Campaign for an Independent Britain.

Amongst those groups who have been campaigning for differing levels of reform such as Centre for European Reform and Open Europe, who we will hear from at the meeting.

## **'Remain' Campaign**

The 'Remain' campaign, Britain Stronger In Europe, was launched on 12 October. It is led by Lord Stuart Rose, former Head of M&S. The campaign's board is made up of 16 members including Professor Janet Beer, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool; Megan Dunn, NUS President; Lord Mandelson; Caroline Lucas MP and Damien Green MP. Former Prime Ministers Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and John Major are also supportive.





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However, like the 'leave' camp there are many established pro-Europe groups that are already publicly discussing the benefits of remaining as part of the EU. These include British Influence, set up in 2012 with co-presidents Sir Danny Alexander, Kenneth Clarke MP and Lord Mandelson and the Conservative Europe Group, founded in 1969.

Some organisations have already begun their pro-Europe campaigns ahead of the outcome of the negotiations, including group from within the higher education sector. This includes Scientists for EU, a collaboration of universities, researchers, industry scientists, students and more, who were set up in May 2015; and Regent's University London who have produced a comprehensive report on the costs, benefits and options of the UK's relationship with the EU. The report has a dedicated chapter on higher education but it also covers many other areas of discussion including transport issues, energy policy and sovereignty. Copies of the report are available at the meeting.

Universities UK launched their Universities for Europe campaign in July 2015. More information about the Universities UK campaign is included below.

### **Universities for Europe campaign**

Universities UK launched its Universities for Europe campaign on 27 July 2015. The objectives for the campaign are:

- For universities to be a positive voice in promoting the value of EU membership
- For the national referendum debate to be informed and strengthened by our arguments and evidence
- For the British public to be better informed about how EU membership enables UK universities to have a bigger positive impact on individuals, the economy and society
- To promote the role of universities as a place to host public debate and provide academic expertise.



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## **Why Universities UK is campaigning for the UK to remain a member of the European Union**

Universities UK has taken a strong stance on this issue because they believe that EU membership has increased the positive impact of university research, created jobs and driven economic growth and attracted the brightest and best to the UK.

The latest research shows that EU students generate around £2.27 billion for the UK economy and 19,000 British jobs in local communities around the country depend on them.

The Human Brain Project is an ambitious European project to improve our understanding of the human brain so that we can develop cures for diseases like Alzheimer's. It will also lead to the creation of new computers that work similar to the brain. The project has only been possible with European teamwork that has brought the best minds together to understand the human brain. The UK has a central role in the project, with 11 UK universities joining forces with over 100 other partners from 23 other countries. The EU backed project infrastructure will ensure that British universities will be at the forefront of future brain research.

The EU provides opportunities for UK students and researchers to experience living and working in continental Europe. The EU's Erasmus programme – one of the most well-known schemes to foster mobility between European universities – has benefitted more than 200,000 British students and over 20,000 British university staff to date. This is not about academic tourism but about building networks and absorbing other languages and cultures. These are the insights needed for British students to become the global leaders of tomorrow.

With EU support, UK universities foster entrepreneurship and employability among staff, students and graduates. Plymouth University is a partner in the EU 'Unlocking Potential' programme which has been supporting people to develop and businesses to grow for over ten years. So far it has helped to create over 1,300 graduate level jobs in over 800 businesses through skills training, placements and a dedicated recruitment platform.



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## **Campaign activities**

The campaign intends to promote the role of universities as places of debate and sources of academic expertise. Universities will open their lecture halls to host public debates to give people opportunities to hear from all sides, to discuss the pros and cons of EU membership and discover more about its impact on universities and, in turn, how this affects them.

The Universities for Europe website will be a hub for EU referendum-related news, events, speeches, case studies. Supporters of the campaign can sign up for updates, volunteer to be spokespeople, provide case studies and get campaign materials and publications.

The campaign will be active in the media and on social media, sparking debate and sharing knowledge and expertise, building up networks from across the higher education sector and working with other national organisations.



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## Further Information

Opening speech by the Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-simple-but-vital-piece-of-legislation-to-deliver-on-our-promise-to-give-the-british-people-the-final-say-on-our-eu-membership>)

Briefing papers for the European Referendum Bill  
(<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/europeanunionreferendum/documents.html>)

Business for Britain (<http://businessforbritain.org/>)

Conservatives for Britain (<http://conservativesforbritain.org/>)

Labour for Britain (<http://labourforbritain.org/>)

Vote Leave (<http://www.voteleavetakecontrol.org/>)

Campaign for an Independent Britain  
(<http://campaignforanindependentbritain.org.uk/>)

Leave.EU (<http://leave.eu/>)

Open Europe (<http://openeurope.org.uk/>)

Centre for European Reform (<http://www.cer.org.uk/>)

Conservative Europe Group (<http://www.conservativeeuropesgroup.org.uk/>)

CBI (<http://news.cbi.org.uk/business-issues/uk-and-the-european-union/>)

Universities for Europe  
(<http://www.universitiesforeurope.com/Pages/Home.aspx#.VhZ6JvVhHw>)

Scientists for EU (<http://scientistsforeu.uk/>)

Regent's University London, 2015, The UK & Europe: Costs, Benefits, Options  
([www.regents.ac.uk/europereport](http://www.regents.ac.uk/europereport))









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## **Future meetings**

### **24 November 2015**

The proposed Teaching Excellence Framework: How can we measure teaching quality in universities and how should it be rewarded?

*6pm-7.30pm, Committee Room 8, followed by dinner*

Speakers to include Dr Steven Jones, Senior Lecturer and Researcher in Education, University of Manchester, Ian Wright MP, Chair, BIS Select Committee (invited) and Jo Johnson MP, Minister for Universities and Science (invited).

### **8 December 2015**

Stamping out sexual harassment and 'lad culture' in the university sector

*8.30am-10am, Dining Room B, breakfast served at meeting*

### **27 January 2016**

International comparisons of funding of the higher education sector

*6pm-7.30pm, followed by dinner*

Speakers to include Professor Sir David Greenaway, Vice-Chancellor of University of Nottingham and John O'Leary, Author, The Times Good University Guide.

For more information about the group please email [appug@universitiesuk.ac.uk](mailto:appug@universitiesuk.ac.uk) or visit [www.universityappg.co.uk](http://www.universityappg.co.uk)