

AGM 2025

Motions and amendments



Motion – Appointment of auditor for 2025-26 (agenda item 9)

Proposed by: The Board

‘That Lindeyer Francis Ferguson be appointed as auditors of the Company.’

Motion (a) – A dynamic but stepped campaign to rejoin the EU

Proposed by: Christopher David

Seconded by: Andrew Hesselden

Amendment – proposed by Chief Executive, Nick Harvey. To insert:

This AGM:

1. Notes Christopher David’s political analysis ‘A dynamic but stepped campaign to rejoin the EU’ (appended below).
2. Reaffirms EMUK’s ongoing campaigning to build majority support for joining the EU, and particularly its work:
 - (a) Building support among businesses and unions through *Business with Europe*
 - (b) Building support among Parliamentarians through the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Europe
 - (c) Lobbying the Government to accelerate its reset agenda now it is willing to acknowledge that Brexit has contributed to our economic problems
 - (d) Mounting issue campaigns aimed at convincing key ‘swing’ segments of the population

Appendix – “A dynamic but stepped campaign to rejoin the EU” (by Christopher David)

Summary:

The European Movement is engaged in some worthy campaigns notably around youth mobility, but should consider a more aggressive campaign, addressing the big picture, to Rejoin – in a stepped manner starting with membership of EFTA and the EEA as first steps to make it palatable to the wider British public.

Farage and Co set the country up for the Brexit 'vote'. They were clever and dynamic; the rest were lazy. Reform is doing exactly the same thing now. It's gradually setting the country up with its 'educating' propaganda.

Labour cannot beat them with their present 'in the shadow of reform' approach in trying to win the next election. Immigration and the economic issues are forefront. Labour maybe about to announce another deeply unpopular budget and the so-called fiscal hole is reputedly (it varies every day) circa £50 billion.

Being in the single market could plug some of that. If leading economists are to be believed. It's widely acknowledged being out of the single market cost the UK 4% on GDP PA, that = c£40 billion PA in tax receipts, see notes below.

Reform will set, and are setting the scene to persuade the persuadable they can set Britain on a new and prosperous path. They will succeed.

Labour is sitting in their shadow with its watery messages, just as the Conservatives ending up doing in 2016 over Brexit. There is no other party at present capable of beating Reform.

I propose that the EM gets far more aggressive in its campaigns, and address the matter of rejoin in entirety.

- Sound out bodies like the Chambers of Commerce, NFU, CBI et al and key figures like Lord Alan Sugar. Andy Burnham!
- See if there's an appetite to lobby MP's and ministers en-masse with a campaign to persuade Labour to change its strategy, create and present an entirely new scenario to the UK public. Differentiate itself from Reform. Tell the truth!
- Lobby government to change strategy, distance itself from Reform and educate the British public to the reality of being out of the EU and 'enjoying' Reform in power. It's scary- demonstrate it so!

I have long been asking some questions (guardedly) of AI (now) and other sources re the impact of Brexit on the UK economy. We have seen the so-called red wall dictate Labour's policy on Europe. They and the (some!) unions convince Prime Minister Starmer and Co the votes with are them. That may be changing (it probably is!)

A suggested route is a 'soft' rejoin through the EFTA > EEA. Yes, this can be done as some very senior politicians have testified.

Rachel Reeves has explicitly stated that Brexit is in large part to blame for the UK's poor economic performance.

In recent interviews and public statements ahead of her autumn budget, Chancellor Rachel Reeves has acknowledged that the lingering and enduring impact of Brexit is one of the key factors contributing to the UK's economic challenges. She cited Brexit alongside austerity policies and Liz Truss's mini-budget as causes of the current fiscal difficulties, including sluggish growth, high inflation, and a projected £50 billion budget shortfall.

Key Points from Reeves' Statements:

- Brexit's economic impact: Reeves described the consequences of leaving the EU as "severe and long-lasting," marking one of the strongest critiques of Brexit by a senior Labour figure.
- Productivity concerns: She noted that the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) had "consistently overestimated" UK productivity, and that Brexit had contributed to this underperformance.
- Budget implications: The Chancellor is preparing tax rises and spending cuts, partly due to the economic drag from Brexit, which she says has created a structural hole in the public finances.

This framing suggests that Reeves is positioning Brexit as a structural headwind to growth and fiscal stability, rather than a short-term disruption. Her comments reflect a broader Labour narrative that seeks to contrast their economic stewardship with the legacy of Conservative-led Brexit and fiscal policy.

Rachel Reeves has not explicitly stated that Brexit is the biggest detriment to the UK economy, but she has consistently cited it as one of the major factors hindering economic recovery.

What Reeves Has Said About Brexit's Economic Impact

In recent interviews, particularly ahead of the November 2025 Budget, Chancellor Rachel Reeves has made several pointed remarks about Brexit's role in the UK's economic difficulties:

She described Brexit's impact as "severe and long-lasting," placing it alongside austerity and Liz Truss's mini-budget as key contributors to the UK's fiscal challenges. Reeves acknowledged that the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) had "consistently overestimated" UK productivity, and that Brexit was a major cause of the downgrade.

She stated that the government is still having to "undo some damage" from leaving the EU, particularly in terms of trade barriers and reduced growth potential.

Has She Called It the Biggest Detriment?

No direct quote or statement from Reeves identifies Brexit as the single biggest obstacle to economic improvement. Instead, she presents it as part of a trio of structural challenges— alongside austerity and the fallout from Truss-era fiscal policy—that collectively weigh on growth, productivity, and public finances.

Political Implications

Reeves's framing is politically significant:

- She has linked Brexit to Nigel Farage, suggesting that its architects bear responsibility for the economic consequences.
- This strategy risks alienating some Leave voters who supported Labour in the last election, especially amid rising support for Reform UK.

Motion (b) – A Bolder Campaign for People Mobility for All Ages

Proposed by: Andrew Hesselden

Seconded by: Christopher David

Amendment – proposed by Chief Executive, Nick Harvey. To insert:

This AGM:

- 1) Reaffirms the European Movement's ongoing support for the restoration of mutual Freedom of Movement—of people as well as of goods, services, and capital—as a core objective of the UK's future relationship with Europe.
- 2) Notes that the Movement's Forward Plan includes a commitment to mount a campaign highlighting the benefits of Freedom of Movement and the opportunities it brought to British people when we were European citizens as members of the EU.
- 3) Urges the Movement to launch that campaign at the earliest opportune moment and to note and take into account the analysis presented in this motion.

Summary:

This AGM recognises that Freedom of Movement of people, goods, services, and capital is a fundamental part of being in the Single Market and the European Union. As part of rebuilding public and political support for EU membership, it will be necessary to address some of the ideological challenges that have arisen around the mobility of people. This motion encourages the European Movement to take a confident and unambiguous stance on mutual people mobility for all ages, and to help reframe it as a positive, reciprocal and essential element of modern European cooperation.

Full Text:

- This AGM recognises that mobility of people—alongside the free movement of goods, services, and capital—was one of the EU's greatest achievements, delivering prosperity, opportunity, and cultural exchange for generations of British and European citizens alike.
- This AGM further recognises that the loss of this mobility has had serious consequences not only for young people, but also for individuals of all ages and for many sectors of the economy—including the arts, transport, tourism, construction, education, and healthcare among others.
- This AGM also acknowledges the challenges that migration and asylum bring to societies around the world, including the plight of those fleeing conflict, and that such matters require considered, appropriate and humane responses.
- However, this AGM recognises the importance of clearly distinguishing between these issues and the concept of mutual international mobility between British and other European citizens (meaning

EU/EEA/Swiss citizens). This international mobility concerns reciprocal rights and opportunities for lawful movement, visa-free travel, residence, work, and study—and should not be conflated with irregular migration or the “small boats” issue that has been weaponised by populist politicians.

- Furthermore, this AGM notes that if the UK is to re-join the EEA & Single Market and/or the European Union, it will be essential for both the public and parliamentarians to accept and embrace the concept of Freedom of Movement of people—alongside the other three freedoms of goods, services, and capital—as fundamental principles of European cooperation and prosperity.
- This AGM calls for re-joining the EEA & Single Market at the earliest possible opportunity.
- This AGM calls for re-joining the EU at the earliest possible opportunity.

This AGM therefore calls on the European Movement UK to:

1. Take a clear and unambiguous stance in support of the restoration of mutual Freedom of Movement—of people as well as of goods, services, and capital—as a core objective of the UK’s future relationship with Europe.
2. Continue to support sector-specific and youth mobility initiatives, while also giving much greater prominence to campaigning for improved people mobility for all age groups and all sectors of society.
3. Advocate publicly for policies and agreements that rebuild and enhance reciprocal visa- free rights for citizens to live, work, study, and travel across Europe.

Motion (c) – National Petition

Proposed by: Ken Daly
Seconded by: Margaret Daly

Summary:

A National Petition

Full Text:

Amendment – proposed by Chief Executive, Nick Harvey. To insert:

This AGM

1. Notes that there was a public petition to Parliament earlier this year, which attracted 136,650 signatures and was debated in Parliament in March, calling on the Government to apply for the UK to join the European Union as a full member as soon as possible.
2. Understands that on that basis Parliament is unlikely to accept another one on a closely related matter for the time being.
3. Resolves on that basis that, at an opportune moment in the future, given [etc]...

Given the now proven adverse trading and economic consequences of Brexit, in particular the reduction in UK Gross Domestic Product, the European Movement should launch a National Petition calling on the Government to take steps urgently to restore:

- 1) the trading relationships with the EU which existed prior to Brexit and
- 2) the rights of UK citizens to travel and work within the EU on the same basis as existed prior to Brexit.