

The European Union: Better Out Than In? – Debate Activity

You've heard it before: those 'crazy' bureaucrats in Brussels with nothing better to do than interfere with the British way of life, passing directive after directive, eroding the very heart of what it means to be British. Straight cucumbers, straight bananas, banning yogurt and the traditional 'English breakfast' for cab drivers are amongst a number of stories that can be read in Britain's press about the work of the EU and how it impacts on those in the UK.

Should the UK leave the EU?

The aim of this Activity is to do some research about the work of the EU and to assess the working of the EU. You will be required to take part in a debate on the following:

You will be organized into two groups - one in favor of the motion, the other opposed to the motion. Each group will have to conduct research to build an argument for their particular motion but must also be aware of the arguments that exist against their position and be able to present counter-arguments.

When the research has been completed, each group will be expected to give a three to five minute presentation outlining its case. After the presentations, the opposing groups will be given an opportunity to debate freely for a period not exceeding two minutes. On completion of the two presentations, the audience will be given two minutes to ask questions to both sides on points raised in their presentation and debate.



Order of Debate

1. First Group, prepared remarks (3-5 minutes)
 - Speaker A
 - Speaker B
2. Second Group, prepared remarks (3-5 minutes)
 - Speaker A
 - Speaker B
3. Free Debate (2 minutes)
4. Audience Questions (2 minutes)

Research Links:

- [Detailed Notes on the EU](#) - with clear, easy to navigate headings and suggestions for other links to relevant sites. Assess the current situation with regard to the economy - what is likely to happen to the government's key economic targets and why?
- [Euromyths](#) - extensive guide to 'myths' about the EU and responses by the EU to those myths
- [The Bruges Group](#) - an all-party independent group against European 'federalism'
- [Busting the EU myths](#) - from the Bruges Group
- [So what NAFTA then?](#) - view from Patrick Minford
- [Would NAFTA be a Better Alternative?](#) - arguments centering on the UK leaving the EU and joining the North America Free Trade Association (NAFTA)
- [Should Britain Leave the E.U.?](#) - An analysis by Patrick Minford of the Julian Hodge Institute of Applied Macroeconomics
- [Euroskeptic.com](#) - A Portal dedicated to euro-skeptic thought

Edited from Original:

Biz/Ed UK, (2008). The European Union 1: Better Out Than In? - Activity. Retrieved September 1, 2008, from <http://www.bized.co.uk/> Web site: <http://www.bized.co.uk/educators/16-19/economics/international/activity/eu.htm>