



A new deal for Britain

TUA **EU**

Trade Unionists Against the EU

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The spirit of 2017.

Our independence from the EU means our own renewed commitments to full employment, industrial redevelopment, nationalisation of rail and utilities, a resurgence of public services and a communal ethic in favour of the common good can be made more possible.

No neoliberal liked the referendum result, it has shaken their world.

Leaving the EU provides a unique opportunity to end austerity, protect our agriculture and fishing industries, cut energy and house rents, rebuild social housing, invest in skills, science research and development. It should involve a return to publicly accountable schools, free higher education and the NHS outside of market forces.

The mood in Britain is to end austerity and rebuild and transform our politics and economy with the engagement and energy of all of our people.

The elite and the media continue to try to divide us between those who voted leave and those who voted remain. As trade unionists we

know that once a decision is taken we should unite to make democracy a success.

Those who try to block the referendum decision will be pushed aside, as will those who want to use it to create a bargain basement Britain.

People not markets.

Forget the markets wanting certainty, the people want certainty to bring up our families securely knowing the next generation will have better chances than the last and be happier and more fulfilled.

The 'market' will do whatever it wants to secure profits, including trying to invalidate the referendum as the ever so holy alliance of Blair, Clegg, Heseltine, Branson, Sturgeon, Geldof, The Guardian and New Statesman and Goldman Sachs all want.

Our renewed confidence means we can create an economic plan to escape the politics of





▲ Rising anger against EU by French workers.

debt forced upon nations by the banks as a means of controlling their governments.

Leaving the EU means an end to EU procurement rules that restrict and prohibit state investment, it means protection of our steel, manufacturing and high tech industries and it means serious job creation. We should seize the opportunity this all affords. We have one of the lowest levels of investment in the real productive economy in the world.

Capital must be invested here. The freedom of capital to up sticks and move where it can make the most profit without any regard to society is destructive. Capital is after all the accumulated product of workers' toil over centuries and workers have the right to control it as Britain once did before Thatcher removed exchange controls.

Leaving the EU can put a stop to the misery of enforced migration of labour. It means control of the value of our currency, our borders and our own central bank to invest in the real economy and a high skill labour market plan.

We can spend what we want on public services, tax how we want, perhaps getting rid of the hated EU inspired VAT and stop wasting billions on the EU gravy train. We can crack down on tax avoidance too.

International solidarity.

Outside of the EU trade unionists can get back to some serious international solidarity with our European counterparts. The EU has been on a rampage of privatisations and break up of collective bargaining and workers' rights throughout the continent. Because our TUC and the ETUC have been so enamoured of the EU, the full story of the EU's attacks has not been told.

There are many examples from the attacks on the French Labour Code, the refusal to allow the Portuguese government to oppose austerity, the plight of Spanish miners and dockers to the almost complete sell off of Greece's national assets and abandonment of collective bargaining as a condition of entry to the accession countries.

EU colonialism.

This is well worth ditching.

All the former colonies of European empires are shackled to the EU in the unbalanced Cotonou Agreement between 79 countries mainly in Africa and the EU. In practice these countries have had economic conditions imposed upon them similar to the policies in force in the EU including restrictions on public sector spending and borrowing. As part of the Agreement they have had to open up their economies and markets to competition and privatisation.

Former EU commission president Jose Barroso also declared that the EU wanted to "lure talent" from the South. In other words it is cheaper to lure the best talent from some of the poorest countries in the world rather than train the local workforce. South African MP Kader Asmal described this process as "discreet colonialism," "this is not just a brain drain, but a destruction of the intellectual capital of the South," he said.



The dumping of EU foodstuffs on African markets is also part of the equation of hunger and starvation on the continent and its forced dependency.

Uniting Britain.

We should never underestimate the extent to which trade unionists created the solidarity of England, Wales and Scotland together. Joint shop stewards combines, national unions and collective bargaining helped create nationally co-ordinated industries, utilities, and services.

The joke of wanting to make Scotland more dependent on unelected EU powers through separation is as ridiculous as it is deeply offensive to workers and our trade unions.

The EU single market Disaster zone.

No one should be deluded that staying in the Single Market a moment longer is good for us. Unlike any other market, the single market is unique in that it has neo-liberalism embodied in its very constitution with its cherished four freedoms: the freedoms of movement of capital, goods, services and workers.

This is the neoliberal reality of the EU: it has built an anti-democratic economic and political system that pushes people around a continent at the command of multi-nationals and high finance.

Britain is a trading nation and as such must produce things that others want to buy. This means that investment in education, skills, research and development and science are key. EU regional development rules meant that manufacturing based areas of our country were sacrificed in favour of the casino economy of the City of London.

We must now return to production and productivity and the real economy across all parts of the country.

Forced movement of labour.

Treating workers as if they were just a resource for international capital to shift around in order to keep wage levels down has accompanied mass EU unemployment. The 'free' movement of labour leads to the drainage of poorer countries' greatest asset - their people.

If the affluent countries of the EU can plunder the populations of the poorer states in the name of freedom, then these countries will never emerge from their nightmare of debt and dependency. That is the point of EU corporate policy, the provision of cheap non-unionised labour.

European Court of Justice rulings in critical cases like Viking, Laval and Ruffert put business interests to mistreat migrant labour above those of unions protecting collective bargaining. Good riddance to all that.

Trade unions need to be organising for a complete restoration of collective bargaining in and a restoration of pay levels. A national, alternative economic development plan naturally means a controlled labour market plan.

▼ Italian workers demonstrate against EU.



Boost trade with the world.

Britain's trade deficit with the EU is some £69 billion a year while our trade surplus with the rest of the world is around £27 billion. More countries than ever are now keen to build new links and trade with us. The EU needs us more than we need it and we are in a strong bargaining position to leave on our terms and invest as we see fit in our own economy.

The years of net payments into the EU by Britain mean its institutions are stacked with billions of pounds worth of assets paid for by us. Any negotiating attempt by the EU to charge us for the privilege of leaving should be laughed out of court.

▼ Left to right: Italian workers demonstrate against EU. Growing opposition to EU in Denmark. The Suffragette Movement. Front cover: Spanish dockers oppose EU inspired attacks.



Trade Unions return to the front.

Our most important organisations - the trade unions, which are truly representative of the world of work, should be at the forefront of determining the shape of an independent Britain confident in a future in which it will put people, not profit, first.

It should never be forgotten that the EU has been one of the fiercest opponents of trade union demands and collective bargaining rights. Its 22 million unemployed are testament to its real commitment to workers' rights.

The insulting complaints about a loss of rights without EU protection forgets our proud history in achieving all progress from the peasants revolt onwards to Trades unionism, universal suffrage is best answered by confident work for a better Britain. We'd do well also to recall that all proposals for a more equal and democratic country have come from our Movement – the Levellers' Agreement of the People, to Charter, the Constitution Bill and so on.

Take pride, lift our heads again.



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Printed by EGP Unit 1, Firbank Court, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 4YJ. Promoted by M. Bueno Del Carpio on behalf of Trade Unionist Against the European Union, both of 93 Coalway Road, Wolverhampton WV3 7LY.