

Policy motion: Europe

Monday 09.30 Policy motion

F27 Britain in the European Union

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: To be announced

Summation: Baroness Ludford

1 Conference:

- 2 1. Notes that the benefits of membership of the EU which Britain has enjoyed for the last 43 years
3 include peace, increased trade, investment and jobs, greater security, cultural enrichment, academic
4 and scientific cooperation and stronger environmental protection.
- 5 2. Deeply regrets the outcome of the referendum on membership of the EU in which a majority voted to
6 leave, and notes the government and parliamentary attention, and significant resources, that Brexit
7 will absorb when there are so many other pressing demands.
- 8 3. Condemns the Leave campaign for the dishonest and divisive messages it delivered in the
9 referendum campaign and its failure to take responsibility for providing a coherent and practical plan
10 for exiting the EU, which has still not been produced.
- 11 4. Is deeply concerned about the increase in xenophobic and racist threats, abuse and violence against
12 both EU citizens living in the UK and British citizens of ethnic minority backgrounds that has taken
13 place since the referendum, and calls on the government and police to take decisive action to
14 protect potential victims and crack down on the perpetrators of hate crimes.
- 15 5. Further notes that the complications surrounding the positions of Scotland and Northern Ireland after
16 the referendum present a risk to the continued existence of the United Kingdom, and in the case of
17 Northern Ireland to the peace process supported by the Good Friday Agreement, and also that the
18 interests of Gibraltar have been put at risk.
- 19 6. Further regrets that Brexit will result in a loss of UK's ability to shape the future direction of the EU
20 during a period of rapid change.
- 21 7. Recognises that the priority should be to address the justifiable sense of economic grievance
22 and alienation from the establishment which came to the fore in the campaign and which had
23 domestic rather than EU drivers, and resolves to address its underlying causes through the pursuit
24 of progressive, liberal policies on the economy, regional development and migration (including via a
25 Migration Impact Fund), and the devolution of power to communities.
- 26 8. Calls for a parliamentary vote on the terms of the negotiation before Article 50 is triggered and for
27 continuing parliamentary scrutiny of negotiations on EU withdrawal, as well as on future international
28 relations and trade negotiations being led by the two newly created government departments, the
29 Department for Exiting the European Union and the Department for International Trade.
- 30 9. Resolves on the following priorities in any negotiations about Britain leaving the EU:
 - 31 a) Protection of rights for EU citizens and UK citizens, so that those who have settled in UK are
32 allowed to stay and British people living in EU countries can remain.

- 33 b) Membership of the Single Market, with its 'four freedoms' of freedom of movement for workers,
34 free movement of goods, free movement of capital and freedom to provide services, so that
35 British companies can continue to trade with the EU without additional restrictions, as well as
36 retaining full 'passporting' rights in EU financial markets to preserve London's status as the
37 finance capital of Europe.
- 38 c) Protecting freedom of movement, so that British citizens retain the right to live and work
39 throughout the EU, and opportunities are maximised in particular for young people, including
40 participation in the Erasmus scheme, which is a fantastic and enriching experience for students
41 and apprentices.
- 42 d) Maintaining environmental protection, ensuring that the UK continues to benefit from the highest
43 environmental standards in the world.
- 44 e) Keeping the high level of health, safety, consumer protection, employment and equalities
45 standards the UK currently meets as an EU member.
- 46 f) Ensuring effective law enforcement and judicial co-operation, including keeping the European
47 Arrest Warrant which allows the police to track down criminals more efficiently.
- 48 g) Protecting British business and jobs, including protecting the level of support provided by
49 the EU to domestic industries such as farming, tourism and creative arts, as well as regional
50 support for some deprived areas.
- 51 h) Promoting scientific cooperation and funding for research, including continuing funding for
52 existing projects, so that valuable medical, defence, security and other areas are not harmed
53 and our universities maintain their world class rankings.
- 54 i) Encouraging travel and tourism, by keeping benefits such as the European Health Insurance
55 Card, pet passports and reduced roaming charges.
- 56 10. Commits to giving the British people the final say through a referendum on whether the terms of the
57 deal agreed for the withdrawal of Britain from the EU should be accepted.
- 58 11. Believing that any deal the Government negotiates for the UK outside the EU will not be as beneficial
59 to the British people as continued EU membership, commits the Liberal Democrats to continue to
60 campaign for the UK to remain a member of the EU.

Applicability: Federal

*The deadline for submission of amendments to this motion will be 17.00 on Thursday 15th September.
Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. See pages 5 and 6 of the
Conference Agenda.*

*Amendments should be submitted to the Policy Unit using the online form at:
www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions,
or by post to Policy Unit, 8-10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.*

*Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other
speakers: 3 minutes.*

*In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute)
interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion.*