



UK Outsourcing Industry Says Britain Should Remain Part of the EU

11th March 2016

David Cameron has set a date for Britain's referendum on its European Union membership, after securing agreed reforms that will give the UK "special status" within the EU. If the British people vote to leave, the referendum result is guaranteed to have a huge impact on UK business and the outsourcing industry globally.

In reaction, the National Outsourcing Association polled the British outsourcing industry to determine its feelings on "Brexit" – whether Britain should remain part of the EU and why. Over 100 organisations, representing all sides of British outsourcing, participated and shared their views.

Key Findings

- **73%** of the UK outsourcing industry believe Britain should remain part of a reformed EU
- **35%** of those say the most significant reason to remain is "to preserve valuable outsourcing and trade relationships"
- Of the **27%** that opted to leave, **over half** say Britain should do so to ensure that the only government ruling Britain is one elected by the British people
- **34%** overall think a better deal could be secured to justify Britain's EU membership

The Full Report

73 per cent of those from the outsourcing industry surveyed believe Britain should remain part of the European Union, while 27 per cent think Britain should leave the EU in June.

Of those that are in favour of EU membership, 35 per cent believe that "preserving valuable outsourcing and trade relationships" is the number one reason for Britain to remain part of the Union, with over half (61%) listing this as one of the top three reasons to stay.

15 per cent chose "to keep UK exports strong" as the top reason for Britain to remain part of the EU. 13 per cent selected "to protect British jobs directly linked to UK members", while another 13 per cent picked "to maintain Britain's influence on the world stage".

Sovereignty was the main concern for those who support British independence. 27 per cent say the main reason to leave is "to ensure that the only government ruling Britain is elected by the British people", while 15 per cent want Britain to leave the EU so that the country can regain control of its own laws related to business and outsourcing.

Forming stronger outsourcing and trade agreements outside of the EU was also a big motivation to leave - 19 per cent see this as the strongest argument for leaving.



None of those surveyed saw “increasing access to talented foreign workers from outside the EU” as a significant reason to terminate Britain’s EU membership.

Nationalism and unilateralism are often cited as key aspects of this debate; for the UK outsourcing industry, Europhilia was also a potent factor. “To drive the evolution of the EU”, “to ensure that the EU remains a powerful global bloc” and “because we are European” were also provided as reasons for Britain to remain part of the Union.

The “special” EU status secured for Britain by David Cameron was a contentious topic. Overall, 34 per cent of UK outsourcers are adamant that a better deal could be secured to justify Britain’s EU membership, while 31 per cent think David Cameron’s reforms are sufficient. Just 17 per cent think that no sufficient deal can be secured by the UK government to justify Britain’s EU membership.

Kerry Hallard, CEO of the NOA, affirmed that the UK outsourcing industry has spoken:

“The views of the NOA membership reflect those of Britain’s outsourcing industry as a whole, the same views held by the C-suite at the likes of BT, HSBC, IBM, Serco and Unilever. We’re all for keeping Britain in a reformed EU, where we can continue to have influence and be seen globally as a key player – ‘Brexit’ would certainly diminish Britain’s appeal on the world stage.

“Outsourcing is a significant growth industry for the UK - currently the UK’s second largest employer - and one where we have every chance of taking a global leadership position. Exiting the EU would quickly diminish our role within the global business services industry, guaranteeing negative ramifications for the UK’s financial, legal and consultancy markets, as well as others. We are, however, pleased that the referendum is happening so quickly – we need to get through this period of uncertainty as quickly as possible.

“I was in India just a few weeks ago and had many conversations on this subject with key Indian players. They want and expect the UK to stay part of the EU. However, there was another key issue discussed and this was the potential impending caps on migration for Indian workers coming into the UK. It is wrong that the UK is restricting access to the skilled labour we so desperately need access to in order to grow, because we have no control over the mass unskilled migration we are suffering. Cameron needs to develop a better work around on this issue, rather the knee-jerk reaction that he is currently proposing.”

For further information, please contact Jeremy Coward on **0207 292 8691** or email jeremyc@noa.co.uk.

About the NOA

The National Outsourcing Association (NOA) is the leading association serving both the outsourcing professional and the global outsourcing industry. Our vision is to grow the size and positive reputation of the outsourcing industry. Our mission is to be both the home and global ambassador of world class outsourcing. www.noa.co.uk

