EU SApport a People’s Vote

What will we do:

1. To mandate Sabbatical Officers at Edinburgh University Students' Association to endorse a People’s Vote and lead on engaging with the People’s Vote campaign (currently supported by groups such as the National Union of Students (NUS)), in seeking to achieve a vote on the terms of any Brexit deal, whilst also campaigning to preserve student-facing benefits that the EU has provided (such as Erasmus+, the Human Rights Charter and freedom of movement to name a few).

2. That Edinburgh University Students' Association should lead in lobbying elected government representatives across its constituent areas to pledge to support a People’s Vote within their roles and in wider society.

3. That if a People’s Vote is achieved, Edinburgh University Students' Association should continue to honour their policy passed on 31st March 2016 and campaign to Remain in the EU.

Background to this:

1. That in June 2016, the permitted electorate within the British public voted 52% to 48% to leave the European Union [1].

2. Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty was triggered in March 2017, which puts the UK on track to depart the European Union in March 2019 [2].

3. In Scotland, a turnout of 67.2% saw the eligible electorate vote by 62% to Remain in the EU [3]. In Edinburgh itself, a turnout of 72.9% saw the eligible electorate vote by 74.4% to Remain in the EU [4].

4. Polling suggests that 80% of students voted to Remain in the EU and that 75% of those aged 18-24 also voted to Remain in the EU [5].


Beliefs and Motivating Actions:

1. That since the referendum, a number of promises originally made by the Leave Campaign (several of whom are and have been senior members of UK government) have since been shown to be inaccurate.

2. That in a democracy, people have the right to change their minds - and that public opinion supports a vote on the final ‘Brexit’ terms [6].

3. That students have a right and duty to speak up on issues which will undoubtedly have a huge impact on their futures.
4. That this issue will affect ‘students as students’ given its potential impact on non-UK academics, and the current model of UK higher education funding which draws significantly from European grants.

5. That since the 2016 referendum, Vote Leave has been found to have broken electoral law by overspending and has since been referred to the police by the Electoral Commission [7]. Other pro-Leave campaign groups have also been found to have broken the rules and have also been fined [8].

6. That in addition to financial gain, Scotland and Scottish Higher Education institutes, have benefitted significantly in many other ways from being within the EU. These include (but are not limited to) cultural exchange programmes, EU legislation to improve the rights and lives of individuals across Scotland and improved freedom of movement to EU member states, something threatened by the UK’s departure from the EU [9].

7. A hard Brexit or no deal Brexit will be a significant societal upheaval which the public deserves to have their say on. This is of particular interest to an institution as famously international as the University of Edinburgh.


Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.