



# Vote IN!

*Andy Ross*

IN or OUT? That is the question.

In means sharing our future with friends and neighbours.

Out means pulling up the drawbridge of Fortress UK.

We live in a global village where news travels instantly, and divisions of language and race are history.

So why even dream of Fortress UK?

The European Union is a global player. Together with America and China, Europe sets the tone for world politics.

The EU is admired worldwide as a model for regional order. It's a symbol of a new approach to governance. And its single market has made us all richer. Together we have real clout in world markets.

But the EU is a work in progress, and much remains to be done.

English is now the language of European governance, but the UK is not using its voice to the full.

We Britons don't want a federal superstate.

We do want good reasons to delegate powers to the EU. The EU bureaucrats help resolve international disagreements that could sour relations. The bureaucrats also draft technical

legislation that could overload national parliaments. So our parliamentarians can focus on serving British voters.

On security, the EU complements NATO. Our membership of NATO commits us to going to war in defence of shared values.

Today security covers not only outright war but also threats from cybercrime and terrorists. These threats are global, and we need European cooperation to meet them.

Voting Leave means Britain closing its borders. And risking the loss of Northern Ireland and Scotland. Little England would look like a rump state.

Other Europeans enrich our lives and our culture. About a million of them live in London, plus two million in the rest of the UK. Also, two million Brits live and work in other EU countries, free to come and go.

Let's try to love our neighbours!

In cold cash, the price of our EU membership is worth it. Economists, investors, and business leaders strongly agree that Britain should stay in the EU.

This is not 1940. Our national identity is safe. Our neighbours in Europe respect and admire Great Britain.

We can all prosper together in a rapidly globalizing world.

*This speech was delivered during a debate on EU membership held in New Milton on 10 June 2016.*

*Andy Ross is currently a Conservative party agent based in Poole. His views here are personal and are not intended to reflect party policy.*