

LETTERS . . . expressing your views

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Keep the UK united

I recently read in RF News a letter entitled "Take control of the European Union". This had been put forward by no doubt a fair minded, ordinary decent citizen and how wonderful that we can exchange opposing views in one of the best democracies in the world. That said, it is the impingement of European rule on our UK democracy that most of us wanting to leave or re-negotiate our EU membership are greatly concerned with.

I would like to put alternative view points to the ideas raised in the correspondent's letter, my views being borne of frontline experience of trading and exporting many millions of pounds worth of goods to Europe and the wider world. First, in my practical experience, I suggest the US Dollar is the most popular single currency in the world and not the Euro. I say that from the point of view that when we are not selling our goods for pound sterling, the currency of choice outside Europe is nearly always the USD. Although the previous writer refers to Europe as the largest trading block on the planet, as individual countries within that block, there is no uniformity of trade and the only tangible benefit (aside from those getting subsidies) is the movement of free trade and if better controlled, the movement of labour. In other words, it is up to the UK Government to ensure our economy is performing well. Free trade which we can negotiate whether in or out of the EU, is the only substantial and dynamic benefit that my own businesses have benefited from. As a significant European country, I am quite certain that the EU even without UK membership will want to take advantage of our economic strength and will court our business, perhaps even more positively if they know we are not beholden to their rules and regulations!

It was with some distain I noted the comment that UKIP wants us to retreat to little old England. We are proudly British and I for one certainly want to keep the UK forever united and on the contrary, we want the UK to shout louder, be more competitive and expand on all fronts which we have a better chance of doing by the removal of our EU shackles. You may be surprised to learn that when we first joined the EU I was in favour and it is only the hard experience of life that has changed my assessment of the benefit.

I welcomed the utopian idea of us all coming closer together, taking down boundaries and sharing more of a common identity but, human kind being human kind, those in power in Brussels have

abused the great faith I placed in them. If a beach hut renovation project at Milford on Sea, cannot be given to local contractors in a timely manner because of an over bearing and over reaching European Tender rule, then their interference albeit on seemingly such an innocuous matter, is monumental at its level of interference.

I wholly respect the previous writer's point of view but fear it might be a long distance, sheltered view point of something that is far different "on the ground", and how many times over the years have we heard that analogy stated, to sometimes devastating effect on our lives.

**Paul Bailey
Parliamentary candidate
UKIP New Forest West**