



Bath for Europe: Beliefs and Aims

The EU referendum split the United Kingdom by posing an oversimplified question to a country facing many different and complex problems.

Bath and NE Somerset is a diverse, inclusive and welcoming part of the country, which owes much of its prosperity to our membership of the EU.

On June 23 2016, Bath voted decisively in favour of staying in the EU.

Parliament may soon vote to invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, confirming the UK's decision to leave the EU and beginning the process of withdrawal. The government hopes this process will take two years. Some critics argue it could take much longer.

Other political processes may determine the eventual settlement.

Whatever the future holds, Bath for Europe is clear. We will continue to campaign to stay in the EU.

What are our beliefs and aims?

Bath for Europe believes that

- Our current relationship with the EU is better than any conceivable alternative we might negotiate if we leave it
- The UK must retain membership of EU institutions; and work for their reform where this is needed
- Any future change to our relationship with the EU should be subject to full scrutiny and debate by Parliament and put to the people in either a general election or a further referendum.

We will work with like-minded groups across the UK to urge Parliamentarians, the media and the wider society, including people who voted Leave, to recognise that:

- Staying in the EU is overwhelmingly in the interests of both the UK and the rest of the continent;
- Any referendum, general election or parliamentary vote should guarantee
 - the right of citizens of other EU members to remain in the UK and vice versa;
 - the UK's place in the European Economic Area;
 - freedom of movement for workers.

Why do we have these beliefs and aims?

1. We believe that membership of the EU gives us a
 - Stronger economy that can work for everyone – especially the most vulnerable
 - Peaceful continent where countries co-operate rather than confront each other
 - Stronger UK, less at risk from fragmentation.

2. *The referendum did not give the Government a mandate to leave all EU institutions.*
 - Only 38% of the total electorate voted Leave, with 26% of the UK population in effect deciding the future of the other 44 million.
 - The Leave campaign relied largely on misinformation and unrealisable promises.
 - The Referendum Act said explicitly that the result would be only advisory, not binding.
 - The promise of more democratic control, which most Leave voters found persuasive, will be broken if the Government acts unilaterally to decide the eventual settlement.

How will Bath for Europe pursue our aims?

- 1) By enlisting the support of local people, employers, organisations and politicians
- 2) Through alliances with/membership of national organisations such as Britain for Europe, Common Ground etc
- 3) By countering the misinformation put out by pro-Leave politicians
- 4) By publicising the benefits of staying in the EU and the negative consequences of leaving it
- 5) By lobbying our MP and others with decision-making powers at a local and national level
- 6) By using mainstream and social media, as well as public events, to spread our message.

Who can participate in Bath for Europe?

- Anyone who lives or works in Bath and NE Somerset who shares our objectives, including representatives of local voluntary, civic or business organisations
- Any member of a political party who wishes to remain in the EU, providing they do not hold office in both their party and Bath for Europe.

In order to respond to changing legal and political circumstances, our strategy is flexible. However, we will pursue these priorities:

1. To maximise our membership and support through local campaign activities
2. To support the activities of Britain for Europe and work closely with other pro-EU campaigns
3. To encourage our supporters to lobby and proclaim our message to political leaders and the media
4. To urge MPs and peers to vote against invoking Article 50 and for and for motions that limit the potential damage to the UK's economic, social and political relations with the EU.