

Britain and Brexit: Clear-cut decisions; uncertain consequences

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On June 23, the people of the United Kingdom voted to end four decades of membership of the EU. The vote was decisive: 52% to 48% in favour of leaving. And it was momentous: Britain's place in the world has shifted irrevocably, and the course of EU history will be changed.

We are now in the uncharted waters of the world's fifth largest economy having to unravel itself legally, socially and economically from the EU.

Financial markets face weeks if not months of volatility. The negotiations over the exit agreement will likely take several years and be confusing, complex and critical for the future shape of both the EU and the UK polities.

Beyond resolving the practical but complicated questions of the management of issues ranging from trade to labour markets, migration, sovereignty and national security, the UK's decision poses both an existential challenge to the 'European project' and the EU's unelected institutions.

The vote also laid bare a deep fault line running through Europe's political parties, with disaffected rank and file memberships on the one side and party elites on the other.

The UK's two mainstream political parties, the Conservatives and Labour, may break up or reform around new leaderships.

In continental Europe, where political support is shifting from the centre to parties at both extremes of the political spectrum, the calls for more national referendums on EU membership and a rejection of austerity and globalisation will become more strident.

Join three of Oxford Analytica's expert advisors on UK and European affairs to discuss the prospects and challenges now facing the UK and the EU, including:

- What would be involved in the UK unravelling itself from the EU, how long would that take and what would be the key points of negotiation?
- What will be the long-term impacts on globalisation and political fragmentation?
- How will Brexit influence the future of 'the European project' and its pillars such as the euro and Schengen?
- What could the United Kingdom's future trading relationships with the rest of the world look like and does the UK have the civil service capacity to negotiate trade agreements on its own?
- What might be the impact France, Germany and Italy's forthcoming elections?
- How divisive for the UK's governing Conservatives and the opposition Labour party will the vote, and who will form both parties' new leadership?
- What impact will the regional vote have on the possible break-up of the United Kingdom?

Chair

Paul Maidment, Director of Analysis and Managing Editor, Oxford Analytica

Paul Maidment joined Oxford Analytica in December 2014 as the Director of Analysis and Managing Editor of the Oxford Analytica Daily Brief.

He is an award-winning journalist who founded the New York-based digital editorial consultancy Bystander Media in 2010. A pioneer in combining digital and print journalism, he was previously Editor of Forbes.com and Executive Editor of Forbes, transforming a magazine website into the leading online destination for business, finance and up-scale lifestyle. Before joining Forbes in 2001, Paul was the founding Editor of the Financial Times' award-winning web site FT.com and Assistant Editor of the newspaper. His early career as an editor and foreign correspondent encompassed The Economist, the Asian Wall Street Journal and the BBC in the U.K. the U.S. and Asia — a depth of journalistic experience and breadth of media that gives him a unique perspective on the changes transforming publishing and the world economy. Paul was inducted into the Digital Hall of Fame in New York in 2010.

Panellists

Vanessa Rossi, Advisor on Global Economics and Finance, Oxford Analytica

Advisor in global economics and finance in Oxford Analytica; formerly Senior Research Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House. Vanessa Rossi has extensive experience within private, government and academic sectors including the European Commission and senior roles with consulting groups in the UK and Germany. Her previous positions include the Research Director for Swiss Bank Corporation, London, and Director of International Economics, Oxford Economics; also graduate researcher at Princeton University and extensive range of publications and media work.

Sir Ivor Roberts, President of Trinity College

After reading Modern Languages at Keble College Oxford, he joined the British Diplomatic Service. In the course of the next 38 years, he was posted to Lebanon to study Arabic and then to Paris as a Third Secretary. He was subsequently posted to Canberra where, after working as a First Secretary in the political section, He was transferred to the newly independent Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides) as Political Advisor during a civil war. He returned to Canberra to become Head of the Economic and Commercial Section and Agricultural Advisor. On return to London, he became Deputy Head of the Foreign Office's Press Department and later Head of Counter-Terrorism. A posting as Minister in the Embassy in Madrid followed. Thereafter he became Chargé d'Affaires and later Ambassador at Belgrade during the Bosnian civil war and the descent into war in Kosovo. My penultimate posting was to Dublin as Ambassador, immediately following the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. He was then posted to Rome as Ambassador to Italy, a post he held till his retirement from the Diplomatic Service in 2006. The same year, he returned to Oxford on my election as President of Trinity College.

He was Chairman of the British School of Archaeology and Fine Arts at Rome for five years from 2007 to 2012 and is the President of Oxford University Rugby Football Club.

Dr Daniel Kelemen, Contributor, Oxford Analytica

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Currently Lecturer in the Department of Politics and International Relations and Fellow and Tutor in Politics at Lincoln College at Oxford University. Dr Kelemen was educated at Berkeley (A.B. in Sociology) and Stanford (M.A. and Ph.D in Political Science) and has been a Fulbright Fellow in European Union Studies at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels and a visiting fellow at the Center of International Studies at Princeton University. Before coming to Lincoln in 2003, he was Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Rutgers University. Dr Kelemen is the author of "The Rules of Federalism: Institutions and Regulatory Politics in the EU and Beyond". Harvard University Press (April 2004).