

EU REFERENDUM: WORLD REACTION

6 REASONS WHY 'LEAVE' WON



"We now expect the United Kingdom government to give effect to this decision of the British people as soon as possible, however painful that process may be. Any delay would unnecessarily prolong uncertainty."

Joint statement by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, European Council President Donald Tusk, European Parliament President Martin Schulz, and Dutch PM Mark Rutte



"The United Kingdom and the European Union will remain indispensable partners of the United States even as they begin negotiating their ongoing relationship to ensure continued stability, security, and prosperity for Europe, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the world."

-Barack Obama, US President



"The British vote poses a grave test for Europe, which must show solidarity and strength in its response to the economic and financial risks."

-Francois Hollande, French president



"It's an explosive shock. At stake is the break-up pure and simple of the union. Now is the time to invent another Europe."

-Manuel Valls, French prime minister

- 1. BREXIT ECONOMIC WARNINGS BACKFIRE**
The public was bombarded with warnings about how they would be poorer if they voted to leave the EU but, in the end, weren't convinced by what they were told and/or believed it was a price worth paying. The CBI, the IMF, the OECD, the IFS - an alphabet soup of experts lined up to say economic growth would be hobbled, unemployment would go up, the pound would plummet and British business would be left in a no man's land outside the EU. But the fact the public discounted so readily the advice of experts points to something more than just a revolt against the establishment. It suggested far more people felt left behind and untouched by the economic benefits of five decades of EU involvement being trumpeted.
- 2. £350M NHS CLAIM GETS TRACTION**
The assertion that leaving the EU would free up £350m a week extra to spend on the NHS is the kind of political slogan that campaigns dream of: striking, easy to understand and attractive to voters of different ages and political persuasions. No surprise then that Vote Leave chose to splash it across the side of their battle bus.
- 3. IMMIGRATION: THE DEFINING ISSUE**
If they didn't quite bet the farm on the issue of immigration, Leave played what they knew was their trump card often and they played it successfully. The issue fed into wider questions of national and cultural identity, which suited Leave's message - particularly to lower income voters. The result suggested that concerns about levels of migration into the UK over the past 10 years, their impact on society, and what might happen in the next 20 years were more widely felt and ran even deeper than people had suspected. Just as crucially, it suggested Leave's central argument that the UK cannot control the number of people coming into the country while remaining in the EU really hit home.
- 4. BIG BEASTS - BORIS JOHNSON AND MICHAEL GOVE**
We always knew a handful of cabinet ministers would support Brexit but it was Michael Gove and Boris Johnson's declaration of support which really put rocket boosters under the campaign. The justice secretary brought intellectual heft and strategic nous to the table while the former mayor of London, after a bout of soul-searching, brought star appeal and ability to appeal across the party divide.
- 5. OLDER VOTERS FLOCK TO POLLS**
While experts will pore over the finer details of turnout over the coming days and weeks, the cry will inevitably go up that it was older voters which won it for Leave. Factor in research suggesting that support for Brexit was significantly higher among those aged 55 and over than among younger age groups - three out of every five voters aged 65 or over said they wanted to leave - then you have the foundation for Friday's result.
- 6. EUROPE ALWAYS SLIGHTLY ALIEN**
The UK's relationship with Europe has never been simple nor static. It took the country years to join what was then the European Community and, even then, when it was last put to the vote in 1975 many backed it grudgingly or for narrow economic reasons. Many of those have since changed their minds, with their earlier ambivalence turning into outright hostility. What appears clear from the campaign is that the vote to Leave was as much a statement about the country's national identity, and all that involves, as it was about its economic and political future.



"I think it's a great thing. I think it's a fantastic thing."

-Donald Trump



"We respect the choice the people of the United Kingdom have made... We have to make clear America's steadfast commitment to the special relationship with Britain and the transatlantic alliance with Europe."

-Hillary Clinton



"The UK will remain a strong and committed Nato ally and will continue to play its leading role in our alliance."

-Jens Stoltenberg, Nato secretary general



"We urge the authorities in the UK and Europe to work collaboratively to ensure a smooth transition to a new economic relationship between the UK and the EU, including by clarifying the procedures and broad objectives that will guide the process."

-Christine Lagarde, managing director of IMF



"Brexit will be either a wake-up call or the beginning of a dangerous path for European people. We respect the decision of British people, which confirms the deep political and identity crisis of the EU."

-Alexis Tsipras, Prime Minister of Greece



"All countries around the world will have to brace themselves for a period of possible turbulence while being watchful about, and alert to, the referendum's medium term impacts."

-Arun Jaitley, Indian finance minister

NEWS IN brief

Brexit: Death knell for EU?

Euro-sceptics around Europe cry victory, call for similar action

AGENCIES

Britain's vote to become the first country to leave the EU opens up a Pandora's box of uncertainties threatening the survival of the whole post-war European project, analysts said yesterday.

The loss of one of its biggest members will at the very least force major changes on an embattled bloc faced with growing anti-European Union sentiment, a migration crisis and a struggling economy.

Calls for other referendums could in turn lead to a much looser grouping, and possibly even disintegration of a union established 60 years ago to restore security and prosperity to a Europe devastated by World War II.

The European Commission denied that the Brexit was the beginning of the end for the bloc, although EU President Donald Tusk had warned in the run-up to the vote that it could bring about the "destruction of not only the EU but also of Western political civilisation".

Janis Emmanouilidis, director of studies at Brussels-based think tank European Policy Centre, said the vote means "a lot of uncertainty -- for EU relations with Britain, for EU member states individually and for the bloc's place in the world."

"You have opened up the box towards an exit which is something which is sending a negative signal to the outside world but also to EU citizens in general," Emmanouilidis told AFP.

Chris Bickerton, a lecturer at Britain's Cambridge University and author of "The European Union: A Citizen's Guide", said it was a "very serious blow" but not necessarily fatal, given the "core role" of the EU in much of European political life.

"I don't think it would suddenly disappear but over the longer term, we might see it slowly decline and become something different," he told AFP, envisaging a "looser, ad-hoc" union.

The main fear in many European capitals is that either way, the result could trigger a domino effect of referendums in other countries.

French far-right leader Marine Le Pen immediately called for a referendum, a message echoed by far-right Dutch MP Geert Wilders.

The danger for the EU is that even after it makes changes following the British referendum, it will still not be able to quell the forces of history tearing it apart.

"Yes, I think this is the end of EU. There is no way back from that. The EU has already passed away already," Dutch anti-Islam MP Geert Wilders told AFP.

"The genie cannot go back into the bottle, the patient has already passed away."

Italy's most prominent far-right politician, Matteo Salvini also said his country should follow Britain's example.

"Cheers to the bravery of free citizens," the leader of the anti-immigration, anti-EU Northern League wrote on Twitter. "Heart, head and pride beat lies, threats and blackmail. THANKS UK, now it is our turn #Brexit".

There were similar reactions from other European eurosceptic parties.

In Denmark, the populist Danish People's Party (DPP), which has been calling for a renegotiation of its EU accords, hailed what it called a "courageous" British decision. But it urged everyone to "keep their heads" and wait to see what happened next.



New Scotland referendum 'highly likely': Sturgeon

Northern Ireland calls for unity vote

AFP, Edinburgh

A second Scottish independence referendum is "highly likely", First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said on Friday, raising the prospect that the United Kingdom could tear itself apart after voting to leave the European Union.

Scotland, a nation of five million people, voted decisively to stay in the EU by 62 to 38 percent in a referendum on Thursday, putting it at odds with the United Kingdom as a whole, which voted 52-48 in favour of an exit from the EU, or Brexit.

"As things stand, Scotland faces the prospect of being taken out of the EU against her will. I regard that as democratically unacceptable," Sturgeon told a news conference in Edinburgh.

"I think an independence referendum is now highly likely."

A vote for independence would end the 300-year-old union between Scotland and England, its far bigger southern neighbour, dealing a body blow to the United Kingdom at a time when it is likely to still be dealing with the complex fallout from Brexit.

Meanwhile, Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness has called for a border poll on a united Ireland, after the UK has voted to leave the EU.

Support for the EU is considerably higher in Northern Ireland than the rest of the UK.

As the region shares a land border with the Republic of Ireland, it is unknown how the relationship between the two countries will be affected by Brexit.

Scots rejected independence by 55 to 45 percent in a 2014 referendum, but since then Sturgeon's pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) has become much more powerful.



Tornado kills 98 in eastern China

AFP, Yancheng

Survivors scrambled through the rubble of their homes yesterday after hurricane-force winds and a tornado left at least 98 dead in China, with hundreds more injured. Whole villages were levelled and huge trees felled when winds of up to 125 kilometres per hour struck around Yancheng city in the eastern province of Jiangsu on Thursday.

846 people has been hospitalised with injuries.

Buddhists ransack mosque in Myanmar

AFP, Bago

Scores of Buddhists ransacked a mosque in central Myanmar forcing Muslims to seek refuge in a police station overnight, officials and residents said yesterday, as tensions between the two groups continues to plague the Southeast Asian nation. Around 70 Muslims, including children, sought shelter in a police station overnight on Thursday, he said, adding there were no serious injuries and peace had been restored.

Colombia, FARC rebels sign ceasefire deal

CNN ONLINE

Colombia's government and FARC rebels signed a ceasefire agreement Thursday that could end five decades of bloody conflict while negotiators work to reach a final peace deal. The signing took place in Havana, where the two sides have been negotiating since November 2012 to end the civil war that has killed or displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

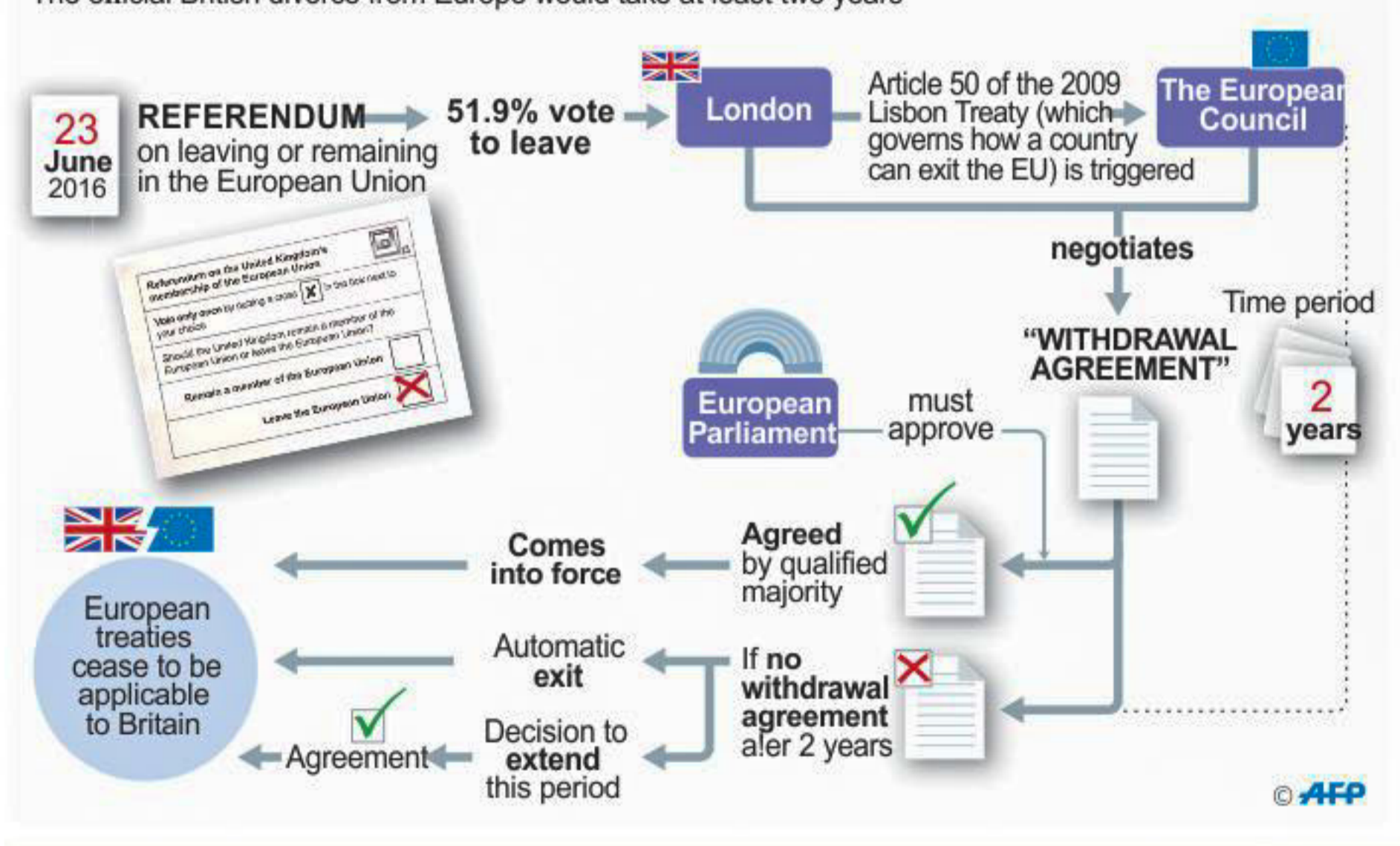
Kejriwal seeks New Delhi referendum

THE HINDU ONLINE

With the draft of the Full-Statehood Bill already in the public domain for suggestions, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal yesterday said that there will be a referendum on the full statehood for Delhi soon.

Taking a cue from Britain, Kejriwal said that Delhi will go through the same. Expressing his views he tweeted, "After UK referendum, delhi will soon have a referendum on full statehood (sic)."

Britain to leave the EU: what happens next?



British Prime Minister David Cameron (L) accompanied by his wife Samantha arrives to speak to the press in front of 10 Downing street in central London on June 24, 2016. Cameron yesterday announced his resignation. PHOTO: AFP

Winners and losers

Here are the political winners and losers from Britain's EU membership referendum, after the country voted to leave the 28-member alliance:

- DAVID CAMERON:** There was widespread agreement among experts before the referendum that the prime minister, who put his integrity on the line for a "Remain" vote, could not survive losing. Within hours of the result, he announced his resignation.
- GEORGE OSBORNE:** Finance minister Osborne stood by his ally Cameron's side during the campaign and fronted many of the warnings of the economic risks of a Brexit. Although long tipped as a future Conservative leader, his fervent support for "Remain" has lost him many friends in the party.
- JEREMY CORBYN:** The socialist leader of the main opposition Labour Party was criticised for his lukewarm support for the "Remain" campaign and he is being blamed for the decision by swathes of Labour voters to back a Brexit. Senior Labour MP Margaret Hodge tabled a no confidence motion today.
- BORIS JOHNSON:** The former London mayor was a key figurehead in the official campaign for Britain to leave the EU, urging Britain to "take back control" from Brussels. The Conservative lawmaker was widely criticised for claiming that the EU was behaving like Hitler in trying to create a superstate. He has long been the bookmakers' favourite to replace Cameron.
- NIGEL FARAGE:** The vote to leave the European Union is a culmination of 25 years of campaigning for the leader of the UK Independence Party (UKIP). A surge in support for Farage's anti-immigration, anti-establishment party helped force Cameron into calling the referendum three years ago.
- MICHAEL GOVE:** The justice minister, hitherto a Cameron loyalist and close friend, was the most high-profile Conservative cabinet minister to break ranks with the prime minister. He said the prime minister made a "depressing" case for staying in, although he managed better than many of his colleagues in holding off on personal attacks against Cameron.

Londoners demand independence

AFP, London

Tens of thousands of Londoners signed a petition for their metropolis to stay in the European Union on Friday, as Mayor Sadiq Khan said the city must have a say in Britain's exit negotiations.

More than 40,000 people signed a petition on the change.org website saying: "Declare London independent from the UK and apply to join the EU".

While Britain voted 52 percent in favour of leaving the EU in Thursday's referendum, 60 percent of Londoners voted for Britain to stay.

"London is an international city, and we want to remain at the heart of Europe," the petition said. "Let's face it -- the rest of the country disagrees. So rather than passive aggressively vote against each other at every election, let's make the divorce official and move in with our friends on the continent."

"This petition is calling on Mayor Sadiq Khan to declare London independent, and apply to join the EU," it said.

Khan himself issued a statement on the negotiations for Britain's departure from the EU. "It is crucial that London has a voice at the table during those negotiations, alongside Scotland and Northern Ireland," the pro-EU mayor said. "Although we will be outside the EU, it is crucial that we remain part of the single market," he said.

China deals blow to India's NSG hopes

BBC ONLINE

India's bid to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) has suffered a setback following Chinese opposition. The plenary of the NSG ended yesterday without a decision on India's membership.

China said India should not become a member until it signs the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) - a key requirement for all NSG members.

Meanwhile, Switzerland also took a U-turn on its stand and joined the group of countries that are opposing India's entry into the elite nuclear group.

The NSG sets global rules for international trade in nuclear energy technology. In a statement following the end of the plenary session, the group confirmed that India's application had been discussed, reports India's PTI news agency.

India needed a unanimous vote in the 48-member group to become a member, but Beijing took the position that the rules should not be bent for India.

"Applicant countries must be signatories of the NPT. This is a pillar, not something that China set," the Reuters news agency quoted Wang Qun, the head of the arms control department in China's foreign ministry, as saying.