

Should there be a second EU referendum?

The UK voted to leave the EU, but some say the decision isn't final.

What you need to know

- A referendum is when a country or area is asked to vote on a particular question. It allows people to tell the Government how they feel about an important issue.
- In 2016, a referendum was held to decide whether or not the UK should remain part of the European Union (EU) – a group of European countries – or leave. The result was close, but overall more people voted to leave the EU – a process known as Brexit.
- Some people, including politicians on both sides of the debate, think that the UK should hold a second referendum, to decide whether Brexit should go ahead.

AGE GAP
Some thought it was unfair that 16 and 17-year-olds couldn't vote in the EU referendum, because it is a decision that will affect the rest of their lives.



The European Union (EU) is a group currently made up of 28 countries. The organisation was founded after the Second World War by Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Today, member countries benefit from trade agreements with one another, and EU citizens have special rights. Some people say EU membership is expensive and the organisation has too much power. In 2016, the UK held a referendum in which 52% of voters said they wanted to leave the EU, and 48% said they wanted to stay. Many people aren't happy with the result. Some say that voters weren't given enough information before the referendum about what Brexit would really mean. Others want the matter settled once and for all. Should there be another vote?

Yes – the first vote wasn't clear

During the referendum campaign, people who wanted the country to leave the EU claimed that the UK could save £350 million every week if it left. This wasn't true. It wasn't the only falsehood; both the Leave side and the Remain side were guilty of exaggerating facts to persuade voters. The UK deserves another referendum – one where politicians don't make things up. Besides, leaving the EU is an extremely complicated and expensive process because so many trade deals have to be discussed and remade. It's only fair that UK citizens should be given another vote once they know what Brexit will mean for their lives. People should be free to change their minds, and a second referendum will settle the matter once and for all.

No – a second vote wouldn't be fair

Holding a nationwide vote costs a lot of money – around £142 million. Do we really want to spend all that money again, when the decision has already been made? Surely it's better to put that cash towards something more important, such as healthcare. Besides, to hold another referendum would be an attack on the public's decision. It's true that people are divided on the issue, but another vote might divide the country even further. And where does it end? If we have a second vote, why not a third and fourth, too? The decision has been made: people voted for Brexit and it is happening. The best thing that politicians can do now is to work out the right way forward, not try to rewrite the past.

YES Three reasons why there should be a second referendum

- 1 The first vote involved too many false promises. People might have voted differently if the truth had been told.
- 2 People didn't fully know what Brexit would really mean in 2016. They should be allowed to vote again with all the facts.
- 3 It's ok to change your mind, and a second vote would decide things once and for all.

NO Three reasons why there shouldn't be a second referendum

- 1 Another referendum would be time-consuming, costly and unnecessary.
- 2 People have already made up their minds – another referendum would be an attack on the public's decision.
- 3 A second vote risks angering people and dividing the country even more over the issue.

THE WEEKLY POLL

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