

PRESS RELEASE

THE

BETTER OFF OUT

CAMPAIGN

THE POSITIVE CASE FOR LEAVING THE EUROPEAN UNION

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63% OF TORIES SYMPATHISE WITH CAMPAIGN TO LEAVE THE EU

The new results from Britain's leading survey of Conservative Party members show that a clear majority (63%) either support or sympathise with the Better Off Out campaign, which wants Britain to leave the European Union.

The survey by www.conservativehome.com showed that 30% of Tories openly support the campaign, whilst a further 33% sympathise privately.

Conservative MPs and MEPs reacted favourably to the news:

Philip Davies MP (Conservative, Shipley) said, "This survey shows that there is a considerable body of opinion within the Conservative Party and across the country for Britain to leave the EU. The MPs who are supporting Better Off Out are representing that substantial body of opinion. People are increasingly realising that our future prosperity as a Nation depends on trading with countries around the world such as China, India, the US and other emerging markets rather than being tied to a backward looking, inward looking protection racket propping up inefficient continental businesses"

Douglas Carswell MP (Conservative, Harwich and Clacton) said, "It is progressive to want out. Those of us campaigning to quit the EU recognised that it is an idea whose time is coming. It is as an independent, self-governing country - open to the world rather than locked inside old Europe - that we will be best able to meet the economic challenges of India and China."

Roger Helmer MEP (Conservative, East Midlands) said, "I am impressed that two thirds of Conservatives either support the Better Off Out Campaign, or at least sympathise with it. The case for "Better Off Out" is extremely strong, and I am convinced that support will rise as the campaign progresses."

Philip Hollobone MP (Conservative, Kettering) said, "The results show growing enthusiasm for the idea of leaving the EU altogether. All the evidence suggests that as people look at the issue more closely, so the support for EU withdrawal grows. Leaving the EU is not a negative thing, it is a positive step to ensuring that Britain has the strength, drive and ability to tackle the new global challenges of the 21st century."

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

1) Better Off Out (www.betteroffout.co.uk) is a non-partisan campaign to communicate the positive benefits of Britain leaving the European Union.

2) www.conservativehome.com asked the views of 1,519 Conservative Party Members between 3rd to 6th July 2006. When asked about the Better Off Out campaign, 30% responded "I support this campaign and hope that Britain will leave the EU", 33% responded "Although I have some sympathy for this campaign I fear it will be used to portray the Conservative Party as divided on Europe so I do not support this campaign" and a further 33% responded "I oppose this campaign and want to see Conservatives fighting for British interests within the EU".

3) Since its launch in April 2006, Better Off Out has attracted the support of economists such as Ruth Lea and Patrick Minford, influential figures such as former Speaker of the Commons Lord Weatherill, and politicians including nine Conservative MPs and one Labour MP. Numerous Councillors, businessmen and members of the public have also pledged their support.

For further interviews or comments please contact Mark Wallace, Better Off Out Campaign Manager, on 07736009548. Mark is based in London and is available for all television, press and radio enquiries and appearances.

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