

Referendum Timeline

The Key Moments

2013

January
23

Bloomberg

David Cameron delivers a speech setting out plans to renegotiate Britain's relationship with the EU and to hold an in/out referendum



2015

June
25-26



"Under Way"

Mr Cameron sets out his aims at a European Council meeting and says the process of "reform and renegotiation" is "properly under way".

December
17

New Law

European Union Referendum Act is passed requiring a referendum to be held by the end of 2017



December
17-18

Brussels Summit

EU leaders had their first "frank" discussions about the UK requests. European Council President Donald Tusk says discussions should "pave the way" for a deal by February.



2016

January
5

Free to Campaign

David Cameron says Conservative ministers will be able to campaign to leave the EU. But, this will only apply once a deal with the rest of the EU is reached.



February
2

Draft Deal

European Council publishes a draft blueprint for the proposed changes to the UK's membership of the EU. Includes an 'emergency brake' on the payment of in-work benefits and powers for countries to block EU regulations



February
18-19

Deal Done

After difficult negotiations in Brussels, David Cameron gets the 27 other EU member states to sign up to a package of reforms. To achieve agreement some of his proposals have been watered down.



Some elements of the deal will be written into the next EU treaty, such as those exempting the UK from 'ever closer union', others will be enacted as directives under the existing treaties.

February
20



Referendum Date is announced as 23 June

March/April

Official campaigns

The Electoral Commission designates the official Leave and Remain campaigns, which will get access to public funds, a £7m spending limit and TV broadcasts.



23rd
June

The Referendum

Britain goes to the polls to answer the question: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

