

REMAIN PLUS

HOUSE OF LORDS

EU MEMBERSHIP BILL

MONDAY JANUARY 28, 2019

The Noble Lord the Lord Speaker himself has pointed out that in poll after poll, the British people ask:

What is the point of the House of Lords?

Today, ML's, with your support, we are going to give them a straight answer.

We are going to have a big redistribution of power in Europe.

Why?

After the second world war, Germany was in ashes. At the *Yalta Peace Conference*, we were one of *The Big Three*. Russia. America. Britain.

Britain spoke for the whole of Europe. But in three brilliant moves German diplomacy ended all that:

1. *Reunification* – so Germany had the biggest population in Europe
2. *The Treaty of Nice* – so voting strength in Europe reflected population weight. *One man. One vote*. Instead of *One country. One vote*. Germany outvoted Britain for the first time.
3. *The Treaty of Lisbon (art 16 teu/art 238 tfeu)* so the majority required to change EU law was reduced.

Three simple steps to effective control of Europe.

Our Government was asleep at the wheel.

Throughout, the British Foreign Office practiced the withdrawal method in sex – stay out of the danger zone.

That was the Government strategy throughout. *Variable geometry. Two speed Europe.* It finally achieved a climax with the aptly named *EU Withdrawal Act 2018.*

Britain stood on the touchlines at Nice and at Lisbon. We watched the game. A spectator. Not even on the pitch.

Result? TV news any night:

In the end, Germany will decide.

Mrs Merkel signs the cheques.

Which brings us to today. Britain a subordinate. A supplicant for ‘trade deals’. Reporting to the EU.

Are we supposed to look forward to serving the EU Scottish smoked salmon for starters? Irish beef for the main? And Welsh rarebit for dessert?

As somebody once said:

No! No! No!

What to do?

After all this, to now remain in the EU would be a national humiliation that would last 100 years.

And what would be the point anyway?

We would still have the same problems as before:

1. We don't want to be bossed around.
2. We don't want uncontrolled immigration.

Those two problems have to be fixed. The only way now on offer is to leave.

But there is a better way. A much better way. Don't leave. Lead. *Remain Plus.*

We need a redistribution of power in Europe.

That's why I introduced the *EU Membership Bill* in YLH on 10 December 2018.

Equal votes to Germany. And reasonable control of immigration.

The Bill has the purpose of giving Parliament and the people something we actually want, rather than the current choice between least worst options.

It means Britain takes its rightful place as, at the very least, one of the natural leaders of Europe. A happy ending to two years of what is popularly known as:

A complete mess

The Withdrawal Agreement has since then been withdrawn. It was so complex that it was beyond the judgement and understanding of the human mind to comprehend all its variables.

So shall we see if YLH can do any better?

Therefore, instead of a 585-page EU document, this is one-page House of Lords Bill. Here is the rationale behind it.

For over 100 years, since the Parliament Act 1911, we in YLH have all looked up to the House of Commons. It has legitimacy, the authority of the ballot box, the mandate of the General Election, etc.

We accept that we are the humble House. We may question, but never challenge.

NL's will make up their own minds whether we think our silence is still appropriate.

The EU Chief Spokesman says the EU wants to hear:

What Britain wants. What it really, really wants.

The House of Commons cannot tell them. So why don't we have a go, MLs.

The same deference we always displayed to the House of Commons also applied also to the EU Referendum. That ace of trumps is played on a daily basis:

We voted to leave. Nobody must thwart, obstruct or frustrate the clear sovereign will of the people in the biggest democratic vote in British history.

But I say the time is up for that argument.

Because the result of the Referendum was clear:

We can't decide. We're not sure.

There is no comparison between a General Election and that Referendum. In a General Election, if we don't like what we voted for, we can change our mind. It is called democracy. *First past the post*. The greatest advance in human civilisation in 2000 years.

One vote is enough! Nobody challenges that.

But this EU Referendum is completely different.

If we don't like what we voted for, we can't change it.

It's permanent.

Therefore, the beautiful concept that "one vote is enough" doesn't apply.

The result?

As we have seen, nobody is happy.

Leave people hate Half-In. Remain people hate Half-Out.

We keep hearing that this is a “failure of statesmanship” on a level with Suez.

Apparently, before he went to bed at night, Colonel Nasser wrote a page-a-day for each of the country leaders involved in the Suez crisis – Britain, France, America, Israel – to try and understand how that day had gone from *their* point of view. It worked, didn't it ML's?

Let's do that with Chancellor Merkel and President Macron. They had only one interest and one strategy. No detail required.

We don't really care whether Britain comes or goes. All we care about is that they don't set a precedent for anyone else.

Therefore, our strategy is Tough Terms.

Northern Ireland? Where's that again?

Trade deals? Of course. My assistant will book a conference call.

The Tough Terms strategy will have one of two good results:

1. Britain accepts the Tough Terms. That will teach the rest of them!

Or

2. Britain say these terms are tough. We'd better stay.

Either way, for France and Germany, Tough Terms was a no-lose bet, which they executed to perfection.

Meanwhile, Britain has now spent many angry years, and 585 pages, debating our terms for leaving.

So let's see what we can do with our terms for remaining.

How about one page?

It's in this Bill. Two clauses on one page:

1. *Britain to have the same voting powers as Germany*
2. *Britain to have reasonable control of immigration*

This Bill is *Remain Plus*, and it means we will have won a lot for our years of political anguish.

Equal power to Germany. And reasonable control of immigration.

That would make it all worthwhile, wouldn't it?

Perhaps the EU leaders would prefer this too. They keep saying they are "so sad" at our leaving.

Let us find out if theirs are crocodile tears.

But in case any NL's think "the EU will never accept that", here is Manfred Weber, the leader of the biggest Parliamentary group in the EU, and the front-runner to replace Mr Juncker as President of the EU Commission.

Brexit is absolutely an example that people can see in reality... why our main message for the EPP campaign is that it's better to reform the European Union where we need a reform, than to leave or even destroy it.

These are big reforms for the EU leaders to swallow.

But, like the British people, they may prefer them to the tasteless dishes now on offer.

ML's, if YLH moves this Bill forward, we will feel more responsible for our own lives, and everyone will agree that this makes everything in Europe much fairer and that the British people have gained more dignity and self-respect.

ML's, honour, common sense and the interest of the country require that all members of YLH, on whatever bench they be, now fight for this EU reform, and this Bill, as best they may.

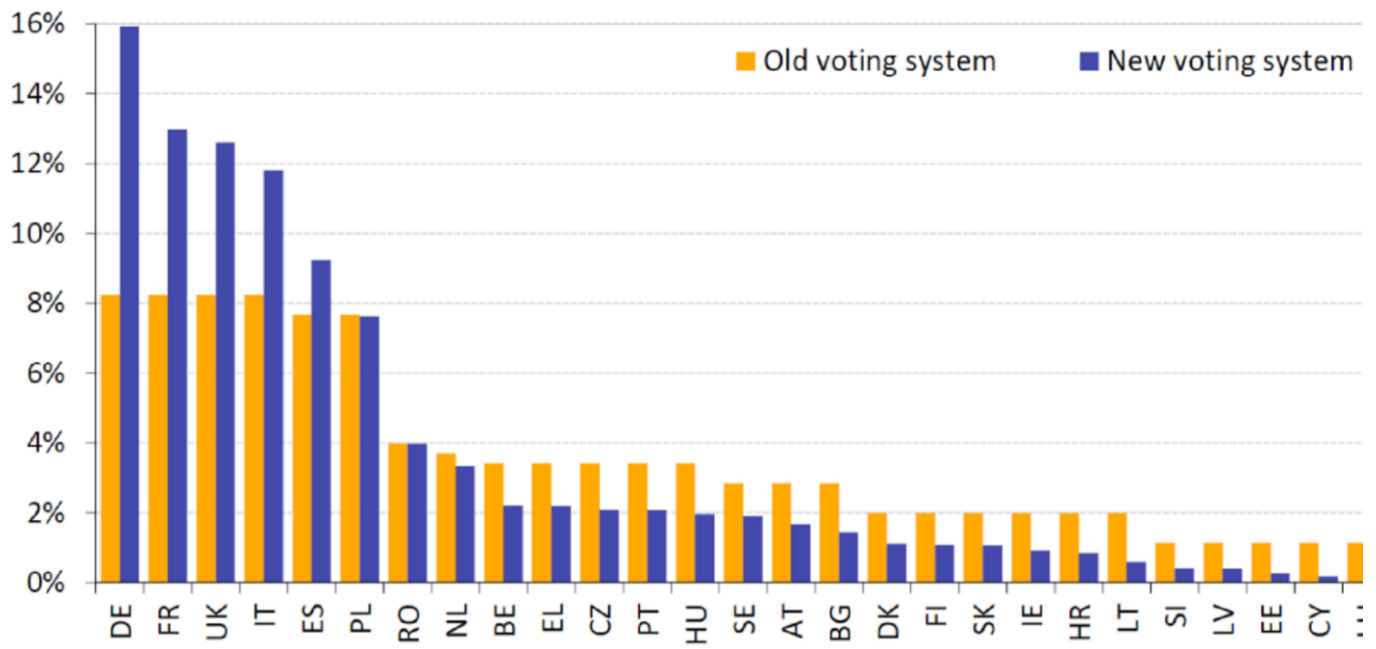
I am undertaking this national task here today. I call upon all members of YLH who agree with me to listen to my voice and follow me.

LONG LIVE BRITAIN IN HONOUR AND INDEPENDENCE!

Table 1: Council Voting weights in the EU and euro area

Member State	Population (thousands)	Old voting system			New system based on share of population	
		votes	% of EU total	% of euro area	% of EU total	% of euro area
DE	80 523.7	29	8.2	13.3	15.93	24.2
FR	65 633.2	29	8.2	13.3	12.98	19.7
UK	63 730.1	29	8.2		12.61	
IT	59 685.2	29	8.2	13.3	11.81	17.9
ES	46 704.3	27	7.6	12.4	9.24	14.0
PL	38 533.3	27	7.6		7.62	
RO	20 057.5	14	3.9		3.97	
NL	16 779.6	13	3.6	5.9	3.32	5.3
BE	11 161.6	12	3.4	5.5	2.21	3.4
EL	11 062.5	12	3.4	5.5	2.19	3.3
CZ	10 516.1	12	3.4		2.08	
PT	10 487.3	12	3.4	5.5	2.07	3.1
HU	9 908.8	12	3.4		1.96	
SE	9 555.9	10	2.8		1.89	
AT	8 451.9	10	2.8	4.6	1.67	2.5
BG	7 284.6	10	2.8		1.44	
DK	5 602.6	7	1.9		1.11	
FI	5 426.7	7	1.9	3.2	1.07	1.6
SK	5 410.8	7	1.9	3.2	1.07	1.6
IE	4 591.1	7	1.9	3.2	0.91	1.4
HR	4 262.1	7	1.9		0.84	
LT	2 971.9	7	1.9		0.59	
SI	2 058.8	4	1.1	1.8	0.41	0.62
LV	2 023.8	4	1.1	1.8	0.40	0.61
EE	1 324.8	4	1.1	1.8	0.26	0.4
CY	865.9	4	1.1	1.8	0.17	0.26
LU	537.0	4	1.1	1.8	0.11	0.16
MT	421.4	3	0.8	1.3	0.08	0.13

Figure 1: Comparison of voting weights prior to and after 1 November 2014



Word count: 1,342