



10 Common Myths About the EU – And What's True

1. **Myth:** The EU is full of unelected bureaucrats.
→ **Fact:** All key decisions are made by elected MEPs and ministers from member countries.
* While the European Commission is appointed, all laws require approval by the European Parliament (elected by EU citizens) and EU Council (made up of elected national ministers).
2. **Myth:** The UK would have to adopt the euro to rejoin.
→ **Fact:** While it's a requirement to adopt the Euro, there are EU countries that don't use the euro, such as Sweden.
https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/eu-countries_en
3. **Myth:** EU rules were forced on us.
→ **Fact:** The UK had a vote and veto on all EU laws while a member.
* The UK had full voting rights in the EU Council and elected MEPs in the EU Parliament.
4. **Myth:** Rejoining would mean losing control again.
→ **Fact:** Rejoining (if ever pursued) would be based on negotiated terms, like any treaty.
* Rejoining would involve negotiation; no two agreements are identical (see Norway, Switzerland).
5. **Myth:** We couldn't survive outside the EU.
→ **Fact:** The issue isn't survival, it's whether our current deal is better than alternatives.
* Survival isn't the issue; the debate is about prosperity, global influence, and opportunity.
6. **Myth:** The EU is falling apart.
→ **Fact:** The Second biggest economy in the world. Membership remains strong, and most Europeans support staying in.
* Support for EU membership has risen across Europe since Brexit.
<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/screen/home>
7. **Myth:** The EU has nothing to do with our daily lives.
→ **Fact:** The EU still affects our daily lives, but we have no say at all, especially about food standards. If we wish to sell to the EU, we must follow their standards. Often, it's too expensive to have alternative standards, such as chemical standards, so we follow both for exports and internal trade.
* From food safety to mobile roaming, the EU affects many everyday standards. See Talk2EU resource: What Did the EU Actually Do for Us?
8. **Myth:** We've already got the best of both worlds.
→ **Fact:** Many businesses report friction and lost access to programmes we once relied on.
* The UK had opt-outs on the euro, Schengen, and more, while shaping the rules.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-26515129>
9. **Myth:** Another referendum would be undemocratic.
→ **Fact:** Democracy is an ongoing process, public opinion can evolve; at the time of writing this document, the public opinion is aligned towards rejoining.
* Democracies can vote again, especially after years, and with new information, especially polling showing a majority with rejoining (Yougov).
10. **Myth:** Nobody wants to talk about this anymore.
→ **Fact:** Many people do — they just want a space where they can do it respectfully.
* Many people do; they just want a safe, respectful space. [See Talk2EU conversation tools page]