

EU Membership (Audit of Costs and Benefits) Bill

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Require an independent audit of the benefits and costs of UK membership of the European Union.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Appointment of committee of inquiry

- (1) Within two months of the date on which this Act is passed the Chancellor of the Exchequer must appoint a committee of inquiry to report to Parliament on the matters set out in section 5.
- (2) The committee of inquiry shall be called the EU Membership Audit Commission ("the Commission"). 5

2 Appointment of Commission

- (1) The Chancellor of the Exchequer shall appoint seven members to serve on the Commission, one of whom shall be appointed as Chairman.
- (2) In appointing members, the Chancellor of the Exchequer must ensure that the members are British nationals and— 10
- (a) there is a balance of those in favour and those against the UK's continued membership of the EU;
 - (b) the Chairman is someone who is broadly neutral on the matter; and
 - (c) no member is or has been— 15
 - (i) a member of the European Parliament, or
 - (ii) an employee of the European Commission.

3 Support by the Treasury

The Treasury—

- (a) shall make available to the UK Commission such administrative and other support as the Commission reasonably requires to fulfil its function; 20

- (b) may pay to members of the Commission such remuneration and expenses as it considers appropriate.

4 Conduct of Commission

Subject to the provisions of this Act the Commission may conduct its procedures in such manner as it considers appropriate.

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5 Terms of reference

The terms of reference of the Commission shall be to examine the current costs and benefits of the UK's membership of the European Union on the existing terms of membership taking into account the impact of membership on the UK's –

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- (a) economy (including consideration of public expenditure and receipts resulting directly from membership);
- (b) competitiveness and ability to trade freely (including consideration of the UK's restricted ability to engage in free trade with other countries);
- (c) national security and defence (including the UK's ability to decide which non-nationals should be allowed to reside in the UK);
- (d) burden of regulation;
- (e) sovereignty.

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6 Report to Parliament

The Commission shall report to Parliament within twelve months of its appointment.

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7 Expenditure

There shall be payable out of money provided by Parliament any expenditure incurred by the Treasury by virtue of this Act.

8 Short title

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This Act may be cited as the EU Membership (Audit of Costs and Benefits) Act 2013.

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To require an independent audit of the benefits and costs of UK membership of the European Union.

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supported by
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