

## **Poll shows: Tory Grassroots Want Big Change in Britain's EU Relationship**

In a poll conducted in the last month among Conservative party members in the East of England, 97% of the hundreds of respondents say they want a major change in Britain's EU membership: most (over 51%) want a revised relationship with the EU while 45% want to leave the EU completely. A mere 3 % are content to leave matters as they are.

The poll, conducted by Conservative MEP Geoffrey Van Orden, covered a range of current issues relating to Europe, the deficit, immigration, defence, capital punishment, and transport.

Mr Van Orden commented:

"My soundings suggest that most people don't want to leave the EU but want a different EU and a different relationship. There is seething discontent over the EU, which is deeply rooted and goes back many years. Now it is coming to a head as people see the opportunity for change. I think the views of the Tory grassroots on this issue are probably shared by a majority of people across the political spectrum.

"Sooner rather than later, there will have to be a new Treaty to deal with the effects of the eurozone crisis. This will present the opportunity to reshape the EU and set it in a new direction with a looser relationship for countries such as Britain. In my opinion, the aim should be a new draft Treaty, put to a referendum, by 2015.

"The strong views of our citizens provide ammunition for the government in negotiations in Brussels in the months ahead. Furthermore, No.10 can take reassurance from the support for many key government policies when it shows strong leadership. Over 84% back the efforts to rapidly cut the deficit and 63% supported the Allied military intervention in Libya".

"On other issues, immigration and related 'human rights' issues always feature as top concerns. People are now impatient for concrete results. 96% say they want immigration reduced with 86% demanding drastic reduction provided that businesses could recruit skilled employees from overseas to meet genuine needs and there were still seasonal worker schemes to meet the temporary needs of food producers.

### **Poll results**

The results to date of the responses to a Questionnaire sent out in late September to Conservative Party member in the East of England were as follows:  
*(number of respondents varied but for Questions 1 – 9 were at least 400)*

#### **Q. 1. In a referendum on the EU, what would your preference be?**

A	<b>(revised relationship with the EU)</b>	<b>51.3%</b>
B	<b>(leave the EU)</b>	<b>45.3%</b>
C	(continue as at present)	3.3%

**Q.2. How important is the issue of EU membership to you?**

A	<b>(Very important)</b>	<b>65.5%</b>
B	(Quite important)	23%
C	(Doesn't matter)	11.5%

**Q.3. Do you support the government's policies on rapidly cutting the deficit?**

A	<b>(Yes)</b>	<b>84.3%</b>
B	(No)	2.5%
C	(Some doubts)	13.2%

**Q.4. Immigration should be:**

A	(Slightly reduced)	9.6%
B	<b>(Drastically reduced)</b>	<b>86.2%</b>
C	(Remain the same)	4.2%

**Q. 5. Are you in favour of the return of capital punishment?**

A	(No)	33.1 %
B	<b>(Yes, where there is no doubt and only for certain categories types of murder)</b>	<b>56.6%</b>
C	(Yes, all murders)	10.3%

**Q.6. Transport Infrastructure**

**More Motorways/dual carriageways?**

YES	70.3%
NO	29.7%

**High- Speed Rail ?**

YES	50.8%
NO	49.2%

**Improved Local Roads?**

Yes	90.7%
NO	9.3%

**Q.7. Should defence budget:**

A (be increased)	47.5%
B (remain at current level)	44.5%
C (be further reduced)	8%

**Q. 8. How important is defence issue to you?**

A <b>(very important)</b>	<b>64.6%</b>
B (quite important)	29.7%
C (low priority)	5.7%

**Q.9. Do you support the Allied military intervention in Libya?**

A <b>(Yes)</b>	<b>63%</b>
B (No)	37%

**Q.10. Apart from the economy, what one issue most concerns you today?**

Those that responded expressed most concerns about the following:

1. EU issues
2. Human Rights
3. Immigration
4. NHS
5. Planning policy