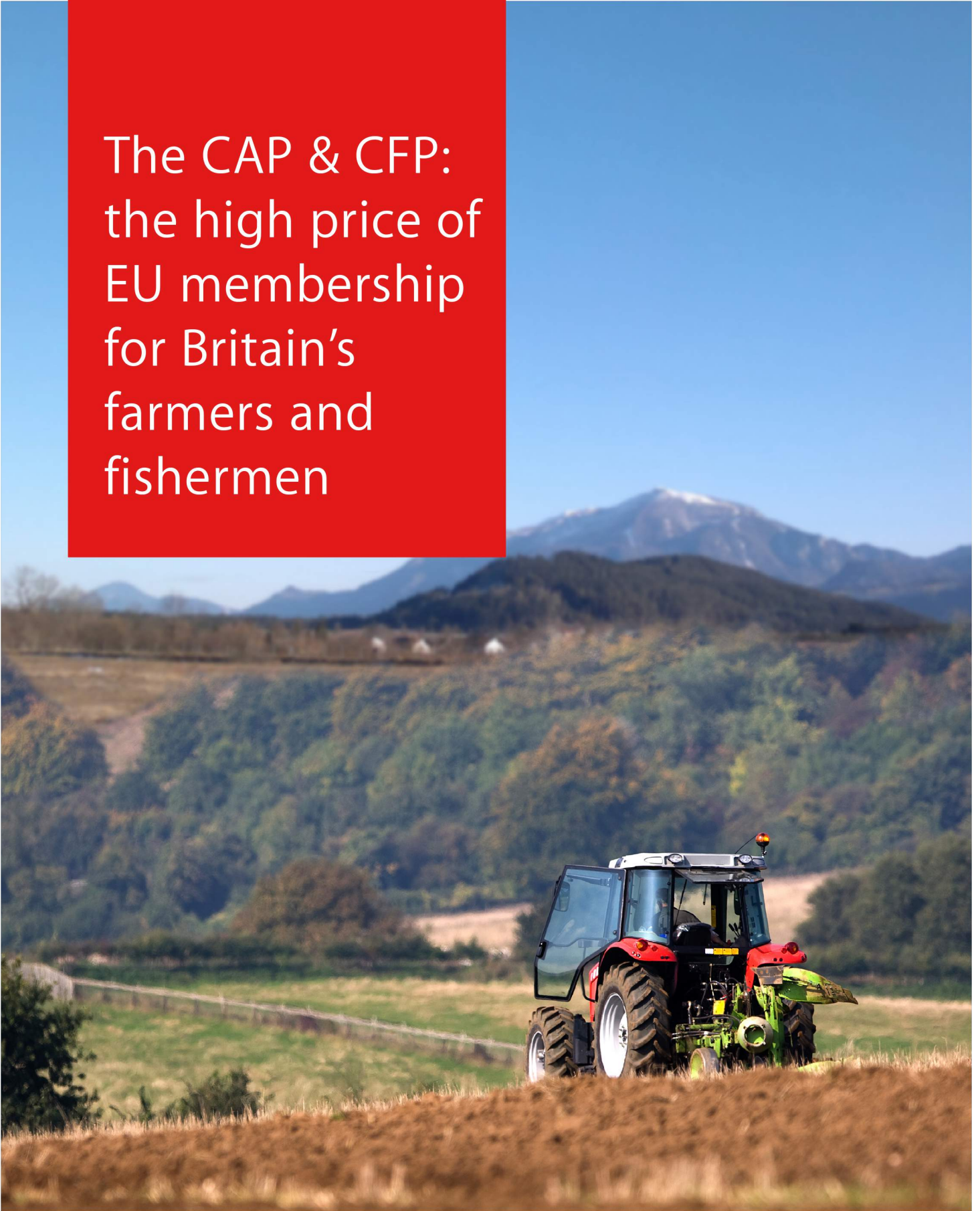


The CAP & CFP:  
the high price of  
EU membership  
for Britain's  
farmers and  
fishermen



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# The CAP and CFP: the high price of EU membership for Britain's farmers and fishermen

## Executive Summary

- The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) are two expensive, wasteful programmes that date back to the 1960s and 1970s respectively. The CAP has promoted over-production, leading to huge amounts of waste.
- The CAP is extremely bureaucratic - farmers often find themselves being fined for failing to comply with burdensome and complex rules. 'Disallowances' have cost the UK over half a billion pounds in the last ten years and are likely to increase.
- The CAP and CFP both increase food bills for consumers, devastate the environment and damage African agriculture by imposing punitive tariffs against third world countries. The EU doubles its tariffs on processed food stuffs, discouraging the development of industry in the third world.
- Because the UK is a large net contributor to the CAP, it could - and would - easily continue to support farmers after we Vote Leave. We would also be able to reduce the regulatory burdens on farmers by making laws more responsive to UK farming needs and ending the risk of being fined by Brussels.
- The UK would retain access to the EU's markets and would be able to attract seasonal labour, without depriving the local unemployed from taking up this work.
- The CFP was rushed into being specifically to allow other EU fishermen access to traditional UK and Scandinavian fishing waters, to which they were otherwise denied in international law.
- If we Vote Leave, we will leave the CFP. This will give the British Government the power to take back control over the fishing industry, and protect fishermen and associated industries.
- The UK would take back control of its territorial waters and start the process of restoring traditional UK fishing communities.
- The UK would be able to run policy on environmentally sound lines, rather than through methods that have included the mass discarding of millions of tonnes of British fish.
- When Greenland left the EU in the 1980s, it was able to strike a new free trade agreement with the EU which gave it free trade access to the EU markets for its fish. Britain will strike a similar deal.

## Part I: The Common Agricultural Policy

The CAP is as old as the EU itself- it was set out in the 1957 Treaty of Rome and further developed in a conference in Stresa in July 1958. Because all of the founding members of the then European Economic Community (EEC) subsidised their farming sectors, it was decided that common European policies for intervention were needed. All member states would be required to contribute to the central budget, with funds then allocated to farms across Europe. It quickly became clear that this system penalised states that were heavily industrialised and didn't have large farming sectors - like the UK (European Commission, April 2015, [link](#)).

### The CAP is extremely wasteful and expensive

#### Waste

The CAP was designed to address a 1950s fear of urbanisation when politicians were worried that food production would suffer over the coming years. These politicians had lived through the Second World War and had seen the devastation of their agricultural sectors, and further feared that rural depopulation would increasingly make matters worse.

Originally, payments under the CAP were linked to output, leading to large-scale overproduction - the infamous 'butter mountains' and 'wine lakes'. Sixty years later, the CAP remains wasteful and does not work well for British farmers who are forced to comply with burdensome laws that drive up their costs. Intervention buying still happens. As recently as 2009, the EU was buying thousands of tonnes of unsold butter (at the taxpayers' expense) leading to media reports of the 'return of the butter mountain' (*New York Times*, February 2009, [link](#)). A Government review in 2013 found that the majority of stakeholders considered that 'CAP remains misdirected, cumbersome, costly and bureaucratic' while the National Farmers' Union said that EU arrangements were 'close to impossible' (HM Government, Summer 2014, [link](#)).

#### Expense

The Government is regularly fined by the European Commission for failing to implement fully EU laws on CAP. These are known as 'disallowances' and do not have to be approved by a court. Between 2005 and 2015, the UK was subject to £642 million in disallowances. The UK is fined proportionately more than France, Italy, Germany or Spain and the Government 'expects disallowance to increase' in the coming years (National Audit Office, July 2015, [link](#)). These wasteful fines could be eliminated entirely if the UK leaves the EU and takes back control of how we administer farm subsidies.

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*'It is all pervasive: how many farm inspections there must be in a given year; what proportion of those inspections must be random; how much a farmer must be fined if he makes a mistake; how much he should be fined if he makes the same mistake twice; the precise dimensions of EU billboards and plaques that farmers are forced to put up by law; the maximum width of a gateway; the minimum width of a hedge; the maximum width of a hedge; what type of crop must be grown over the hedge; whether a cabbage and a cauliflower are different crops or should be deemed the same crop. The list goes on forever and it's stifling.'* - George Eustice MP

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CAP expenditure is increasing:

Year	€bn	Year	€bn	Year	€bn
1980	11.32	1992	34.16	2004	47.92
1981	11.86	1993	37.84	2005	52.17
1982	13.05	1994	36.76	2006	53.44
1983	16.73	1995	38.11	2007	52.78
1984	19.01	1996	43.04	2008	52.25
1985	20.63	1997	44.80	2009	51.85
1986	23.09	1998	43.12	2010	55.16
1987	23.90	1999	45.13	2011	55.82
1988	27.58	2000	41.85	2012	57.55
1989	25.87	2001	45.59	2013	58.01
1990	27.04	2002	46.22		
1991	33.97	2003	47.58		

Source: European Commission (FOI request), current prices

The CAP is also very costly to administer due to its very complicated nature. According to the National Audit Office, 'the costs of administering and controlling the CAP are considerable, with 4% of the Government's CAP budget consumed by administration each year (National Audit Office, July 2015, [link](#)). This system is only likely to get worse in the coming years. The Department for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs estimates that the new CAP will be 15% more expensive to administer than the scheme it replaced, as the National Audit Office has explained:

'The current CAP is more complex than the scheme it replaces, despite the UK's efforts to simplify it. Many features of CAP 2015–20, such as mandatory crop diversification and other greening measures, are new and member states have no experience of implementing and controlling them' (National Audit Office, July 2015, [link](#)).

This will increase complexity for British farmers and increase the threat of massive EU compliance fines for the UK Government and the devolved administrations. Once we Vote Leave, we can get rid of the hated cross-compliance regime.

The fact that the new system has been found to be more complicated than the one it replaces shows how successive promises to reduce EU red tape have not been met. This was despite the promise of CAP reform acting as the reason why Tony Blair partially surrendered the UK rebate-grant.

David Cameron argued in 2014 that CAP 'puts British farms at a disadvantage, burdening them with unnecessary expense and red tape' (Conservative Party European Election Manifesto, 2014, [link](#)). He repeated his promise of reform to the CAP at last election (Conservative Party Manifesto, 2015, [link](#)). Nonetheless, farming formed no part of the renegotiation and as a result, British farmers will continue to have to operate under the new, more complicated system in the event of a vote to remain in the EU.

On top of this, the independent House of Commons Library has concluded that EU membership increases the costs of consumer goods, stating that the EU's common agricultural policy 'artificially inflates food prices' (House of Commons Library, 18 September 2013, [link](#)). This is because imports into the UK from cheaper food suppliers than continental Europe face an EU tariff barrier.

### The CAP harms the third world

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*'The impacts of the EU common agricultural policy on developing countries' markets has been tremendously negative. They struggle to remain competitive against heavily-subsidised food products being dumped on their markets.'* - **Olivier de Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur

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The CAP has had a very damaging impact on agriculture in developing countries. Even pro-EU bodies such as the EU-funded Centre for European Reform admit that: 'EU policies, particularly those on trade, agriculture and fisheries, continue to harm poor countries', including 'tariffs and quotas which discourage or exclude produce from developing countries' (Centre for European Reform, June 2013, [link](#)).

The EU employs 'tariff escalation', whereby primary products are charged to lower tariffs than manufactured goods, discouraging the development of industry. Trinity College Dublin notes: 'The EU tariff structure shows such tariff escalation. According to the WTO EU Trade Policy Review 2009, the average MFN tariff on primary food products was 9.9% in 2008, but for processed food products it was more than twice as high, at 19.4%. This is a serious disincentive for the development of processing industries in countries that do not benefit from preferences' (TCD, August 2010, [link](#)).



## The CAP imposes unfair obligations on the UK

The CAP accounts for 40% of the EU's budget expenditure (European Commission, 2015, [link](#)) and the UK pays in far more than it gets out:

- According to Government figures, in 2015 the UK received £2.9 billion in CAP funding from the EU (Answer to written parliamentary question no. 14325, 5 November 2015, [link](#)).
- EU wide expenditure on CAP was £43.5 billion in 2015 (European Commission, 2013, [link](#); HMRC, 2015, [link](#)).
- The UK paid for £5.5 billion or 12.57% of CAP (HM Treasury, December 2015, [link](#)).

The UK therefore pays in almost double what it gets back. In addition, other member states receive far more funding than the UK does. In 2014, France benefited the most, receiving 15.7% of payments, followed by Spain with 11.7%, Germany with 11.3%, Italy with 10.0% and Poland with 9.1%. The UK received just 7.2% (European Commission, 2015, [link](#)).

CAP spending in the UK is also falling sharply and is subject to the risk of further changes in the event of exchange rate fluctuations. Figures from HM Treasury show that CAP spending on market support in the UK has fallen from £3.9 billion in 2011-2012 to £2.7 billion in 2014-2015 (HM Treasury, 2016, [link](#)). For as long as the EU remains in charge of how we can support farmers, there is no guarantee that subsidies can be maintained at current levels. That becomes particularly so in the event of further EU expansion, especially to Turkey. The riskier option for British farmers is to vote to remain in the unreformed EU.

## The British Government would continue to support British farmers after we Vote Leave

British farmers would continue to be supported after we Vote Leave. The UK supported its farmers before it joined the EU and would do so after we Vote Leave. Because it pays much more into the EU budget than it gets out, Britain would already have sufficient funds to continue supporting our farmers at current levels. Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland all support their farming sectors outside the EU and the CAP. In fact, the payments made by these countries are actually more generous than those paid by the EU to member states. In Norway, support to farmers constituted 60% of total income in 2012-2014. It constituted 55% in Switzerland and 45% in Iceland. In the European Union, however, just 19% of farmers' income came from subsidies in the same period, down from 39% in 1986-1988 (OECD, 2015, [link](#)).

Assistance for farmers has been part of British politics since the Second World War. The Agriculture Act 1947 provided for a system of guaranteed prices negotiated annually by the Ministry of Agriculture and the NFU. The Act provided for 'guaranteed prices and assured markets', stating that 'a stable and efficient agricultural industry' was in the national interest (Agriculture Act 1947, s. 1, [link](#)). Milk prices, for example, were fixed in 1933 (*Padfield v Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* [1968] AC 997, [link](#)).

This means that British farmers would continue to have a level playing field with European competitors.

## Burdensome regulation could be repealed after we Vote Leave

Outside the EU, the UK would also take back control of the regulation of agriculture, including of pesticides and genetically modified (GM) organisms. There are thousands of badly designed EU regulations that aim to control everything farmers do - these would go. The rough justice of the 'cross compliance regime' would be dismantled. Instead, we would have laws designed to work for British farming. At the moment it is not possible to fix the problems farming faces because agricultural policy is controlled by the EU. If we vote to leave and take control, elected Ministers will be able to make the changes needed and put in place new policies to help farmers manage risk, boost their returns and reward the work farming does for the environment.

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*The landscapes of the Lake District, the Peak District, and mountainous areas of Wales and Scotland are the basis for a tourism industry worth an estimated £20-£30 billion per annum; there is currently no mechanism for the market to reward farmers and landowners for the public good, provided by the work they do maintaining and improving these environments' - Owen Paterson MP*

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Current EU regulation which affects the agricultural sector includes:

**The three crop rule** (Regulation [2013/1307/EU](#)). EU rules require that 'where the arable land of a farmer covers more than 30 hectares there shall be at least 3 different crops on different areas of that arable land over the year' (DEFRA, August 2014, [link](#)). The President of the NFU, Peter Kendall, has described the rule as 'utter madness', which should 'be scrapped at the earliest opportunity'. He has argued that 'it will increase costs, reduce efficiency, increase traffic on rural roads and in some cases could lead to negative environmental consequences' (NFU, 13 February 2014, [link](#)). Some farmers are preparing to forgo support in order to avoid having to comply with the three crop requirement (*Farmers Weekly*, 13 March 2014, [link](#)).

**EU propaganda.** The EU is also using the CAP as a means of promoting itself. EU law requires beneficiaries of the European Regional Development Fund to promote the EU (Regulation 2013/1303/EU, arts 117-117, Annex XII, [link](#)). The Government states that farmers 'must display the following material to publicise receipt of EU funding, at a location readily visible to the public: an A3 poster - where all payments to be made over the life of the agreement exceed €10,000; a plaque measuring at least 300mm x 300mm - for capital items where payments exceed €50,000; or a billboard - for capital items where payments exceed €500,000' (HM Government, 2015, [link](#)).

**The GM food and feed regulation** (Regulation [2003/1829/EC](#)). Under this regulation, GM organisms cannot be marketed in the UK without the approval of the European Commission. In 2007, BASF conducted field trials of a strain of GM potatoes, known as 'Fortuna', which were resistant to blight. After approval to market the 'Fortuna' series of potatoes was continually refused by the EU, BASF announced that continued investment in the strain would be halted due to 'uncertainty in the regulatory environment', subsequently moving its operations to the United States (*RSC*, 7 February 2013, [link](#)).

In March 2015, the EU agreed a new directive which allows member states to ban the cultivation of GM crops in their territory (Parliament and Council Directive 2015/412/EU, [link](#)). Nonetheless, EU law provides that the cultivation of GM crops may be vetoed by the Commission, or be made subject to the Commission's approval if another Member State insists (Parliament and Council Directive



2001/18/EC, [link](#)). This means that English cultivators usually cannot grow products without the consent of the Commission, but that such authorisation will not generally be valid throughout the EU. This undermines the whole logic of the 'Single Market'.

As of April 2015, only one GM crop, a variety of maize, had been authorised, 91% of which is cultivated in Spain (European Commission, April 2015, [link](#)). At present, 19 member states (including parts of the UK other than England) have restricted the cultivation of GM crops in whole or in part (European Commission, 5 November 2015, [link](#)). The Commission has also proposed that member states should be able to block imports of GM products lawfully cultivated in other member states, although this has been held up by the European Parliament (European Commission, April 2015, [link](#); *Bloomberg*, 28 October 2015, [link](#)). These policies can be contrasted with what is happening in other countries where GM production, subject to scientific safety checks, has been allowed to grow into a major world-leading industry.

***The Plant Protection Products Regulation*** (Regulation [2009/1107/EC](#)). This regulation governs the use of pesticides in the EU. The Government has admitted that this 'EU regulation denies business access to innovative crop protection products. This hinders EU businesses in their efforts to improve crop yields and quality. As a result, EU farming businesses are disadvantaged on world markets' (HM Government, 24 February 2014, [link](#)).

### **Britain would retain access to EU markets if we Vote Leave**

If we Vote Leave, the UK is certain to strike a free trade agreement with the EU which will allow British farmers to sell their produce to the EU without tariffs or quotas. This has been acknowledged by many pro-EU campaigners:

- The Prime Minister, David Cameron, has said: 'If we were outside the EU altogether, we'd still be trading with all these European countries, of course we would... Of course the trading would go on. Sometimes ... There's a lot of scaremongering on all sides of this debate. Of course the trading would go on' (*Andrew Marr Show*, 6 January 2013, [link](#)).
- The UK's former Ambassador to the EU and leading supporter of BSE (Britain Stronger in Europe), Lord Kerr of Kinlochard, has admitted 'there is no doubt that the UK could secure a free trade agreement with the EU. That is not an issue' (*Lords Hansard*, 2 November 2015, col. 1492, [link](#)).
- The pro-EU CBI has said 'the UK is highly likely to secure a Free Trade Agreement with the EU, and such an agreement would be likely to be negotiated at an extremely high level of ambition relative to other FTAs' (CBI, 4 November 2013, [link](#)).
- The pro-EU Centre for European Reform has accepted that 'given the importance of the UK market to the eurozone, the UK would probably have little difficulty in negotiating an FTA' (CER, June 2014, [link](#)).
- HSBC has said 'we think it is fair to assume that the UK and the EU would continue to enjoy thriving and tariff-free trade in goods' (HSBC, 'A very British dilemma', February 2015, p. 2).
- The Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond has admitted that a free trade agreement in agricultural goods 'would be relatively simple to negotiate' (HC Deb 26 February 2015, col. 501, [link](#)).

This means that there is no realistic prospect of tariffs or quotas being imposed on the UK's agricultural exports to the EU if we Vote Leave. Under the EU-Canada Free Trade Agreement, 'The EU will... fully liberalise 97.0% of its agricultural imports from Canada' (European Commission, February

2016, [link](#)). The UK is a much more important export market for the EU than Canada, so we are sure to get an even better deal.

In addition, the EU sells us far more agricultural produce than we sell to them. In 2014, the UK sold £11.5 billion of food and live animals to the EU but bought £31.0 billion of these products from the EU (OECD, 2015, [link](#); HMRC, 2015, [link](#)). This means that the EU sold £19.4 billion more to the UK than the UK sold to the EU. After we Vote Leave, it will be in the EU's interests to strike a free trade deal in agricultural products since the EU needs the UK more than the UK needs the EU.

It should also be noted that being in the EU does not stop the EU discriminating against British farmers. On 5 May 1998, the European Court refused to strike down a worldwide ban on the export of British beef imposed by the European Commission in March 1996 during the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic (Decision 1996/239/EC, [link](#); *United Kingdom v Commission* [1998] ECR I-2265, [link](#)). The ban was eventually lifted by the Commission on 1 August 1999 after a crisis which cost the farming industry an estimated £1.5 billion (*BBC News*, 14 July 1999, [link](#)). The Commission could do the same thing again if the UK votes to remain.

### **Seasonal workforce would not be disrupted**

Many of the crops produced in the UK are seasonal. This means that UK farms benefit from having access to a large workforce at certain times in the year. There is no reason why access to seasonable labour would be affected if we Vote Leave.

Shortly after the Second World War, the UK established the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme, which was 'designed to facilitate the movement of young people from across Europe to work in agriculture, primarily as an additional source of labour in peak season' (Migration Advisory Committee, May 2013, [link](#)). Until the scheme was abolished in 2013 with Romanian and Bulgarian accession to the EU, it allowed for migrants to come to the UK 'as seasonal workers for up to six months at a time' (Home Office, 12 September 2013, [link](#)). It predated and was never dependent on EU membership.

When the UK takes back control of its migration policy from the EU, it will be able to reintroduce schemes such as this. It is possible to have a sufficient seasonal workforce to meet the farming industry's needs without ceding control over the UK's borders to the European Court. It could also tailor any new system to take into account high levels of local unemployment and encourage young people onto the job market.

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*'If we voted to leave and took control we could develop an immigration policy which delivered for the UK with special, tailored provisions for industries such as agriculture which have a unique seasonal nature.'* - George Eustice

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### **The UK would gain a stronger voice in key international bodies**

Outside the EU, we would be able to take a full seat on the world bodies that determine global regulation. The UK is currently represented by just 1/28<sup>th</sup> of a seat by the EU at the WTO, the OIE, the world organisation for animal disease, and Codex Alimentarius, the body which regulates guidelines relating to foods, food production and food safety. Taking a full seat on the International Plant

Protection Convention would give us a much stronger voice in combating diseases which are becoming more prevalent as globalisation encourages the international trade in plant products.

## Part II: The Common Fisheries Policy

The Common Fisheries Policy was forced on the UK after we decided to join the then EEC in 1972. Under the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the UK has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which extends for up to 200 nautical miles (UNCLOS, art. 57 [link](#)).

During the application period, EU officials were quick to realise that 80% of the expanded EEC's fish would be in accession state EEZs. The EEC drafted a regulation that demanded that all EU member states should have 'equal access' to the EEZs. The Member States also agreed to pass the management of their fisheries resources to the EU. This was so controversial that it led to the Norwegian Fisheries minister resigning and played a major role in the Norway 'no' vote in their membership referendum.

The negative consequences of the CFP on British fisheries were known at the time the UK joined in the EU in 1973, but were nevertheless ignored. The Heath Government was warned, for example, that up to half of Scotland's fishermen could lose their jobs and that the CFP would lead to a 'weaker and less efficient national fleet' (*The Scotsman*, 1 January 2003, [link](#)). The UK joined the CFP regardless. Despite claims that the CFP has been reformed over the years, the deal has remained disastrous.

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*'Scottish fisheries waters will not be available to EU boats if we [Vote Leave]... a great area of sea will be removed from the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).'* - Jim Sillars

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When the current Prime Minister was first elected to Parliament in 2005, he stood on a manifesto which promised to negotiate 'to restore national and local control over British fishing grounds. We are determined to ensure national control in this area' (Conservative Party Manifesto, 2005, [link](#)). However, fisheries formed no part of the Prime Minister's renegotiation of the UK's terms of membership.

### The CFP has had a devastating impact on UK fishing industry

The opening up of British waters to EU had a devastating effect on the UK's fishing industry. Fishing from other member states soon started on an industrial scale - and this continues up to the present day. The media reported recently that one Dutch trawler takes one quarter of England's entire fish quota (*Daily Mail*, November 2014, [link](#)).

The UK fishing industry has been unable to cope, with disastrous consequences:

#### **Employment**

- In 1973, there were 23,476 fishermen in the UK (Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, 1974, [link](#)).
- In 2014, there were 11,845 fishermen in the UK (Marine Management Organisation/ONS, 2015, [link](#)).
- This means employment in the fishing industry has fallen by half since we joined the EU.
- Since 1970, employment on Scottish based fishing vessels has fallen 49% (House of Commons Library, [link](#))

### ***The fishing fleet***

- In 1989, there were 8,263 fishing vessels in the UK fleet (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 1992, [link](#)).
- In 2014, the UK's fishing fleet had 6,383 vessels (Marine Management Organisation/ONS, 2015, [link](#)).
- The UK's fishing fleet has been in decline for the last thirty-five years. Remaining vessels tend to be old, small, and underpowered compared with their subsidy-backed continental counterparts.

### ***The fishing catch***

- In 1975, landings of fish in the UK was 842,000 tonnes. In 2014 it was 451,000 tonnes (House of Commons Library, January 2016, [link](#)).
- This means landings have declined by 47%.

### **The UK gets an unfair deal under the CFP**

Every year, the European Commission proposes a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for each commercial species for each area within the EU 200 mile limit. Each TAC is then divided into national quotas according to the principle of relative stability. Relative stability is supposed to ensure that catches are divided between member states according to relative amounts of each type of fish that they were fishing in that area in the 1970s. In the 1970s, UK fleets concentrated upon fishing in waters around Iceland. They were expelled from those waters in 1977 but were not allowed to expel fishermen from other EU states from waters around the UK. This is damaging.

The UK also fares very badly from EU funding for fisheries. In 2014, the EU spent €683.6 million on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The UK contributed €75.0 million, or 10.97% of this (HM Treasury, 2014, [link](#)). Nonetheless, the UK received just €47.3 million, or 6.9% of the money spent. The EU spent a quarter more in Italy than the UK, three times more in Poland and more than four times as much in Spain, which alone received over €200 million (European Commission, 2015, [link](#)).

A large proportion of subsidies goes to a small number of big businesses, rather than supporting small-scale fishermen. If we were to do this instead, it would generate jobs and promote environmentally friendly fishing methods.

### **The UK will be able to protect its fishing industry and fishing stocks**

Under the current system, the UK cannot take measures to protect its fishing industry or fish stocks in UK waters. It attempted to do so in the Merchant Shipping Act 1988. However, these measures were ruled illegal by the European Court (*R v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Factortame* [1991] ECR I-03905, [link](#)). The UK subsequently had to pay very substantial damages to foreign companies for breaching EU law by attempting to protect its fishing industry (*R v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Factortame*, [2000] 1 AC 524, [link](#)). The bill was estimated to be £100 million in 1999 (*BBC News*, 28 October 1999, [link](#)). Sea anglers have also had a bad deal and their activities are under threat from EU regulation.

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## Case study: Bluefin Tuna

In 2010, the European Commission considered legal action against the UK and the Netherlands because, at a meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the two countries abandoned a common EU position and voted for stronger protection for endangered Bluefin tuna (*BBC News*, 18 March 2010, [link](#)). The Environment Secretary, Hilary Benn, said: 'the UK has shown its commitment to bluefin tuna' (*The Guardian*, 18 March 2010, [link](#)). A plan to start infringement proceedings in the European Court reportedly had the support of Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (*Politico*, 28 April 2014, [link](#)).

The case arose out of the failure of international efforts to ban trade in Bluefin tuna at the meeting of CITES. An EU proposal to ban tuna trade from 2011 failed to win the necessary two-thirds support, as did a separate proposal from Monaco for an immediate ban. EU countries were supposed to abstain on Monaco's proposal because there was no common view in favour of it, but the Netherlands and the UK voted for it. This prompted a complaint from Malta that countries had breached the principle of mutual 'sincere cooperation' enshrined in the EU treaty (*Politico*, 28 April 2014, [link](#))

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## If we Vote Leave we will have a free trade deal with the EU

When Greenland left the EU in 1985, it secured a free trade deal with the EU that allowed it to sell its fish to the EU without tariffs, quotas or measures equivalent to quotas (Article 1 of the Protocol on special arrangements for Greenland, 1984, [link](#)). Britain is a much larger economy and far more important to the EU, particularly to Spanish markets and consumers - we are certain to secure an even better deal.

The UK will also be able to use remedies under the WTO agreement to protect its fishing industry against discriminatory treatment by the EU. In 2006, the EU imposed a minimum import price on Norwegian salmon of €2.80 per kilogram. It was forced to withdraw this policy after the WTO ruled it was illegal (Norwegian Mission to the EU, 2009, [link](#)). At present, the UK has no independent voice in the WTO, so cannot avail itself of these remedies.

The UK would remain a member of organisations such as the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. The UK could represent itself in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO), rather than being represented by the EU. In the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, for example, the UK has a seat, but only in respect of its overseas territories outside the EU (ICCAT, 2016, [link](#)). In the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, the UK is represented by the EU, while both South Korea and Ukraine have an independent voice (NAFO, 2016, [link](#)). This is unsustainable.

## If we Vote Leave we can restore Britain's fish

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has also been extremely wasteful, has not protected Europe's fish stocks and has resulted in countless millions of fish being dumped. This is unacceptable. British politicians have promised for decades to end this unethical and expensive policy, but have still not fully delivered on their promises.

The CFP has also historically encouraged 'dumping' which has been devastating for sealife. The main problem has been the 'Total Allowable Catch' management system. Once a Total Allowable Catch limit is reached by a boat or by a country, it has to stop fishing for that species. Where species live alongside one another, this obviously creates particular difficulties and the standard obligation has been for them to be dumped back overboard, regardless of their chances of surviving. While the EU has promised to change this system, the European Parliament has recently voted to effectively delay this change and extend the old, environmentally damaging system (European Parliament, April 2015, [link](#)).

Removing the management of fisheries from the hands of the EU would enable the UK to regain control of a valuable commodity; allow for more environmentally-prudent management systems and increase national access to a scarce resource.

## Conclusion

The CAP and CFP have been devastating for British farming and fishing industries. It is not necessary to be a member of either scheme to guarantee funding or subsidies - the UK supported those who produce its food for years before joining the EU, and would continue to do so after we Vote Leave.

Both schemes are acknowledged to be outdated, but are unreformable so long as we remain in the EU. There is no prospect of either programme being ended and recent changes to both policies go nowhere near far enough to rectify the serious, fundamental flaws with both schemes.

For many farmers, the CAP is - at best - a source of red tape and form filling and - at worst - a source of fines and heartache. The CFP's demands that the UK must open its waters to other EU nations has had a devastating impact on not just the UK's traditional fishing communities but also on the maritime environment. If we Vote Leave, not only do we get to end the red tape and help increase the amount of support that would be available for farmers, we will also retake control of our territorial waters - a huge boost for Britain's fishing communities.

The only way to get a better deal for Britain's farmers and fishermen is to Vote Leave on 23 June.





[www.voteleavetakecontrol.org](http://www.voteleavetakecontrol.org)

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