

The Young European

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Britain, A House divided and the end of the Union?

Britain, A House Divided And The End Of The Union? I believed that after Scotland's historic vote to remain as part of the UK, the question of British Union was cemented. The Scottish Referendum was very much seen as a political muscle flexing from the SNP, spearheaded by Alex Salmond whose initial proposition of Devo Max was rejected in favour of Scottish Independence Referendum proposed by then Prime Minister Cameron. It was a political gamble, but it was a gamble that served devastated SNP's image of being able to take on Westminster. The following year, the SNP did manage to win all but two Scottish MP Seats in the General Election, yet the sentiment was that this would be a fleeting political phenomenon.

A year later and the disastrous result the EU referendum reopened those wounds with a greater lethality than ever before. Scotland overwhelmingly voted Remain, there was immediate talks of second referendum on Scottish Independence and put forward by Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Whilst May has expressed the inconsistency of the SNP's stance on the EU membership, it does not comfort Scottish citizens who are very afraid that their rising economy and growth is now going to be stifled as Westminster is looking towards Protectionist policies. The SNP, are only going to use this situation to forward their agenda for independence regardless whether or not it becomes an EU member after Scottish Independence.

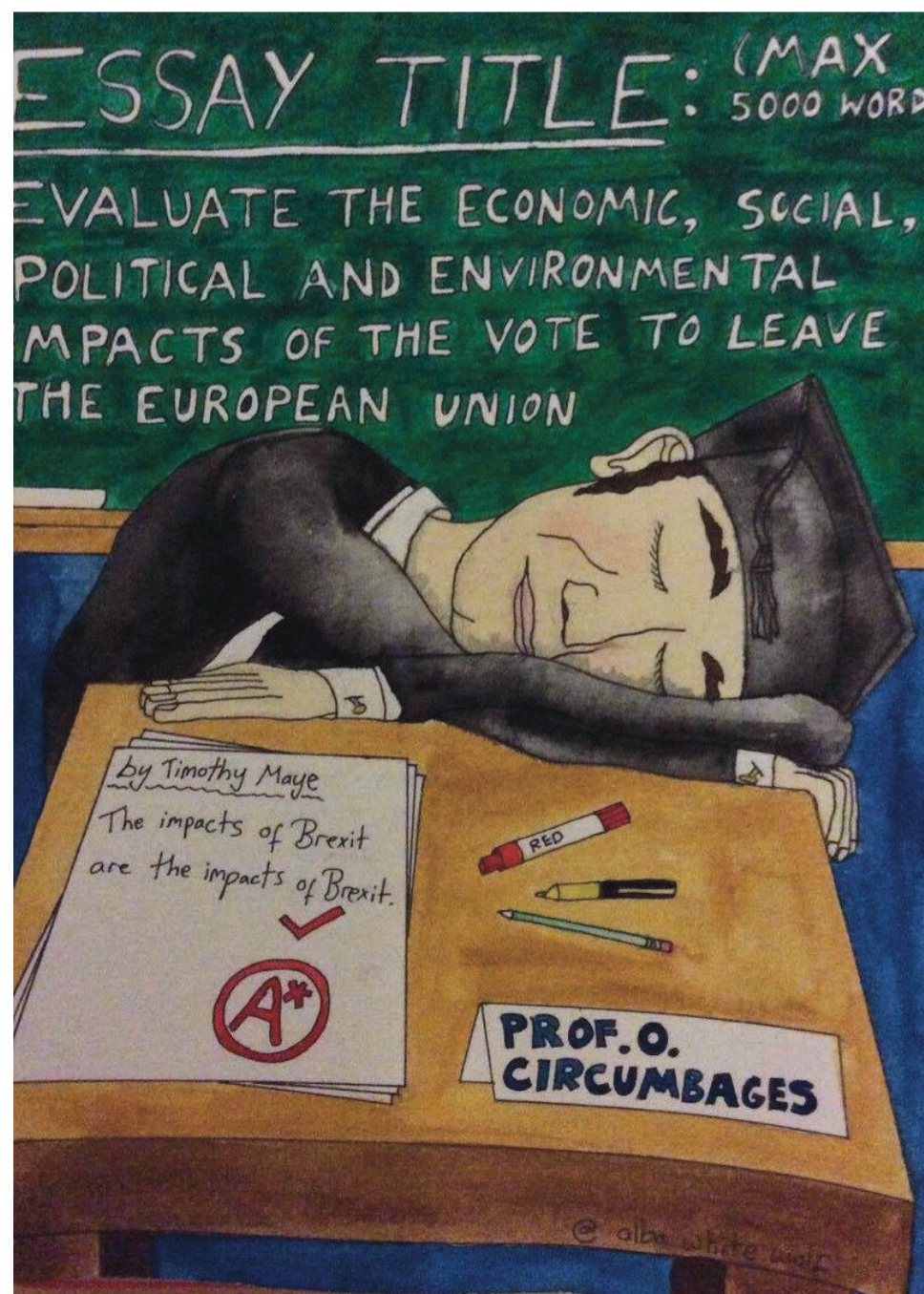
Northern Ireland in almost a rare case of unity, had too voted to Remain, though eastern parts of Northern Ireland particularly where there is Unionist support had voted leave. As far as Stormont is concerned, it is a disaster, fearing the days of The Troubles would return again. Sinn Fein, a party long advocating for Irish Reunification, have called for a referendum on Irish Reunification. It is worrying sign that Sinn Fein has only one less seat than the DUP, and momentum seems to be swinging more and more towards Sinn Fein. Sinn Fein only lost 1 seat in the

Assembly, whilst Unionist Party has lost a combined 16 seats in the recent Assembly elections. If this trend continues, we could very well see Stormont make greater moves towards Irish Reunification.

The voting trend in Wales is not helping either, UKIP who had no seat gained 7 seats in the Welsh Assembly in 2016. There now remains a very strong pro Brexit voice within the Welsh Assembly. However Plaid Cymru are in a precarious position, recognising that Wales voted to Leave and their party chose to Remain. However, Plaid Cymru's leader Leanne Wood has stated should Scot-

land vote Yes in a second Independence Referendum, it will chose to follow said example. Though Welsh independence seems novel, Brexit has made this a greater reality than ever before.

Yet for all this sentiment, one thing is clear. There is a deep animosity towards Westminster and the current Conservative Government, yet there is deep sense of irony that is overwhelming. The Conservative Establishment, long advocates of British Unionism may now be the catalyst for the breakup of the Union. Theresa May, who did chose to be in Remain cam-



paign, has resorted to stirring nationalist sentiments and seemingly in pandering the right of her party. The Conservative Party has gambled the future of the Union, and it seems like it has lost that gamble.

By Usman Bukhari, a Politics Student at Cardiff University.

Want to write for us?"The Young European aims to be as inclusive and as current as possible." Delia Stan - Editor Of The Young European.

The bi-weekly paper has writers who will be writing about all the important stuff that you need to know. But we're going to need to hear from you if this is to be a student/young persons newspaper.

If you're angry about Brexit, Theresa May or just general UK politics, we want to hear and read about it. Our nations political scene is thriving with news, and having your thoughts and feelings read in a newspaper is the best way to get peoples attention.

We ask for articles to be around 500-1000 words and it can be in any preferred format. It could be a rant, or a public letter or a well constructed article so long as its something you care about. You must be 25 or under and Pro European to have your work published. You must also include a photo of yourself and a contact number so that if your article is chosen we can notify you.

Send your articles to us via the email provided. We accept articles done on word and pdf.

So if you want see your work in our next edition, get writing and ranting.

Hope to hear from some of you soon!

The Young European.

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Erasmus

"Give light, and the darkness will disappear of itself." This is a quote from Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam, the Catholic priest, teacher and eminent theologian, after which the Erasmus Scheme was named. It is fitting therefore, that the Erasmus (European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) Programme does indeed give light to those who strive to learn in an interesting environment, away from the monotony of home. The Erasmus Scheme allows UK students to study at European universities, and vice versa, enriching the educational experience of both UK students and those from mainland Europe.

The Erasmus Programme is the umbrella term for many schemes, primarily Erasmus+, which is a programme introduced in 2014 that integrates all the EU's current schemes for education, sport and youth in general. This integration has allowed many capable young students to travel abroad to study in places as interesting as Rotterdam, Stockholm, Reykjavik and another 29 countries are available. These countries all have vastly different cultures and traditions from those in Britain, and the experience gifted to students allows them to gain a unique education, different from that available in the UK.

This is all set to change, as UK students are increasingly likely to lose the ability to apply to the Erasmus Scheme once Brexit is passed. If the UK restricts the freedom of movement, then the likelihood is that the Erasmus scheme will be off limits to UK students, much as it is to Switzerland after they limited the freedom of movement. As for economically, the UK is likely to miss out on a £1.49 billion injection directly into the economy from EU students in the form of rent and subsistence, as well as £600 million paid directly to universities in the form of fees. It has been said that Aberystwyth University, one of Britain's most international universities had 150 Erasmus applications had been withdrawn during the week of the In-Out Referendum.

The Erasmus Programme is one of the irrefutable successes of the European Union and has affected the lives of thousands of students both directly and obliquely - it has been stated that roughly 1 million babies have been born as a result of couples meeting during their year abroad. It can do nothing but be refined and improve, with more and more students applying

and taking years abroad; according to Erasmus statistics there has been a 115% increase in the seven years between 2007 and 2014. It is a shame therefore that UK students may miss out on the progression of this magnificent scheme, particularly when the youth voted remain in the referendum.

It is crucial for the UK government to put the most underrepresented demographic in British politics first for once, and secure the Erasmus Programme for the youth of today. If the UK is to have a skilled workforce of capable professionals, the Erasmus Programme is key to ensuring there is no advantage to competing nations' students.

In these times of division and discord, I believe these words as said by Desiderius Erasmus are more pertinent now than they ever have been - *"I am a citizen of the world, known to all and to all a stranger."*

Written by Guy Roberts

"The European Union Treaty..... within a few years will lead to the creation of what the founding fathers of modern Europe dreamed of after the war, The United States Of Europe"

-Helmut Kohl

The UK is not going to leave the European Union. Of course not. We are inextricably wound up with Europe. In terms of culture, history and geography, we are a European nation.

-Nick Clegg

Take Back Control

It's been a while. There's no doubt that Brexit has divided a nation straight down the middle. Since the vote to Brexit (yes, that is a verb, and no, we haven't Brexitted yet), we've had Brexexit, Bremonoaners, and BoJo thankfully seems further away from politics than ever before.

But there is one Brexit issue that I just can't get my head around. Whilst it is great that people were able to speak out in one mass advisory poll on the 23rd June 2016, "the people" - the 100% of the electorate - have been silenced by a myth. This myth? That "The People", who have spoken, must shut up, as if it were a law or rule passed through Parliament at the ruthless hands of Theresa May. "The People" who were sold, by Vote Leave, the opportunity to "Take Back Control" over their lives, must hand over this control completely to the Tory cabinet.

The only people who have taken back control are the Parliamentarians. We have not and cannot build our own Brexit, let alone overturn it, without a widespread voice from below. After all, we are "the People". Having two groups of people - a majority and a minority - does not give governing powers the right to tell people to put up with injustices. Now is the time to speak out and fight Brexit, and it's really easy to do.

Build your own Brexit - or no Brexit at all. It is imperative that people, at this

democratic period throughout which you are always in control, voice their frustrations and concerns about Brexit. Leaving it to the fat-cats in Parliament will be counterproductive to Leavers and Remoaners alike. To stop Brexit now: tweet, march, and write to your local newspaper to speak out. If your MP, like mine, is too weak to stand up for their lost campaign and their seemingly lost belief in the European Union, then the media is the only way to make a difference. Share it. Make your mark.

Remember, this will be the people's legacy. You are still the people, and whilst you are told repeatedly that you have already spoken, it is your democratic right to speak, speak loudly, and speak again.

Written by Will Durrant

The 5 Question Quiz

Q.1 When was the Erasmus program established and who was it named after?

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Q.2 When was the Treaty of Rome signed?

.....
...

Q.3 How many member states does the European Union currently have?

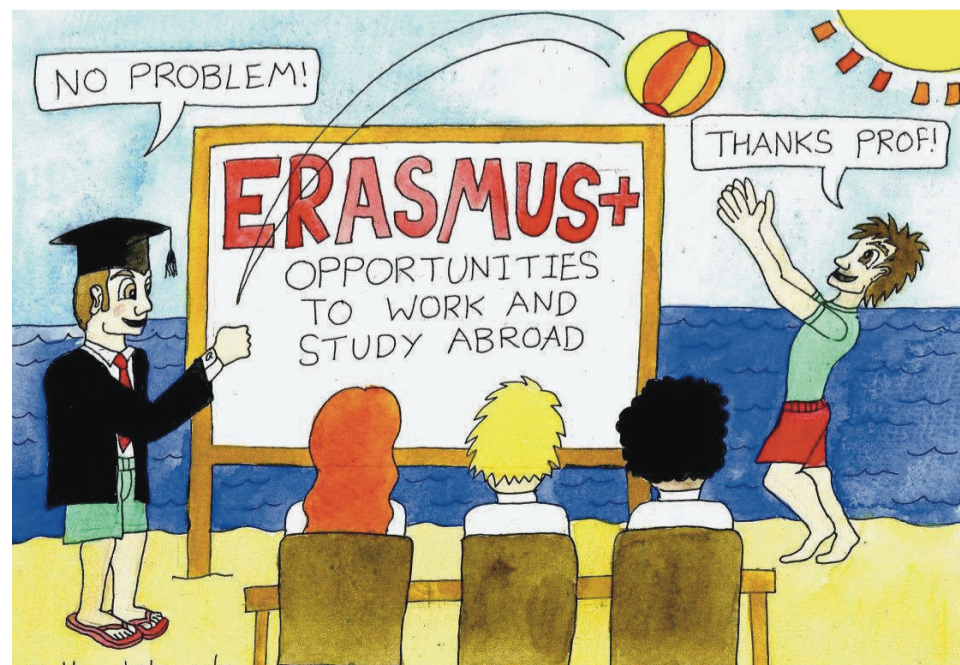
.....
....

Q.4 True or false, European Students can study for free in Germany?

.....
....

Q.5 In which year was the European Union awarded the Nobel Peace Prize?

a) 2012 or b) 2004



Murder Pop Industry Is Silencing The Protest Song

We have probably all heard enough about Ed Sheeran by now, a 26-year-old singer/song-writer who recently made chart history when he became the first ever artist to have two songs simultaneously debut in the US top 10. Given that his newly released album ÷ swamped the charts, controlling 9 of the top 10 spots, it is fair to say that UK pop music is currently defined by this one artist. We are currently at Ed Sheeran saturation point, however, he may go on to influence pop culture by writing hits for other artists, such as Justine Bieber's 'Love Yourself', OneDirection's 'Little Things' and Taylor Swift's 'Everything's Changed'. What this says about modern pop culture, is not very reassuring. Firstly, it is evidence of a broken system, where power has been taken from the individual musician and given to the commercial music giants or those few fortunate artists who have their backing. Secondly, it shows that music rises to popularity not because of its artistic merit, but through clever marketing, promotion and branding strategies. The consequences of this system is huge damage to multiculturalism, diversity and opportunities for struggling, independent musicians.

Ed Sheeran's chart topping love songs contain inspirational lyrics such as "The club isn't the best place to find a lover so the bar is where I go" and the phrase "Come on, be my baby, come on" repeated eight times. In this period of monumental and concerning political change, many cultural figures, including Brian Cox, have spoken out in need for the re-birth of the protest song. Catlin Moran recently claimed on desert island discs that "If we did have a band like Pulp singing songs like 'Common People' we might not have Brexited". This may be an overly-optimistic statement, but the influence of culture shouldn't be underestimated; children learn from books we give them to read, people are affected by the TV shows and films they watch and the songs they listen to. People connect through the arts, films, music, art, literature all form our cultural identity

and people share their tastes and preferences along with the values and beliefs they embody. So perhaps if the UK top 10 was filled with protest singers trying to derail Brexit, impeach Donald Trump, provide shelter for refugees and fighting for equality and diversity, then we would be on our way to creating a more compassionate and tolerant society.

Nonetheless, the problem isn't that there aren't protest singers out there writing songs and performing against the rise of right wing populism and xenophobia. At nearly every protest event that I have performed at I have also encountered other musicians and I have watched countless videos on youtube from famous protest singers such as Billy Bragg as well as many unknown song-writers like me recording in their bedrooms. There is a long history of protest songs in folk music, such as Pete Seeger's "We Shall Overcome", which are resurfacing at protest rallies. And contemporary folk musicians are continuing to release protest songs, personal favourites of mine include Nancy Kerr's 'Ginger Bread' and Isembard's Wheel's version of the 'Union Minor's Song'. I was absolutely overjoyed to discover a song written by Passenger called "A Kindly Reminder" that features the lyric, "It's not okay to grab women by the vagina." However, Passenger's brave release is a rarity amongst musicians that are pop chart successes. It isn't that musicians and artists aren't concerned by the developments in politics, the problem is that the industry is driven by money and greed, this prevents them from expressing their views because of the risk of damaging their fan base. In this scenario, Ed Sheeran has shown it is much safer to sing about how he's "in love with the shape of you" (because he couldn't possibly love you for your mind or political opinions).

However, it's difficult to know how to challenge the current system which is a product of a capitalist society because that also isn't going to change in a hurry. The answer is that change must

come from the grass roots and work its way up. Commercial giants and media moguls aren't easily going to relinquish their control of the market share of the creative industries. So consumers will have to make a conscious effort to source music and arts locally, support independent musicians and community events. In return they will be rewarded with much more meaningful cultural experiences in intimate venues where they will have the opportunity to meet artists, get to know them on a personal level and watch them grow and develop. This would also greatly help the growth of diversity in culture as more individuals are given an opportunity to express their creative talent and no single individual is allowed to dominate. The growth of platforms such as 'So Far Sounds' which allows music lovers to host musicians at live events in their homes is somewhat reassuring. The 'European House Concert Hub' is another, international example of a community of arts lovers who are rejecting popular culture and celebrating, the local, the unique and the diversity which absolutely does exist in our society. We just need to see more efforts to champion it.

Dear Students For The EU

Dear Students4EU,

Having graduated in the 1970s, I still remember the sense of learning and being a part of the future of those days.

After the complete disaster of the referendum campaign and its catastrophic result I have felt that we should be hearing much more from students all around the country since it is your generation which will be most affected by leaving the excellent EU. I am delighted to have found your movement and encourage you to be extremely active in motivating students through their university and college unions and make your strong views known.

I encourage you to listen to and be motivated by Professors Anthony Grayling and Michael Dougan who have both spoken factually and truthfully and forcefully throughout and continue to do so.

I have been writing to my MP regularly both since there referendum. I wish to

share a few points with you.

1 My wife's and my parents all lived through two world wars and carried the memories of hiding under kitchen tables during bombing raids (and of course much worse) to their deathbeds. My own mother very rarely spoke about it but she did increasingly during the last (and 99th) year of her life! It was Winston Churchill who first spoke out about a united Europe. If there is any single reason why it is so important for UK to be an active and positive member of this organisation it is because it has been a significant factor in enabling my generation to enjoy 7 decades of peace in Europe. All other arguments (and there are many) fade beside this fundamental fact.

2 The many benefits of membership are well documented but the excellent, broad and comprehensive legislation is a huge plus. In my professional experience of a sanitary/environmental engineer I cite simply the bathing water directive and the clean air directive as two examples of the excellent legislation developed by the cross-European experts which have been far more effective than the British legislation which preceded them. Examples go across all sectors and the fact that these laws are developed by experts in the relevant fields with the common (global) good in mind and not related to the agendas of any one of the governments which happens to be in power is so very positive.

3 The leave campaign was described by Michael Dougan as the most corrupt campaign the UK has ever experienced with deception and deceit on an industrial scale. It is known that the campaign employed a US consultant who directed the use of deception to play on emotions away from truth and facts. They got away with it and now it is the duty of all of us to resist it.

4 Most of our MPs know how disastrous leaving the EU is. Many are totally ignoring their constitutional duty to act according to their conscience for the good of the country and specifically because this referendum was advisory only - as they all know. The briefing note which made this clear was specific that it could only be considered mandatory with a supermajority.

I am sure I am preaching to the converted but do encourage you to work hard on motivating students to protest and campaign loudly and peacefully. Students were very vocal back in the 1960s.

Good luck and be very strong throughout all universities and colleges (and schools).

Peter

The Young European Cartoonist



Illustration by Madeleine Kay



The Young European is proud to announce that the talented young cartoonist, Madeleine Kay will be providing us with her illustrations to go with the various articles over the coming weeks and months, as we progress to become a popular newspaper for young people.

Her work has gained attraction on both social media and the streets as she had one of her popular cartoons put on the side of a campaign van during the Article 50 Supreme Court hearings.

We're particularly thrilled to have her on board as she expressed a passionate interest in getting involved.

Madeleine will provide us with some of her current illustrations while also using the paper as a platform to promote some of her new ones.

In this weeks addition we've gone all out to show you what will be in store over the coming months.

We're With EU All The Way - Crowdfunder

Students For The EU is more than just an anti Brexit movement, it's a group of students aiming to protect the interest of young people in European education programs, such as ERASMUS, and their interests in the European Union and British Political system.

For too long 16 -17 year olds have been undermined and left out of serious political discussions which have an effect on our lives directly.

Students For The EU aims to change that. We aim to push for a more inclusive political scene in the United Kingdom by campaigning for votes at 16 and the introduction of Politics as a compulsory subject in secondary schools.

Apart from that Students For The EU is to be a home for cultural events and further educational opportunities. We aim to be a movement where experiences are given to those who want to learn more about the European Union and its great benefits. We'd like to do this by working with the European Parliament and engaging our supporters in projects such as the European Corps Project and work placement schemes in the Parliament.

The next two years are going to be crucial for our nations history and we want to make sure that Students have a say in it. 2019 could either be seen as the year we lose our rights, identity and access to a wide range of educational projects in the European Union, or the year in which we rebel against the Conservative government by bringing it to an end, along with Brexit.

Why we students value the EU so much:

The EU plays a significant role in helping young people to develop friendships and skills which we value greatly.

Schemes such as Erasmus allow us to study abroad which helps us to develop both academic and practical skills. Erasmus has helped hundreds of thousands of young people to develop these skills, many of whom need in or-

der to go forward in life. We want to protect the future of UK students in schemes such as Erasmus. We want to send a clear message that in leaving the European Union you genuinely take away our future.

The EU doesn't just help us, it helps millions of other people too. The European Solidarity Corps is a European initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe. But this will not be applicable to UK students if we leave. This takes away hundreds of possible opportunities for young people across the UK which is damaging to our future. Whilst schemes such as this exist in the UK, most are only possible if you can afford it. Some families can't afford to take part in such projects and so the EU has been consistent in offering these opportunities to people regardless of their financial background.

"United In Diversity" means something to us. It means no matter who you are the EU will always unite us - that couldn't mean more to young people!

So, what do we want to achieve over the next 3 years? (Aims and objectives)

1) Campaign To Maintain

First of all we want to campaign hard to give all young people from the ages of 9 the opportunity to maintain their EU citizenship, to make sure that they can enjoy the full benefits of the EU which many of us already experience. The European Union is our home and Nationality. We never voted for Brexit and so we don't want to lose the rights that protect us.

2) European Parliament Internship

Secondly we'd like to create opportunities for young people in the European Union. We believe that in understanding how the EU Parliament, Commission and Council works is important, so

we'd like to kickstart a work placement project to help 6th form students gain the experience of how the current institution works. We'd like to achieve this by working directly with the EU and local MEPs.

3) Votes at 16

And finally we'd like to see the vote at 16. People ask "Why give 16 year olds the vote? They're not even interested." Well even if that were true, those who would turn out to vote would be those who are interested and have a genuine passion for politics. With it being our future we should have the right to vote on it. After all once you turn 16 you're able to pay tax, get married/ raise a child, join the Armed Forces and leave home. If the Government are happy to give us all that responsibility surely we should be allowed to vote on who has control over it all.

In giving 16 year olds the vote we could also campaign to have politics taught in schools a compulsory subject. Education is key and so schools need to be doing more to ensure that young people are being given the knowledge so that they can make a decision.

• What do we need money for?

We need money for two main reasons: to run two successful campaigns at the same time for a 3 year period (minimum). The second reason is to promote the proposed work placement program as well as facilitating the needs of Students For The EU in the long run, e.g setting up local and university groups to maximise our potential.

For any more information please contact us on: Students4eu@gmail.com , +44 7512617966

Students For The EU will support and campaign for a host of other things such as political reform in the UK and the rights of EU citizens as well as the right for UK residents to maintain their

EU citizenship. But for now we want people to pay attention to us and to help us fight for not only our future but our home. Because after all the EU has been our home and we want to protect it.

For more information visit or Facebook page for the link to our Crowdfunder Page.

Students For The EU team.

President Of Students For The EU



President and founder of Students For The EU, Felix Milbank took some time to have a chat with us. Here's what he had to say;

Question: So Felix, this may seem like a silly question but how do you feel about Brexit?

Felix: How do I feel? Furious. Nothing more and nothing less. This should never have happened and the government is going to feel the full burn of those who are angry over the next 2-3 years.

Question; How important is the next two years for campaigners and for people like yourself?

Felix: The next two years are going to be very important. Between now and the next general election the 48% have a duty to make sure that: 1. Theresa May and Corbyn are never elected and 2. to form an alliance which will topple the very system which is causing all of this.

Question: If people don't vote for Labour or the Conservatives, who do they vote for?

Felix: At the moment I would suggest people vote for the Lib Dems or the Green Party. But when the 2020 general election comes along you may find

that there might be an alternative party to vote for.

Question: Could you expand on "alternative party"?

Felix: Nope. Hahaha. You'll have to wait and see what we campaigners have in store for you over the next few years.

Question: What kind of movement do you hope Students For The EU to be in the future?

Felix: I hope to see Students For The EU develop into a Union for young people from across the UK and EU. It will be a place where their interests are represented and valued. Diversity and friendship will be at the core of the Union. It will be inscribed into its routes. I would also like to see Students For The EU head an exchange program but that at the moment is still very much a dream of mine.

Question: When and why did you establish Students For The EU?

Felix: I formed Students For The EU back in March 2016 to help increase the support for Stronger IN amongst young people.

Question: How successful was it?

Felix: Well in all honesty it wasn't very successful at all. It had no more than 20 members and most of those were friends from school. But today we have over 700 members and 3 university groups across the UK. We are currently trying to set up another University group in Regensburg, Germany which is exciting stuff.

Question: What's it like to lead a fresh, new Student Movement?

Felix: It's been one of the most stressful years of my life, but saying that I've loved every moment of it. It's given so many young people the opportunity to get involved with politics and that's what I set out to do. It does have its challenges and some of the hurdles we encounter are never ending. But I love it and I know the committee do too.

- To encourage the UK to continue to sign up to the ERASMUS programme.

- To encourage politicians to secure Single Market access

- To advocate for the continuation of investment into rural and struggling communities to better British communities' cultural and economic grounding.

Outside of school and S4EU, I am a Labour Party member and high performance swimmer. I also love live music. After school, I hope to pursue a career in journalism.

We had a chat with Will Durrant, Vice President of Students For The EU. Here's what he had to say.

Question: So Will, how did you become Vice President Of Students For The EU?

Will: I can't quite remember in all honesty. I think Felix just offered me the role when the movement became much more than just a Facebook group.

Question: What does the role consist of?

Will: Well I tend to help organise meetings with MPs and AMs to get them to back the movement. I try and make sure people know about us.

Question: What's the best thing about Students For The EU?

Will: I'd say it's ability to drum up the support it needs to carry its message.

Question: And what is the message you're trying to carry?

Will: Friendship, unity and the divine right to freedom.

Question: What makes the committee at Students For The EU work so well?

Will: I think it's because of how different we all are. We all come from different political backgrounds and we like different things but we manage to find common ground and that's what kept the movement so strong I think.

Vice President

Vice president

Hi, I'm Will Durrant, Vice President at Students for the EU.

I'm currently in Year 13 studying English Literature, German and History, and I have applied to study History with Arabic at University. As you can imagine, having access to the EU or EEA resources is of vital importance to me to continue my studies both in history and linguistically. At Students for the EU, I have led marches and conferences in conjunction with other founding members of the organisation.

Together, I have worked with local MPs and Welsh AMs to further our cause and give students a voice in the negotiations which will shape the future of our country. My priorities are:

Answers To The Quiz

Answers to the Quiz

Q.1 Established in 1987 after Desiderius Erasmus. The Philosopher left his fortune to the University of Basel.

Q.2 March 25th 1957

Q.3 The EU currently has 28 member states.

Q.4 True. European Students can study for free at the public Universities in Germany.

Q.5 October 12, 2012, for contributing to the advancement of peace, democracy and human rights in Europe.

Fight The Good Fight

Say Yes To Europe And No To Brexit

Our Words To Change The Opinion

"United In Diversity"