

Britain pushes reset button on Europe

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All smiles?: British PM Keir Starmer, pictured with European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen, said the deal was a "win-win", while former PM Boris Johnson called it "hopelessly one sided".

Should the UK rejoin the EU? A new deal means Britain and Europe are closer together again.

What's happening?

Yesterday, the UK and the **EU** came to an agreement to work together on **defence** and security issues. British leaders called it "a good deal". **Nigel Farage**, one of the biggest voices behind **Brexit**, called it a "surrender".

It brings Britain and Europe closer together than at any point since the UK left the EU. Experts also think there may soon be a new scheme to allow under-30s to travel freely around Britain and the EU.

Find out more

The European Union is a group of European countries that work closely together on political and economic issues. Many members share the same **currency**, the **euro**, and members can travel to and live in any EU country.

Britain left the EU in 2020, nearly four years after a public vote on whether or not to stay.

Five years on, **surveys** show that more than half of people say it was wrong to leave the EU.

Some think the government should be getting even closer to the EU. British leader **Keir Starmer** wants to boost Britain's **economy** — many argue that rejoining the EU would be a quick way to do that.

Yet experts say it is not as simple as it looks for Starmer.

Although many people now say they regret Brexit, that does not mean they would vote to rejoin. If Britain did rejoin, the EU may not let Britain keep some of the benefits it had before, such as having its own currency.

Norway and **Switzerland** have access to the EU's **single market** without being members. Some think Britain could do the same.

But that might mean accepting more **migrants** from the EU, which could be very unpopular with British voters.

Should the UK rejoin the EU?

Some say

Yes! Leaving the EU damaged the UK's economy. Rejoining is a quick way to give the economy a boost. Most people want to be part of the union again. It is an easy choice.

Others think

No! It has only been nine years since the vote to leave. It would be silly to have another vote so soon. The best thing to do is simply to work with the EU on issues where both Britain and the EU agree.

Some people say

"The construction of Europe is an art. It is the art of the possible."

Jacques Chirac (1932 – 2019), French statesman

What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Do you feel any attachment to Europe?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: Is Britain European?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Do you think Britain should rejoin the EU?

5. Express

What do others believe? - Hold a class debate on rejoining the EU.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - The year is 2035. What has happened in the 15 years since Brexit? Write an imaginary report for a newspaper.

Glossary

EU - European Union. An economic and political union of 27 countries.

Defence - Something that provides protection from attacks by enemies.

Nigel Farage - A British politician and broadcaster who has served as Leader of Reform UK since June 2024.

Brexit - The UK's departure from the European Union.

Currency - A system of money, such as the pound or the dollar.

Euro - The currency of the eurozone, an economic region made up of European Union member countries who have decided to use the same currency. The euro was first used in 1999.

Surveys - When you ask a group of people questions about what they think about a particular topic.

Keir Starmer - The leader of the UK Labour Party since 2020 and British prime minister since July 2024.

Economy - The way that money flows through a country, which affects wages and the cost of living.

Norway - A country in Scandinavia in northern Europe.

Switzerland - A country in central Europe, known for mountains, lakes and skiing.

Single market - Also known as a common market. When a group of countries agree to remove trade barriers, so border regulations do not apply to goods travelling between the countries.

Migrants - People who are living in a different country to the one they were born in.