



Annual Members Meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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**Motion Name: Union to Support Britain remaining in the EU - Amended Motion**

**Background:**

1. At some point in this year or the next, there will be a referendum on our membership of the European Union. This referendum is strongly supported by Nigel Farage, amongst other people.
2. A UK withdrawal from the European Union in the upcoming referendum would be a victory for the nationalist right and their vile, racist campaign against migrants, including members - and potential members - of our union.
3. While the EU promotes privatisation and neoliberalism, the current UK government would press ahead with its attacks on working-class people in or out of the EU.
4. The biggest "In" campaign, Britain Stronger in Europe, is dominated by Tories and business people, and cannot possibly act as a voice for working-class interests, workers' unity across Europe or migrants' rights. Cameron wants to remain in the EU on the basis of cutting back workers' rights and attacking migrants, and Britain Stronger in Europe actually trumpets this!
5. Here's a typical argument from the "Britain Stronger in Europe" campaign: From being part of the EU the UK receives unimpeded access to a \$16 trillion single market, and half of our exports go to this market. As a result, academics have suggested that the UK economy could lose between 3 and 6 percent of its economy if it leaves the EU. That's the equivalent of losing at least \$265 billion every year. This far outweighs the \$10-15 billion which the UK government pays to the EU, even in corporate tax receipts at 20% of the \$265 billion. This means that the UK's already fragile graduate job market will be damaged, meaning it will be even harder for students to get a job after university.
6. To deflate Anti-European arguments, Cameron and Tusk signed a "UK-EU settlement". For example, the introduction of an "emergency break for Britain" allows the UK government to temporarily withdraw social aid for EU migrants. It also supports deregulation of markets and allows Britain a wider use of blocks and opt-outs (as already practiced in the Schengen agreement) to hinder an "ever-closer union".

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University of Bristol students creating a world class student life for themselves.



7. Other campaigns, such as "Another Europe is Possible", have a pro-European, which, supports workers' and migrants' rights, students' interests and promotes open borders, democracy and social and environmental justice.
8. The EU has a track record in being one of the most progressive international bodies in the world. It has massively increased the provision for maternity and paternity care in this country, protected employees' rights to a sane working week and has increased the likelihood of cultural understanding by increasing European integration. Furthermore, it has protected the right of students to travel freely and study abroad, something which thousands of students have benefited from. None of this would have had effect in Britain if we had been a member of the EU, and there is no guarantee that we would have these rights anyway.

**Purpose:**

1. We should respond to the capitalist semi-unification of Europe by building stronger working-class and socialist links across the continent, organising a united struggle, and advocating a united Workers' Europe – not by seeking to re-raise national barriers
2. We will be a progressive Student Union which campaigns for jobs, campaigns for rights including those outlined above and campaigns for international cooperation.

**Action:**

1. The Student Union will support remaining within the European Union.
2. The Student Union will support the "Another Europe is Possible" campaign.
3. We can possibly divert Union resources towards other small progressive pro-EU events closer to the referendum.

Original motion proposed by: Ben Duncan-Duggal  
Amender: Hen