

VOTE AGAINST THE EU

BUT DON'T GIVE TAXPAYERS' MONEY TO UKIP & TORIES!

THE EU REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN is now officially under way. The rules for how the referendum will be conducted have passed through parliament – including plans to potentially give millions of pounds of public money to Tory and UKIP EU campaigners.

Under the rules the Electoral Commission, an unelected quango, has been given the power to choose who shall be the 'official' Remain and Leave campaigns in the referendum.

This is important, bestowing political 'authority' to a particular campaign but also substantial public resources. The official campaigns will receive grants of £600,000 each, £13m in free postage for leaflets delivered across the whole country, TV and radio time

for referendum broadcasts, and the use of rooms free of charge.

The mainstream media has already decided that UKIP, Tory and other pro-austerity and racist establishment politicians and organisations are the only exit voices they will feature. They ignore the millions of trade unionists, young people, anti-austerity campaigners and working class voters generally who, like the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC), oppose the EU from a completely different standpoint.

The danger is that the Electoral Commission will follow the establishment media's lead and appoint either Vote Leave or Leave. EU, or an amalgam of the two, as the official exit campaign.

Continued overleaf

NO TO EU AUSTERITY EXIT LEFT!



Greeks say no to EU austerity

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) will be arguing for a leave vote in the June EU referendum. We stand in the tradition of the late Bob Crow, the RMT transport workers' union leader, one of the co-founders of TUSC, who was well known for his support for international workers' solidarity while opposing the EU as an agency of anti-worker and pro-austerity policies.

TUSC's core policies include the renationalisation of the railways, Royal Mail and other privatised public services, industries and utilities; defending the right to asylum and opposing racist immigration controls; and democratic public ownership of the banks and major companies. All of these policies go against the EU treaties. Why should we give a vote of confidence to laws that would be used to try and block socialist policies?

TUSC also opposes the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) being negotiated between the EU and the US which will significantly increase corporate power.

These are the reasons why, following a decisive vote at our autumn conference, TUSC is campaigning against EU membership in the referendum. We oppose austerity whether it comes from politicians in the EU or at Westminster!

Sign the petition online at
tiny.cc/EUpetitionTUSC
www.tusc.org.uk

TUSC
AGAINST
CUTS

TUSC PETITION: NO FUNDING FOR ANTI-WORKER CAMPAIGNS

UKIP AND TORIES DON'T REPRESENT US

The Vote Leave group, which is supported by the sole UKIP MP Douglas Carswell, is led by the founder of the right-wing Taxpayers' Alliance, Matthew Elliott. Its campaign director is Dominic Cummings, well-known as Michael Gove's former special advisor behind the Tories' 'free schools' programme. Such people, representing a section of 'British business' interests, oppose the EU not because, for example, its treaties mandate the privatisation of public services, but because they want 'first bite' on the contracts.

But Leave.EU and Grassroots Out are no different, and if anything are more dominated by UKIP figures. They are funded by the former Tory donor Arron Banks who defected to UKIP in 2014 with a £1m donation – increased from £100,000 after ex-Tory leader William Hague called him a 'nobody'. Banks could afford his fit of pique. One source of his wealth is a company, Rock Services, which paid just £12,000 UK corporation tax in 2013-14 on gross profits of £19.7m after 'recharging' services to another company based in lightly-regulated Gibraltar.

None of these organisations could possibly represent those who oppose the EU because it is a club that puts the interests of big business and the rich and powerful first.

PETITION TO THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

That's why TUSC has launched a petition to the Electoral Commission calling on them not to give taxpayers' money and

other public resources to the Vote Leave, Leave.EU, Grassroots Out campaigns or any amalgam of them, in the EU referendum. Founding signatories include two trade union national presidents and 16 union national executive committee members.

If the Electoral Commission can be persuaded not to choose any of these as an official campaign, that will be a significant blow against UKIP and their Tory allies. But it would also undermine the equally pro-big business Remain campaign.

The ardently pro-EU Guardian columnist Martin Kettle explained the Remain campaigners strategy: "if voters come to see the Brexit option as a step towards a Nigel Farage universe" then a substantial pro-EU result is more likely (18 December 2015). If working class voters who oppose the EU are forced to line up behind reactionary racist and pro-austerity leave campaigners it is a win for the Remain campaign. It would be better if the Electoral Commission decided on no official campaign on either side.

Let's show that a significant proportion of those who will vote against the EU will do so because we support basic socialist policies of workers' rights, public ownership, and opposition to austerity and racism.

**Sign the petition online at
tiny.cc/EUpetitionTUSC**

TUSC AGAINST CUTS

IF YOU AGREE - GET INVOLVED. JOIN WITH US, APPLY TO STAND OR HELP US CAMPAIGN
WWW.TUSC.ORG.UK  [@TUSCOALITION](https://twitter.com/TUSCOALITION)  **TRADE UNIONIST AND SOCIALIST COALITION**

DON'T GIVE TAXPAYERS' MONEY TO UKIP & TORY EU CAMPAIGNERS!

We the undersigned call on the Electoral Commission not to give taxpayers' money and other public resources to either the Vote Leave or Leave.EU campaigns, or any amalgam of them, in the forthcoming EU referendum.

There are millions of trade unionists, young people, anti-austerity campaigners and working class voters generally, whose opposition to the big business-dominated EU would not be represented in the referendum by these organisations.

The Electoral Commission has the power to choose who shall be the 'official' Remain and Exit campaigns in the referendum. These organisations will then receive substantial public funding, free postage for leaflets, the use of rooms free of charge, and TV and radio time for referendum broadcasts – potentially millions of pounds of public resources.

But the Electoral Commission does not have to choose an official campaign if there is not one organisation that adequately represents those supporting a particular outcome to the referendum.

We condemn the mainstream media for promoting UKIP, Tory and other pro-austerity and racist establishment politicians and organisations as the only exit voices. We call on the Electoral Commission not to follow their lead and instead recognise that a significant proportion of those who will vote against the EU support basic socialist policies of workers' rights, public ownership, and opposition to austerity and racism.



FOUNDING SIGNATORIES

All names appear in a personal capacity:

DAVE NELLIST ex-Labour MP (1983-1992); **JANICE GODRICH** President PCS civil servants union; **SEAN HOYLE** President RMT transport workers union; **JOHN McINALLY** National Vice-President PCS; **PETER PINKNEY** RMT President 2013-2015; **PAUL McDONNELL** RMT National Executive Committee (NEC); **JOHN REID** RMT NEC; **DAVE AUGER** UNISON public sector workers union NEC; **ROGER BANNISTER** UNISON NEC; **HUGO PIERRE** UNISON NEC; **KAREN REISSMAN** UNISON NEC; **POLLY SMITH** UNISON NEC; **PETE GLOVER** National Union of Teachers (NUT) NEC; **JANE NELLIST** NUT NEC; **STEFAN SIMMS** NUT NEC; **ELENOR HAVEN** PCS NEC; **MARIANNE OWENS** PCS NEC; **PAUL WILLIAMS** PCS NEC; **CARLO MORELLI** University and College Union (UCU) NEC; **SEAN WALLIS** UCU NEC; **SAIRA WEINER** UCU NEC; **MIKE FORSTER** UNISON Local Government Service Group Executive (SGE); **HUW WILLIAMS** UNISON Local Government SGE; **GARY FREEMAN** UNISON Health SGE

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