

## EUROPEAN UNION

# Most Britons Side with Cameron on EU Treaty Rejection

*Only one-in-twenty respondents would like to see the United Kingdom adopt the euro as its currency.*

[LONDON – 4 January 2012] – Most people in Britain continue to hold negative views on the European Union (EU) and an insignificant fraction would like to see the Pound abandoned in favour of the Euro, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 2,011 British adults, 53 per cent of respondents think EU membership has been negative for the United Kingdom, while only one third (33%) consider it positive.

As has been the case since this question was first asked in June 2010, two-in-five Britons (46%) would vote against the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU if a referendum on this matter were held tomorrow. Only one-in-four respondents (26%) would cast a ballot in favour of continued membership.

In addition, only one-in-twenty Britons (5%) are currently willing to vote in favour of the United Kingdom adopting the euro as its currency.

### The New Treaty

Last month, British Prime Minister David Cameron was the only sitting EU head of government to reject a new treaty aimed at tightening fiscal rules for European countries that use the euro. Three-in-five Britons (61%) agree with the Government's decision, while 17 per cent disagree with it.

### KEY FINDINGS

- **53% say EU membership has been negative for the UK; 33% believe it has been positive**
- **46% would vote to leave the EU in a referendum; 26% would vote to stay in**
- **83% would vote against the UK adopting the euro**
- **61% agree with the Government's decision to reject the new EU treaty**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From December 28 to December 29, 2011, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,011 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

### CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said he was “bitterly disappointed by the outcome” of the European summit. A majority of respondents (56%) believe Clegg’s Liberal Democrats should withdraw from the Coalition with the Conservatives so that a new General Election can take place soon.

### **Analysis**

While a majority of respondents aged 35-to-54 (54%) and over the age of 55 (65%) hold negative views on the effect of the EU in Britain, just over a third of those aged 18-to-34 (36%) concur. Younger Britons are also more likely to voice support for the UK staying in the EU (33%, compared to 25% and 23% for the older demographics), but are decidedly unconvinced about embracing the euro (7%).

Consult our [May 2010](#), [December 2010](#) and [July 2011](#) polls on the European Union.

Download [Full Tables](#) / Download [Full Methodology Statement](#)

Consult our [surveys](#) / Follow us on [Twitter](#)

### **About Angus Reid Public Opinion**

*[Angus Reid Public Opinion](#) is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.*

### **About Vision Critical®**

*[Vision Critical](#) is a global research and technology firm that creates software and services solutions for over 600 clients, including one third of the world’s top 100 brands. The company has offices across North America, Europe and Australia as well as a Global Partner Program that provides other research companies and consultants with access to top-of-the-line technology. Its Sparq™ product is the most widely adopted community panel platform on the planet.*

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

---

### **CONTACT:**

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

**European Union**

The United Kingdom has been a member of the European Union (EU)—previously the European Economic Community (EEC)—since 1973. Overall, do you think EU membership has been positive or negative for the United Kingdom?

	<b>Dec. 2011</b>	<b>Jul. 2011</b>	<b>Dec. 2010</b>	<b>Jun. 2010</b>
<b>Positive</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Negative</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>11%</b>

**European Union**

The United Kingdom has been a member of the European Union (EU)—previously the European Economic Community (EEC)—since 1973. Overall, do you think EU membership has been positive or negative for the United Kingdom?

		<b>Age</b>		
	<b>Dec. 2011</b>	<b>18-34</b>	<b>35-54</b>	<b>55+</b>
<b>Positive</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Negative</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>7%</b>

**CONTACT:**

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

<b>European Union</b>				
If a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should remain a member of the European Union (EU) were held tomorrow, how would you vote?				
	<b>Dec. 2011</b>	<b>Jul. 2011</b>	<b>Dec. 2010</b>	<b>Jun. 2010</b>
<b>In favour of the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Against the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Would not vote</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>

<b>European Union</b>				
If a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should remain a member of the European Union (EU) were held tomorrow, how would you vote?				
		<b>Age</b>		
	<b>Dec. 2011</b>	<b>18-34</b>	<b>35-54</b>	<b>55+</b>
<b>In favour of the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Against the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Would not vote</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>

**CONTACT:**

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

European Union				
If a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should adopt the euro as its currency were held tomorrow, how would you vote?				
	Dec. 2011	Jul. 2011	Dec. 2010	Jun. 2010
In favour of the United Kingdom adopting the euro	5%	8%	8%	9%
Against the United Kingdom adopting the euro	83%	81%	80%	79%
Not sure	9%	9%	10%	10%
Would not vote	3%	2%	3%	2%

European Union				
If a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should adopt the euro as its currency were held tomorrow, how would you vote?				
		Age		
	Dec. 2011	18-34	35-54	55+
In favour of the United Kingdom adopting the euro	5%	7%	5%	5%
Against the United Kingdom adopting the euro	83%	74%	84%	89%
Not sure	9%	14%	10%	6%
Would not vote	3%	5%	2%	1%

**CONTACT:**

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

**European Union**

As you may know, the UK will not take part in a new EU treaty change aimed at tightening fiscal rules for countries using the euro. All things considered, do you agree or disagree with this decision by the UK Government?

		Age		
	Dec. 2011	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>Agree</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>10%</b>

**European Union**

As you may know, the UK will not take part in a new EU treaty change aimed at tightening fiscal rules for countries using the euro. All things considered, do you agree or disagree with this decision by the UK Government?

		Vote in 2010 General Election		
	Dec. 2011	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>Agree</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>10%</b>

**CONTACT:**

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

**European Union**

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – “The Liberal Democrats should withdraw from the Coalition with the Conservatives and a new General Election should take place soon.”

		Age		
	Dec. 2011	18-34	35-54	55+
Agree	56%	48%	56%	62%
Disagree	26%	25%	25%	28%
Not sure	18%	27%	18%	10%

**CONTACT:**

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)