

[“Ensure that the U.K. leaves the EU Single Market & Customs Union.”](#)

The Government has responded to the petition you signed – **The UK is leaving the EU’s Single Market and Customs Union**. We are seeking to establish a deep and special partnership with the EU and a new customs arrangement outside the EU’s Customs Union.

As the Prime Minister has made clear, when we leave the European Union, we will also be leaving the EU’s Single Market and Customs Union.

The UK is seeking the broadest and deepest possible partnership – covering more sectors and co-operating more fully than any Free Trade Agreement anywhere in the world today. We want to have the greatest possible tariff and barrier-free trade with our European neighbours.

We have listened to EU leaders and we understand and respect the position that the four freedoms of the single market are indivisible and there can be no cherry-picking. We do not seek membership of the Single Market after we leave the EU, but a bold and ambitious Economic Partnership as part of a new special partnership.

Remaining a member of the Single Market would mean accepting a role for the Court of Justice of the EU. It would mean still not having control over immigration. It would therefore fail the first test for our future economic partnership with the EU the Prime Minister set out at Mansion House.

By leaving the Customs Union and establishing a new and ambitious customs arrangement with the EU, we will be able to forge new trade relationships with our partners around the world, and maintain as frictionless trade as possible in goods between the UK and the EU. In doing so, we will be providing a positive and powerful voice for free trade.

To ensure UK-EU trade is as frictionless as possible, the Government has considered two broad approaches to a future customs relationship with the EU that would facilitate the UK’s objectives.

Both of these options for our future customs arrangement would leave the UK free to determine its own tariffs with third countries - which would simply not be possible while part of the Customs Union.

As the Prime Minister has said, our decision to leave the EU does not mark an ending. It marks a new beginning for our relationship with our European allies.

However, the agreement we reach with the EU must respect the result of the referendum which was a vote to take control of our borders, laws and money.

We are confident that the UK and the EU can reach a positive deal on our future partnership, as this would be to the mutual benefit of both the UK and the EU. We therefore approach the negotiations in this spirit.

Department for Exiting the European Union Click this link to view the response online: https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/213782?reveal_response=yes
The Petitions Committee will take a look at this petition and its response. They can

press the government for action and gather evidence. If this petition reaches 100,000 signatures, the Committee will consider it for a debate. The Committee is made up of 11 MPs, from political parties in government and in opposition. It is entirely independent of the Government. Find out more about the Committee: <https://petition.parliament.uk/help#petitions-committee>

Thanks, The Petitions team UK Government and Parliament