



## London and the EU: In, out, or shake it all about?

With less than a week until the European elections, London First has published a new report that looks at how membership of the EU specifically affects London's economy.

[Read the Executive Summary of \*London and the EU\*.](#)

[Read the Full Report: \*London and the EU\*](#)

Led by a working group of London First members, and with expert input from the European Commission and the London School of Economics, *London and the EU* concluded that the UK needs to be at the heart of the EU if London is to flourish in the future.

But the report also found that the UK cannot hope to use Europe as an 'a la carte' menu and must accept all of the 'four freedoms' of the Single Market. This includes the free movement of people, which the report finds has been generally positive for the capital.

It concludes that access to the Single Market - particularly in services – and maintaining a position of maximum influence within the EU is the most potent combination for London.

Baroness Jo Valentine, Chief Executive of London First, told news outlets including the [Financial Times](#), [Huffington Post](#), and [BBC London radio](#) that one of the main reasons companies come to London is because the city is a springboard to Europe – the biggest economy in the world.

*"If we are left outside the EU after a referendum we would no longer be able to offer that prize to businesses and London would suffer because of it," she said.*

*"Take the service sector where London is particularly strong. There about 800 different services which are regulated in the EU, but only a handful of qualifications are automatically recognised in other EU countries.*

*"Breaking down these barriers will benefit London businesses by opening up new markets and creating job opportunities in a range services from architects and photographers, to barmen and chambermaids."*

We'll be using the information gained to engage key influencers in the crucial run-up period to next year's General Election and make the case for continued EU membership.

London First Director of Policy and Strategy, John Dickie, will be speaking in more detail about some of the report's findings during a panel session at the one-day conference '[In or Out? How an EU referendum could affect your business](#)' on Thursday 29 May.

The [full agenda](#) and [speaker line-up](#) are available on the [conference website](#), and London First members can benefit from a £500 discount when they register for the event using the code LONDFIRST.

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