

POLICY MOTIONS FOR DEBATE
EMLD Spring Regional Conference – City of Derby Academy

POLICY1: “Exit From Brexit”

Proposer: Stephen Freedland (City of Nottingham)

Summated by: Daniel Gordo-Holmes (City of Nottingham)

This Conference notes:

- 1) The Conservative government is determined to pursue a form of Brexit where the UK leaves the Single Market and the Customs Union, becomes independent of the European Court and regains the right to control immigration from the European Union.
- 2) Remaining within the Single Market with all its rules has no advantages for the UK compared with remaining full voting members. It forces the UK to follow rules and regulations over which the UK has no influence and will be forced to make ever increasing contributions to the European Union from a desperately weak negotiating position.
- 3) Too many leading EU politicians are making it clear that they have no intention of making any significant progress towards a trade deal on goods and services prior to March 2019. They prefer to spin out the process to extend the period that the UK makes budget contributions to the EU.
- 4) Consequently, the policy that we can obtain a soft Brexit is an undesirable and dangerous illusion that is used to try and unite divided Labour and Conservative parties.
- 5) Like most of the developed world, Europe’s economic growth and share of world trade is falling. There is a real danger that the European Union could use protectionism to insulate itself from changes in the rest of the world.

This Conference believes:

- 1) It is in the best economic interest of the UK to remain within the European Union.
- 2) The European union would benefit from full engagement by outward looking UK governments, corporations, political parties and citizens.

Conference further believes that:

- 1) While it may be possible to negotiate some free trade deals in some sectors prior to Brexit, this should not be the priority.

- 2) Any such deals should include some agreement that regulatory divergence should be avoided except where there is a clear consumer or environmental benefit.
- 3) After Brexit, talks could begin on a more comprehensive trade deal, negotiating as equals, in mutual self-interest without any one-sided contributions to the European Union Budget; this has been achieved by Canada.

This Conference calls for:

- 1) The abandonment of the commitment to a transitional or implementation period.
- 2) A further in out referendum before March 2019 based on any Brexit deal negotiated.
- 3) A campaign for an exit from Brexit.
- 4) The government to concentrate on negotiating and implementing;
 - a. Minimal but effective border controls for trade and migration to be implemented in March 2019 should Brexit be confirmed.
 - b. Continued membership of Euratom (the European Atomic Energy Community), until satisfactory alternatives are in place.
 - c. Continued security cooperation, and
 - d. Generous reciprocal citizens' rights which are even handed with the UK commitment enshrined in UK law and subject to UK courts, rather than seeking an impossible trade deal.
- 5) Any divorce payments following Brexit to be the legal minimum that would be determined in court.

POLICY 2: Reforming the Barnett Formula & Improving the diversity of the House of Lords

Proposer: Michael Mullaney (Bosworth)

Summated by: Daniel Gordo-Holmes (City of Nottingham)

Conference notes that:

1. The Barnett Formula that determines the level of funding that each area receives for local services was created in the 1970s and has not been properly re-assessed since.
2. The formula has lost its link with need, being extremely generous to some of the Country's richest areas, while neglecting some of the Country's poorest.

3. Areas in the UK that disadvantaged by the current formula were more likely to vote in favour of Brexit.
4. By the Government's own measurements of "Core Spending per Head", four out of the lowest six Counties are in the East Midlands;
5. The East Midlands also does badly on allocations of Capital Funding.

Conference believes that:

1. The current funding formula does not fit in with the Liberal Democrat values of fairness.
2. To heal the divides of Brexit, left behind areas need to feel that the Government cares about them.

Conference calls for:

1. The current funding formula to be reviewed and replaced by one that is fairer and better reflects need.
2. The Liberal Democrat Party to adopt this as a policy in its next General Election manifesto.

POLICY 3: Improving the Diversity of the House of Lords

Proposer: Christina Morgan-Danvers (City of Nottingham)

Summated by: Helen Tamblyn-Saville (Bassetlaw)

Conference notes that:

1. It is 100 years since women got the right to vote through the Representation of the People Act 1918. The UK population is approximately 51% female and 12% BAME.
2. Reform of the House of Lords (HoL) has been inadequate despite several attempts over the last century. Most successful attempts at reform have been small incremental steps.
3. Women were excluded from the House of Lords before 1958. Every government since MacMillan's premiership has appointed twice as many male life peers than female. Theresa May's government has appointed very few female life peers (two of eleven between March 2017 and Jan 2018).
4. HoL membership is currently 26% female (up from 16% in 2001) and Operation Black Vote lists 46 peers as BAME. The proportion of women in the HoL is lower than in every other parliament and assembly in the UK. The proportion of female councillors is also higher at 33%.

5. Legislation exists to seat female bishops as Lords Spiritual preferentially, to address historic gender discrimination. Hereditary peers are almost always male due to anachronistic succession of titles.
6. In 2011, the Liberal Democrat conference adopted a resolution on gender balance in the House of Lords, which called for Parliamentarians to “ensure any further interim appointments mitigate, rather than perpetuate, the current gender imbalance, and, if an appointed element is retained.”

Conference believes that:

1. A Parliament that reflects the diversity of the population would be better able to represent the people.
2. Commitment to large scale reform of the HoL should not prevent the Liberal Democrats from supporting small measures to correct historic imbalances.

Conference calls for:

1. Continuation of the Liberal Democrat policy for a second chamber elected by single transferable vote.
2. Legislation to ensure that for each set of appointments to the House of Lords the number of male life peers does not exceed those of female life peers.
3. For a ten year period two female life peers should be appointed for every male life peer, or until gender balance.
4. For a BAME peer to be appointed for every ten life peers.