

150,000 SAY NO TO NEW EU MIGRANTS; Daily Express readers demand block on new influx of Bulgarians and Romanians SAY NO TO NEW EU MIGRANTS Don't open floodgates floodgates to new migrants The Daily Express is yet again speaking for the British people says MP

The Express

November 25, 2013 Monday, Edition 1, National Edition

Copyright 2013 Express Newspapers All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; FRONT PAGE, TEASERS; Pg. 1

Length: 923 words

Byline: Alison Little

Body

A HUGE army of Daily Express readers has called on David Cameron to defy the EU - and stop a new wave of migration into Britain.

More than 150,000 people have backed this newspaper's crusade urging the Prime Minister to maintain controls on Bulgarian and Romanian migrants.

Fears are growing that tens of thousands of people from the eastern European countries will come to the UK when employment restrictions are lifted next year.

But our incredible surge of support proves the nation wants Mr Cameron to dismiss the edicts of Brussels by keeping the controls in place. And this week the message will be sent straight to the heart of Government when our petition is delivered to Downing Street.

In a sign of the groundswell against further loosening of restrictions, it emerged yesterday that Mr Cameron could as early as this week unveil new proposals to deter immigrants by making it harder for new arrivals to claim benefits. Options he is said to be considering include dramatically increasing the three-month residency requirement people must now meet to qualify for benefits - possibly ensuring they have lived in the UK for a year.

That would also put Britain at loggerheads with Brussels, which is already challenging residency tests we apply to certain benefits on grounds that they break EU law by treating other European citizens differently from Britons.

MPs leading calls for action on Romania and Bulgaria welcomed any benefit crackdown - but said it would not be enough.

Conservative Peter Bone has tabled a Bill calling for the restrictions to remain in place although it may not get enough time to progress unless the Government does a U-turn and backs it.

He said: "It is absolutely right to make it more difficult for new migrants to get benefits because one of the reasons people travel across western Europe to get here is that our benefits are much more generous than other countries'.

"However, that doesn't deal with the fundamental problem which is what when we open the door to Romania and Bulgaria, thousands and thousands will come.

Convinced

150,000 SAY NO TO NEW EU MIGRANTS; Daily Express readers demand block on new influx of Bulgarians and Romanians SAY NO TO NEW EU MIGRANTS Don't open floodgates

"We have to stop them coming in the first place because the numbers will be so large that all our efforts to cut immigration will go out of the window. The simple thing is to retain the restrictions for another five years and **don't** worry what the EU says.

"For 150,000 people to have signed your petition is an extraordinary number and shows yet again that the Daily Express is speaking for the British people. There is still time. I'm presenting my Bill this Friday. The Government could let it through by not objecting to it".

Mr Bone added: "I'm absolutely personally convinced the Prime Minister is thinking about this and I think probably would have done it if it weren't for the Lib Dems.

"The more the Prime Minister sees the feeling of the British people, the more likely it is to happen. Well done to the Daily Express."

Conservative MP Nigel Mills is seeking to amend the Government's Immigration Bill now going through Parliament by requiring the controls on Romanian and Bulgarian migrants to remain for another five years. The restrictions are due to be lifted on January 1 next year.

More than 30 fellow Tories are backing his call and yesterday he urged Daily Express readers to press their MPs to add support. Mr Mills said: "The Daily Express has done a brilliant job highlighting this issue."

Other EU countries, including Germany, Denmark and Spain, are understood to share Britain's concerns about new immigration from poorer countries, and one unnamed Conservative minister said: "Everyone knows we've got to do something, and something big." New limits on migrant benefit claims are reportedly to be a priority for Mr Cameron's planned renegotiation of Britain's EU membership terms. But that would be too late to stop Bulgarians and Romanians.

The police have blamed Romanian gypsies camping out in London's West End for a surge in begging, pick-pocketing, prostitution and shoplifting.

Tory Education Secretary Michael Gove yesterday praised Mr Cameron for striking "exactly the right note" on migration - namely to celebrate the achievements of people who come here and to recognise that migration has to work for people who are already here from whatever background.

"But when it comes to new migrants from accession countries in the EU, we need to look properly at the benefits system here to make sure people are coming here to work and contribute, not to take advantage of what is rightly a generous welfare system," he added.

Labour Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said the Government should have acted nine months ago when her party urged it to ensure new migrants could not claim Jobseekers' Allowance without making any contribution first. But, underlining Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg's potential to block tougher action by the Coalition, the party's Scottish Secretary, Alistair Carmichael, stressed any approach should be discussed in Europe.

He said he would "need to be persuaded" over transitional arrangements, adding: "Potentially it might put us on the wrong side of the rest of the EU. As a member state I **don't** want to find myself in that territory."

OPINION PAGE: 12

Q Should Britain say no to new EU migrants? YEs: 0901 792 5300 NO: 0901 792 5301 Yes text DXMONYEs to 86611 No text DXMONNO to 86611 Texts cost 35p plus standard charges. Calls cost 36p from a BT landline, calls from other networks and mobiles may vary. SP: Spoke, London, W1B 2AG. Helpdesk: 0870 010 8656 (charged at national rate). Lines close at midnight tonight.

150,000 SAY NO TO NEW EU MIGRANTS; Daily Express readers demand block on new influx of Bulgarians and Romanians SAY NO TO NEW EU MIGRANTS Don't open floodgates

Graphic

Your DailyExpresshas beeninundatedwith supporton migrants.as Romagypsiestake overLondon'sWest End,often sleepingrough

Pictures: MIKE PARTRIDGE AND TIM CLARKE

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXP

Subject: EUROPEAN UNION (90%); IMMIGRATION (78%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (78%); PRIME MINISTERS (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); PETITIONS (74%); EUROPEAN UNION LAW (73%)

Person: DAVID CAMERON (79%)

Geographic: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%); ROMANIA (93%); EUROPE (93%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (91%); BELGIUM (90%); WESTERN EUROPE (79%); BULGARIA (77%); EASTERN EUROPE (58%); National Edition

Load-Date: November 25, 2013