

In 2007, the Peugeot factory in Ryton, Coventry, closed and moved production to Slovakia. This cost 2,300 jobs. The EU pumped £78 million in subsidies into the new factory, while Brussels sat on a request for a UK subsidy of just £14 million, for two years.

Prime Minister Tony Blair claimed the closure was the 'inevitable casualty of globalisation,' but in fact the EU had made a conscious choice to boost the economy of Slovakia, at the expense of the UK.

In 2012, Ford moved transit van production to non-EU Turkey with the help of an £80 million loan from the European Investment Bank. 500 jobs were lost in Southampton and 750 in Dagenham.

The sale of Royal Mail in 2013 and subsequent post office closures where both driven by the EU Postal Services Directive. 1,300 Jobs have reportedly been lost.

These are just three examples of how interference from the EU leads to British job losses. British workers are suffering: Eurostat, the EU's own data service, revealed last year that EU migrants are more likely to be in work in Britain than Britons themselves. If we add to this the downward pressure on wages that has resulted from mass immigration, it is clear remaining in the EU is not favourable to British workers.

By leaving the EU and restricting immigration through the use of an Australian-style points based system, we will give back some hope to British workers for a brighter future.

UKIP will:

- Restrict access to EURES, the EU-wide jobs portal that has become the 'go-to' source for employers looking for cheap labour from overseas
- End the availability of EU relocation grants of up to €1,000 for migrants to come and work in Britain

- Allow British businesses to choose to employ British citizens first.
- Enforce the minimum wage and reverse the Government cuts in the number of minimum wage inspectors in both England and Wales

WORKERS' RIGHTS

Leaving the EU will not mean workers' employment rights will be removed, simply that they will be adopted into UK law.

Some EU directives, such as the Working Time Directive, need amending because they actively restrict the British work ethos and therefore our economy, but UKIP will protect workers' rights.

ZERO-HOURS CONTRACTS

The use of zero-hours contracts proliferated following the imposition of the EU's Temporary Agency Workers Directive, which demanded agency workers were given the same workplace rights as employees. Zero-hours contracts enabled businesses to escape this edict. EU legislation, intended to benefit temporary workers, in fact ended up penalising them.

Because UKIP recognises that zero-hours contracts suit many people, we will not ban them. We do, however, take a very dim view of their abuse and will introduce a legally binding Code of Conduct stipulating the following:

- Businesses hiring 50 people or more must give workers on zero-hours contracts either a full or part-time secure contract after one year, if the workers involved request it
- There must be no exclusivity clauses in any zero-hours contract. To prevent people from working elsewhere when they have no guarantee of regular work, will be banned
- Workers on zero-hours contracts must be given at least twelve hours advance notice of work. Once notice has been given, they must be paid for the work, regardless of whether or not they are actually needed. Employers will not be permitted to expect a worker to turn up for work, only to be turned away again, when no work is available.

THE 'THREE MILLION JOBS' MYTH

Finally, a word on the pernicious myth that leaving the EU will cost three million British jobs. This myth grew out of a report by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) in 2000, which concluded that 2.7 million jobs were directly related to our trade with the EU and another 500,000 were indirectly linked. The report went on to say that: "there is no a priori reason to suppose that many of these [jobs], if any, would be lost permanently if Britain were to leave the EU."

The report was nevertheless spun by the pro-EU lobby, which tried to suggest jobs 'linked' to EU trade, meant jobs were 'dependent' on EU membership. The Director of NIESR repudiated their claims, describing their efforts as 'a wilful distortion of the facts.' Sadly, unscrupulous politicians, fully aware of the truth of the matter, still attempt to deceive.

The jobs of British people - and the jobs of the five million Europeans who work here - are not dependent on EU membership and will be safe when we leave the EU. To say otherwise is, quite simply, dishonest.

BELIEVE *in* BRITAIN