NICK FERRARI (LBC): Good evening. I'm Nick Ferrari, welcome to the LBC leaders debate. In the next hour history will be made, first and live on LBC radio where we are Leading Britain's Conversation every day. You've waited decades for this leaders debate on Britain's future relationship with Europe and here it is. Nick Clegg is deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Democrats and said his is the party of in. Nigel Farage is the leader of the UK Independence Party and is equally unequivocal. He wants out. Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Nick Clegg and Nigel Farage. The rules are as straight forward as the debate. After a brief opening statement, each will face a series of questions from a carefully selected and evenly balanced audience. Neither has the slightest clue of the questions coming their way. Now, to decide who goes first, what better way than to flip a coin, a good old English pound. Deputy Prime Minister, as you threw down the challenge and you are higher in the alphabet I'm hoping I catch it. I'd ask you to call it.

NICK CLEGG: Heads.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): So the Deputy Prime Minister says heads, and as we can see, it has gone to tails. Nigel Farage you have the choice. You can either go first or second for your first minute.

NIGEL FARAGE: No, I will ask Nick to open the batting.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Nick Clegg to open the batting. Your minute starts now.

NICK CLEGG: This debate is about you. And it’s really simple because it’s about your job. Or if not your job the job of someone else that you know. and it is about making sure that the sacrifices that you have made to fix our economy aren't wasted because make no mistake, if we cut ourselves off from Europe, from the countries that we trade with more than anyone else, then our hard won economic recovery will simply be thrown away. It is also about who we are, a Britain that leads in the world, by standing tall in our own European back yard, a Britain prepared to work with other countries on the things we can't possibly sort out on our own. So don't let UKIP or anyone else put all of that at risk. We are better off in Europe, richer, stronger, safer, and that is why I will fight to keep us in. for the sake of jobs, for the sake of our clout in the world, for the sake of Britain.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Clegg, thank you. Appreciation for Mister Clegg, if you would thank you. Thank you very much. Nigel Farage, your minute starts now.

NIGEL FARAGE: Just imagine though we weren't debating whether we should stay or leave. just imagine we were debating whether we should join the European Union. and I put it to you what we ought to do is vote Yes in a referendum to join a club that will cost us 55 million pounds a day as a membership fee, that will give us thousands of new laws over which our own Parliament and you, the electorate, can make no difference. It will mean an open border unconditionally to 485 million people from across the whole of Europe, many of them from very poor countries, and they can come here and work and live and settle and bring their families and do as they wish. and it would also mean that we would have to cut our links with other parts of the world, the Commonwealth, the Anglo Sphere and many other parts of the world, because we would lose the ability to make our own trade deals. I know the result of that referendum. You wouldn't join it. The debate here today is between a tired status quo defending a crumbling European Union that frankly isn't working any more and a fresh approach which says let's be friendly with Europe, let's trade with Europe, but not be governed by their institutions.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): And your appreciation for Mister Farage, please. So we move to the first question. So that you understand again, each of the leaders gets a minute approximately to respond. I choose who goes first and then we debate it between us. So let's find, please, Deborah Tioradeni. Deborah, where are you and your question, if you would. Go ahead. DEBORAH TIORADENI Why won't politicians trust the British public by giving us a referendum on our membership of the EU now?

NICK FERRARI (LBC): And let's turn to Nigel Farage.

NIGEL FARAGE: Because they are worried about the result. They think you might vote differently to their view. You know, Nick is here and I'm very pleased that Nick laid down the gauntlet for this debate, but Nick is not here just representing the Liberal Democrats. He wants to stay a member of the European Union, but, of course, that's David Cameron's position and it's Ed Miliband's position and what happens is, from time to time they offer us a referendum. They do it cynically, funnily enough, at election time. and they say, Vote for us, we will give you a referendum and then do their absolute best not to. Five years ago Mister Cameron was offering us a cast iron guarantee of a referendum. Nick Clegg himself, the last European elections and General Election, said, It is time for a real debate, let's have a referendum. Well, Nick, we are having this debate and it is a good thing that we are, but I agree with Deborah's sentiment, why don't we trust the British people to make their minds up on what I think is the most important constitutional question we have faced in this country for 300 years. Are we to be a self governing nation or not and, I agree with you, I would like this referendum to take place before the next General Election.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): And let's turn to Nick Clegg.

NICK CLEGG: I also agree with you, Deborah, that when powers which rightly belong to you and to the British people are passed to the European Union, this happened many times in the past with the rule changes that come along from time to time and the way that the rules are rewritten within the European Union, that should never again happen over the heads of the British people. Then the British people, the consent of the British people should be asked by way of a referendum. That's what I've always believed, that has always been my position. I have never waivered in that my position. That's why the last time the rules changed, something called the Lisbon Treaty, I said there should be a referendum. I have gone further than that actually now in Government. We have actually legislated, the first time anyone has ever done that. We have passed into law a legal guarantee for you, Deborah, the next time you are asked to give up powers to Europe, the next time the rules change, the next time something else is asked of the United Kingdom within Europe, it is not going to be the decision of Parliament or politicians or the Government of the day, it is going to be your decision in a referendum.

NIGEL FARAGE: But, Nick, the rules change every week. Every single European directive, every single new regulation, every single court judgment frankly that comes out of Luxembourg, every single time a new EU law is passed, yet another small chunk, albeit small and it's incremental, yet another small chunk of our ability to govern our country goes to the institutions of Brussels. And I think the real frustration is that all of you keep using this form of words, When there's the next significant change. In the space of this Coalition government, we transfer control of the City of London, we have allowed the EU's foreign policy to become bigger and stronger and surely what the lady is really saying is, Why don't you trust her? because they have actually given up believing anything that you say. And if you say the next time there is a big change there will be a referendum and Mister Cameron says it and Mister Miliband says it, no one believes you are actually going to deliver and maybe that's the role of UKIP. Maybe the reason we are having this debate is that UKIP are forcing you on to that turf.

NICK CLEGG: I accept, and that's why I said to Deborah, we have done something which no government has ever done before, which is you need that guarantee, not just from what different party leaders and politicians say, but you need that in law. They have got that guarantee and that has never happened before. I think Nigel says, Let's have a referendum next Tuesday, next Wednesday, next Thursday, every time there is a decision taken somewhere else in the European Union. It is really important to remember this is a decision which would have a huge effect, would have massive consequences on our country for generations to come, for decades to come. So the idea that you do that sort of flippantly, I think you do it when new powers are being, if you like, asked of the United Kingdom and those new powers are going to be transferred to the European Union. That's my view. I think if you were to do it now, given how the European Union is in a real state of change and flux at the moment, you have seen all these problems in the Eurozone, they're sort of changing their arrangements. I don't think they'd really know what we are having a referendum on. So, yes, let's have a referendum, let's have that legally guaranteed in law at the time when new things are asked of the United Kingdom.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Clegg, I wonder if I can read you the words from a very prominent politician back in 2008. It is time to give the British people a real referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union, and there we are, there is a very fresh faced, carefree politician there in that poster. Why are we still waiting?

NICK CLEGG: Well, if everyone can read the small print, which I suspect you can't, what it says No, no, I don't mean the small print…

NIGEL FARAGE: Ah…

NICK CLEGG: No, I mean in the leaflet. What it said was at the time we were debating a new change in the rules, which is exactly what I was just referring to with Deborah. At the time in 2008 there was a new treaty, the Lisbon Treaty. This is the treaty where, as Nigel Farage rightly points out, the Conservative Party changed radically their attitude towards it. I had exactly the same view in 2008, 2009, 2010, namely when the rules changes, when new things are asked of you, powers which rightly belong to you, then it is your decision in a referendum. That is why I said in that leaflet and indeed in countless debates like this, that is when the referendum should take place and now we've gone further. We have guaranteed that right to have that referendum in law.

NIGEL FARAGE: But the trouble is, you are defining transfer of powers in terms of treaties. There is a possibility that actually there won't be any treaty change, because in fact what has happened since your beloved Euro has gone into a tail spin is without using treaties they have managed with the Euro zone countries to acquire yet more power at the centre and surely, you know, there is a very urgent need to have this. This isn't flippant.

NICK CLEGG: No, no.

NIGEL FARAGE: And everybody in this room over the age of 55, I bet there are many in this room who voted as my parents did yes, but they voted yes to a Common Market, so, frankly, this is unfinished business for the over 55s.

NICK CLEGG: No I…

NIGEL FARAGE: and there are thirty five million of us who have never been given the chance to have a vote.

NICK CLEGG: No, I accept that if you think there should be a referendum, you know, come whatever, you want a referendum next Wednesday, my position, of course, is not for you. If you think there should never be a referendum, and there are some people who don't think we should have a referendum, then my position is not for you. If you believe, and I think many people believe, that you have referenda in our country, in our parliamentary democracy when there is an important question to answer, when new powers are being transferred from our country to the European Union, that's when, that's when it shouldn't be done in Parliament, shouldn't be done by any Government, it should be done by you in a referendum and I and the Government of which I am part has guaranteed that in law for the first time ever.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Nigel Farage, you have paid tribute to the fact that Nick Clegg is prepared to debate you.

NIGEL FARAGE: Yes.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): What does it say about the courage of the other two party leaders that are not here?

NIGEL FARAGE: Mister Cameron said he was too busy running the country. Well, he is certainly busy running from something, isn't he? And Mister Miliband did his best not to give any response at all. I mean the one thing I will say is that UKIP are certainly united on the European question and the Lib Dems are very strongly united on the EU question. The Tory Party have a sort of historic fault line which is very visible to all. You have got something like 18 backbenchers who now rebel regularly on the European question, whether it is Remember, two years ago they were being three line whipped not to give us a referendum, so there is a big rebellion there, but I think actually within the Labour movement things are not quite as surreal as they may appear on the outside, and I think also the Labour Party has a big split. So they would rather not talk about it and they would rather conduct the European elections not even discussing this question.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): But by taking the stance you have briefly, Nigel Farage, are you destroying UKIP's best chance of a referendum?

NIGEL FARAGE: No. I think one of the things that will happen over the course of these European elections and perhaps beyond, is that commentators in this country will wake up to what is currently the greatest myth in British politics. The myth is that UKIP take Tory votes, therefore will damage the Tory Party and that will lead to a Miliband government. The truth of it is only one in three UKIP voters is a former Conservative. We pick up the bulk of our votes from old Labour and from non voters getting back into politics.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Nigel Farage, thank you. Let's move to our next question. John Connelly. Mister Connelly, you are a builder and I think your question pertains to that, sir. Mister Connelly Yes, you talk about economic recovery and jobs. Our borders are wide open to hundreds of thousands of eastern Europeans coming and taking low paid work. Now, it is a brilliant thing that the tax threshold has been risen to 10,500 pounds for people in low paid work.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): All right, sir, thank you. Just to repeat. What Mister Connelly is saying is there are hundreds of thousands of eastern Europeans coming here, they take low paid jobs. The tax threshold is not enough. Where is the benefit and we will start with you first, Mister Clegg.

NICK CLEGG: Clearly, the point that you are referring to, John, is incredibly important, and it is a very emotive issue this, about people coming in and out of our country, and indeed, of course, many Brits, about 2 million, one and a half million Brits who live elsewhere in the European Union, and we have to get the rules right. That is why the Government, this Government has significantly tightened up the rules. That is why, for instance, I want to restore exit checks at our border so we count people out as well as we count them in. People can't just come here to claim benefits, for instance. Yes, come if you want to try and work, come if you are really going to make a contribution, if you are going to play by the rules, but you can't simply receive benefits and no questions asked on the first day. That is why we have changed the rules. But let’s remember, of all the new jobs created over the last year or two, 9 out of 10 of those new jobs have gone to British workers. Let's remember that actually people have come to our country, they create wealth, they pay taxes, they help sustain our NHS. If we were simply to pull up our drawbridge, we would destroy jobs for everybody in this country and that is not something that I'm prepared to see happen.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): All right, we'll come to you in a second. Thank you. Nigel Farage.

NIGEL FARAGE: Well, I love it, Nick says he wants to get the rules right. Let me tell you what the rules are, Nick. The rules are we are members of the European Union which has total free movement of goods, capital, services and people. and that may have been okay when we were in with countries, you know, like the Netherlands and France and Germany with roughly similar living standards and hospitals and primary schools. What we have done is we have let in countries that were trapped behind the iron curtain for years. Romania, for example, where the minimum wage is a ninth of what it is in this country, and we have a total open door, unconditionally…

NICK CLEGG: No.

NIGEL FARAGE: to 485 million people.

NICK CLEGG: No.

NIGEL FARAGE: and they are the rules of the European Union, and you cannot be allowed to get away with saying you want to get the rules right. By putting in these weasel words about benefits. This gentleman who has asked the question, John, he is not talking about benefits, he is talking about the fact that the hundreds and thousands of people working in trades like the building industry, we've had a massive over supply of labour and you've seen your wages go down over the last ten years as the cost of living has gone up and that is not fair on working people.

NICK CLEGG: I understand, John, as I say this is an issue which creates great anxiety. People are unsettled by the whole immigration, I understand. But we have to have this debate on the basis of facts, and what you've just heard from Nigel Farage is simply not true. I've got here a leaflet…

NIGEL FARAGE: What is not true?

NICK CLEGG: Can I just finish the point? This is a leaflet…

NIGEL FARAGE: Yes.

NICK CLEGG: that Nigel Farage's party distributed in the recent Eastleigh by election, you may remember it. It says here that 29 million Romanians and Bulgarians may come to this country. There aren't even 29 million Romanians and Bulgarians living in Romania and Bulgaria.

NIGEL FARAGE: Ah…

NICK CLEGG: It is simply not true. So, you know, let's have this debate, John, but let's have it based on fact. Let me give you one more fact. One out of seven of every new company created in this country are created by people who come here, pay their taxes, play by the rules. If we pull up the drawbridge overnight, as Nigel Farage implies, our NHS would collapse overnight. Yes, let's make sure that we bear down on unscrupulous employers who, for instance, don't pay the minimum wage. That's why this Government has quadrupled the penalties that we’re going to impose on unscrupulous employers. Let's bear down on the loopholes, let's make sure people do play by the rules, but let's not scare people by claiming things that are not true which would have the consequence of making us poorer and putting more people out of work. That surely cannot be right.

NIGEL FARAGE: You didn't answer the question, did you? You try to do trickery with the 29 million, saying there aren't 29 million. Do you know why? Because 2 million have left already and they've gone to Italy and to Spain. Nick, you didn't answer the basic question. I'm not claiming 29 million people have the right to come to Britain.

NICK CLEGG: Yes you did.

NIGEL FARAGE: I'm claiming 485 million people have the total unconditional right to come to this country if they want to. And I think you’re quite right…

NICK CLEGG: Listen to the facts…

NIGEL FARAGE: The fact is…

NICK CLEGG: Let me have a…

NIGEL FARAGE: If we are members of the European Union we have the complete free flow of people. Are you denying that?

NICK CLEGG: Yes, it is not…

NIGEL FARAGE: You are denying that?

NICK CLEGG: It is not unqualified. It is not the case that anyone can move to this country and simply claim benefits.

NIGEL FARAGE: I didn't mention benefits. You keep doing benefits. We are talking about the free movement of people and the ability to get a job.

NICK CLEGG: Once again I think what you are owed are the facts, not simply a lot of opinion.

NIGEL FARAGE: It’s not opinion, it’s fact.

NICK CLEGG: You are owed the facts. Since 2004 about 2 million people from elsewhere in the European Union have come to our country, but half of them have returned. At the same time there are 1.5 million Brits who live elsewhere in the European Union. So really the question is I think Nigel Farage needs to provide you with an answer. If we do pull the drawbridge up we simply say no one else allowed, put up that sign on the cliffs of Dover, what happens to the 1.5 million Brits who are elsewhere, what happens to the business and to the British jobs that are dependent on people coming to this country? Don't just believe me, listen to the people who employ thousands upon thousands of British citizens in this country who say that if we turn into a closed country, rather than an open one, we will be poorer and we will have higher unemployment. I'm not prepared to see anyone lose their job on the alter of Nigel Farage's anti European dogma.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): All right, gentlemen, just pause for a moment, thank you. This is the LBC leaders debate. Nick Clegg versus Nigel Farage on the European Union. You are listening on LBC, watching on lbc.co.uk. Take part in the reaction using the hash tag LBCdebate. And the LBC listeners have been emailing in their questions. Deputy Prime Minister perhaps I can put this to you from LBC listener Carol Lauderdale, is it right to have child benefit paid for children not even living in this country?

NICK CLEGG: No, I think that is exactly one of the things that don't make any sense, and one of the many reasons why the Government of which I'm Deputy Prime Minister, why we have changed the rules, so for instance no one can just turn up here and claim benefits with no strings attached, no questions asked. We are the first government ever to make sure that you have got to wait at least three months before you claim any benefits. If you've been here for six months from elsewhere in the European Union and you haven't found a job you can't receive Job Seekers Allowance. Housing benefit is no longer going to be provided to people from elsewhere in the European Union. If people come here from elsewhere in the European Union, they can't support themselves…

NIGEL FARAGE: But you…

NICK CLEGG: they are not looking for work, if they are out on the streets, begging on our streets and they shouldn't be here we send them back home. So there are limits and there are things we can do, but where Nigel Farage and I disagree is that I think if we simply pull up the drawbridge and refuse to allow people to come here, play by the rules, pay their taxes, create jobs, it will be bad for Britain, never mind anywhere else. It will be bad for our country itself.

NIGEL FARAGE: It is all very well saying it will be bad for Britain pulling up drawbridges, what you are not doing with this question, as you didn't with the previous one, is actually answer it. Because the truth of it is, if you come into this country and take a job, let's say on minimum wage, you qualify on day one for a full range of in work benefits, including child benefit for your kids living back in Bucharest…

NICK CLEGG: How many people…

NIGEL FARAGE: or wherever it is.

NICK CLEGG: Can I ask a question?

NIGEL FARAGE: Yes, you can.

NICK CLEGG: How many people from elsewhere in the European Union in terms of the total number benefits claimed do you think what is the proportion of the benefits claimed by people elsewhere in the European Union?

NIGEL FARAGE: At the moment, mercifully small.

NICK CLEGG: How small?

NIGEL FARAGE: I'll tell you. There are only 45,000 children living in parts of eastern Europe that are currently claiming child benefit.

NICK CLEGG: Let me give you the answer.

NIGEL FARAGE: I would argue that that is 45,000 too many. Surely the benefit system is for citizens of this country who have worked and lived here for years.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Clegg.

NICK CLEGG: The answer is, in terms of all benefits claimed, the benefits claimed by people from elsewhere in Europe is 2 percent of the total. Now, Nigel Farage says 2 percent is too much.

NIGEL FARAGE: That’s not the words…

NICK CLEGG: It is 2 percent. In other words, it is a very, very small proportion of the total. Again, the facts show that people who come here from elsewhere in the European Union to work and pay their taxes pay much more into our coffers than they take out in benefits. In fact, if you look at the ten years from 2001 to 2011 they contributed close to 22 billion pounds. That helps fund our schools, helps fund our hospitals.

NIGEL FARAGE: I’m sorry Nick, I can’t…

NICK CLEGG: We mustn't make our country poorer because of the determination…

NIGEL FARAGE: I'm sorry, Nick. What that study did was to say who did work and what tax did they pay. What it did not do was price in the in work benefits which is housing benefit, child benefit, tax credits and child tax credits, and the point is, actually there's a study by Migration Watch that says from 95 to 2011 in total immigration into Britain cost us 140 billion pounds.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Let's move on to another question, thank you for that. Barsha Nusinluk, a marketing executive. Barsha? My question is, if the free movement of EU citizens was restricted would this create any skill shortages in the UK?

NICK FERRARI (LBC): It is Nigel Farage's turn for the first minute. Mister Farage.

NIGEL FARAGE: No, because I believe what we ought to be doing is operating a system of work permits, work permits in terms of what are the shortages that we may have and what are the skills that other people may want to bring to us. But I think it is complete madness to say we have a total open door to nearly half a million people and any of them can come. Not only do we not have quantity control, we don't actually have any quality control either, so what we are now doing, is we are saying to people from India and we are saying to people from New Zealand, who have got skills to bring to this country that we want, No, you can't come, because we have to leave room for the now 4,000 people a week that are coming to settle in this country from southern and eastern Europe and that strikes me as being a crazy immigration policy. Let's actually not think of it purely in European terms, let's think of it globally. Let's be happy to give people work permits which give them the right to come and work in this country. They must bring some insurance to cover their health affairs and if after a period of time they have been here they haven't committed any crimes and they want to become citizens of this country then they would be good acceptable people to have and at the moment we are not choosing on the basis of quality.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Farage, thank you. Mister Clegg.

NICK CLEGG: My view on this is that, of course we should, always do more to improve skills, that is why I'm incredibly proud of the fact that over the last four years we have expanded apprenticeships, for instance, for young British people to give them the skills to find work on a scale that we haven't seen in a generation or two. Of course, we should prioritise giving skills training to British youngsters, but the idea that we help them then find jobs by pulling the drawbridge up, simply turning our backs on Europe, simply doesn't make I will give you an example. Just yesterday a German company which is a household company, Siemens, announced they are going to create 1,000 jobs in Hull in the Humber area in a new offshore wind centre. A thousand jobs for people in actually a part of the country that is desperately crying out for extra jobs. Guess what the Chief Executive of that company said If we were not within the European Union, Siemens would make it quite difficult for me to continue to invest in UK factories. There you have it. They wouldn't create the jobs for which the skills are necessary. That is why I don't understand in pursuing the withdrawal from the European Union we would make our country poorer if we did what UKIP said.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): The jobs would go. Nigel Farage.

NICK CLEGG: The jobs would go.

NIGEL FARAGE: Foreign direct investment is an important point, it is a key point, and I so well remember, Nick, you and all your gang, all the big corporates, all telling us, 12 years ago, that if we didn't join the Euro do you remember that if we didn't join the Euro all investment into Britain would cease, the City of London would disappear, and all I can say is thank God we didn't listen to you. Otherwise we would have been in one hell of a mess. And despite the fact we ignored you then, foreign direct investment is coming into the United Kingdom at a greater level than it is to all the rest of countries of the European Union combined and, fascinatingly, when Ernst & Young did a survey in North America and in Asia where the big investments are coming from, two thirds of both of those investors said actually, if the UK was outside the European Union and we didn't have the expensive regulatory regime, they may well invest even more money.

NICK CLEGG: Look, I personally, and I suggest many people would probably feel in the same position, you are going to listen to what investors actually say about the decisions that they make about investing in our country than politicians like Nigel Farage or myself. Just the other day I was up in Sunderland, Nissan, a major, major employer, they employ over 7,000 people in the north east. They export 80% of the cars they produce in Sunderland to elsewhere in Europe. They could not have been clearer, if we did what UKIP did they wouldn't invest in Sunderland, there wouldn't be those 7,000 jobs. If you don't believe Nissan, if you don't believe Siemens, listen to what the Chief Executive of Ford in Europe said when he said Don't discuss leaving a trading partner where 50% of your exports go, that would be devastating for the UK economy. I believe what they say, that they would not invest in this country if we were not part of what is the world's largest economy. Why would we pull ourselves out of the world's largest economy when 50 percent of our exports go to the rest of Europe?

NICK FERRARI (LBC): You mentioned Ford. You are aware that they closed a plant in Southampton last year so they could move the work to Turkey? How does that square?

NICK CLEGG: Well, of course companies move operations from one country to the other, but they will exit from the United Kingdom leaving thousands on thousands of families distressed in their wake because they will not have a breadwinner in those families able to pay their bills, able to look after their families, because the investments have gone, the jobs have gone and that's what they are all saying. Just last week, just last week we had an announcement from Hitachi, a big household name again. They said they are going to make our country the global hub, the global headquarters of their rail business and they said they are doing that because we are part of the European Union.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Okay. Mister Clegg. We must move on. Let's get Nigel Farage back in.

NIGEL FARAGE: Let me answer the Ford question, if I can, very quickly, because actually that happened with money given to Ford by the European Investment Bank, including we ourselves as taxpayers subsidised Ford to close down in Southampton and with European money move to Poland. And this car market debate, we sell a million cars a year, Nick, to the European Union. All right? It's an important marketplace. It's declining of course because they are in real economic trouble, but they sell us 1.8 million cars a year and cars of much higher quality and price. The point about trade is the German car industry needs the British market far more than British manufactured cars need the European market and that's called the world of business. That is how it works.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Farage, respond to this email from LBC listener Max Lake, If we came out of the EU, this would affect the job prospects of young people. He's right, isn't he?

NIGEL FARAGE: I think Max is right, because outside the European Union we would be able to get rid of some of the ridiculous excesses that we currently have. You see, it is all well and good to have employment legislation that is designed for giant multinational companies, but if that legislation applies to small firms, and bear in mind 60 percent of people that work in the private sector in Britain work for companies with 10 employees or less. I spoke to a business yesterday that was about to set up, they approached the Forum for Private Business to ask for advice on employment law. They were sent a document that is 350 pages long. If we could reduce that burden of employment, health and safety in work and environmental law…

NICK CLEGG: How many jobs?

NIGEL FARAGE: We could create many, many jobs indeed. And that is really a major problem that the British economy currently has.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Thank you. Nick Clegg.

NICK CLEGG: I think the answer that UKIP and other people who want to withdraw ourselves from what is the world's largest economy, need to answer is how many jobs are they prepared to sacrifice. It has been reliably estimated that over three million jobs are linked to our position within the European Union which is, by the way, a marketplace of 500 million shoppers, 500 million consumers who buy our goods and services that we sell to them and unlike what you just heard, half of what we sell goes to the rest of Europe, actually the rest of Europe, only 8 percent of what they sell goes to us. So we benefit enormously from this. If it is not 3 million, because I guess 3 million jobs, of course, wouldn't disappear overnight, is it 2 million? Is it 1 million? Is it 500,000? My view is we shouldn't be sacrificing a single job, a single job, just to fulfil this dogmatic view that we should turn our backs on the rest of the world and on Europe. 3 million jobs is 3 million pay packets, is millions of families in this country being able to pay their bills which they otherwise wouldn't. That is why this is at the end of the day about jobs, jobs, jobs.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): There is some research that would question that 3 million figure, I have to say, Deputy Prime Minister. Nigel Farage.

NIGEL FARAGE: Nick, you know, when you answer a question like that by saying 3 million jobs are at risk, you show that like virtually everybody at Westminster you have never run your own company, you have never had a proper job in the real world, you are part of this political bubble that picked up a piece of research that was produced ten years ago by a guy who himself now says all he said was the jobs are linked to trade in Europe, they are not at risk.

NICK CLEGG: That’s what I said.

NIGEL FARAGE: And all of you, all of you, you all do it, Tories do it, Labour do it, the big banks do it, the multinationals do it and the truth is this, we sell in terms of manufactured products, about 100 billion pounds worth of goods every year to Europe. It is about 40 percent of our overseas sales. It is quite important. No doubt it is important, declining every year but important. But the point is this, they sell us roughly 150 billion pounds worth of goods every single year. This is extraordinary. The United Kingdom is now the Eurozone's biggest export market in the world. They sell us more than they sell to Japan, or to China, or the United States of America. Trade is not something created by politicians and bureaucrats. Trade is created by consumers who make a decision, I like this product, I'm prepared to pay its price. I spent 20 years in the private sector. I can tell you something. In private business the customer is King and when it comes to renegotiating a trade agreement with Europe with no threat to any jobs, apart of course from the Commissioners and the British MEPs who will all be turfed out on their rear and that is no bad thing, when it comes to a renegotiation of that deal we actually hold the whip hand.

NICK CLEGG: I disagree…

NIGEL FARAGE: That is the real world of economics, that is how it works.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Gentlemen, let me bring in it is related to this so you will have your opportunity. Jamila Long who is in banking. Jamila? How are we supposed to compete with the likes of China or America if we are not part of a larger trading group.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): How would we compete with the likes of China and America if we are not part of a bigger trading bloc, neatly, Mister Clegg, it falls to you to go first.

NICK CLEGG: I agree with you, Jamila. Look, the world is changing dramatically. You know this, Jamila, from your experience in finance. We all know this. This is not the 1950s. We can't turn the clock back. We've got these new powers on the world stage, Brazil, China, India, and we get more clout by operating through the world's largest economy. That is what the European Union is, despite its faults, despite the fact it needs to be reformed. It is the world's largest economy, and we get clout by actually representing 500 million people when we measure up to the Chinese and the Americans and others in trade negotiations. This is the fundamental flaw of UKIP's vision. Just imagine what would happen? So we pull out of the European Union. We are no longer part of the world's largest economy and we as a country of 60 million people are, according to UKIP, supposed to be able to cut the same deal with the giants of America and China as we can with the clout of representing 500 million consumers? It simply doesn't add up. We get more clout rather than less by being part of this big European economic super power.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Clegg, thank you. Nigel Farage.

NIGEL FARAGE: Once again, Nick, you just show you don't really understand the world of commerce and trade. Do you know, when the world trade organisation meets to discuss global trade, the British representative is shown the door and asked to leave.

NICK CLEGG: No.

NIGEL FARAGE: The world's 6th largest trading nation, the world's EIGHTH largest manufacturing nation is not allowed to be in the room...

NICK CLEGG: It's not true.

NIGEL FARAGE: Because we're members of the European Union so we have to be represented by a Dutch bureaucrat, whose name no one knows, and who nobody can vote for. A quite extraordinary state of affairs. We are banned, forbidden from making our own trade deals with countries like India or Canada or Australia or New Zealand, people who would at the drop of a hat sign trade deals with us, we are prevented from doing so. And, you know, the reason is, people like Nick don't think Britain's good enough. We're just not good enough. We must give away control of all of these things to somebody else, who will do it for us. We are too small to survive. Iceland has 320,000 people, and in March last year they signed a free frayed agreement with China. If it is good enough for Iceland to do it, I'm damned certain the British with 64 million can do even better.

NICK CLEGG: Can I respond to that?

NICK FERRARI (LBC): In a sentence, please.

NICK CLEGG: Because unlike Nigel Farage, I actually, before I went into politics, was involved in these trade negotiations. It is simply not true, what you've just heard. Of course it is right that the European Union should measure up as a block with the clout of 500 million consumers when you negotiate with the Chinese and the Americans and the Russians, as I did in a previous By the way, I keep hearing what Nigel Farage has he and I were actually elected as Euro MPs on the same day in 2009. I left the European Parliament after 5 years, he still remains a Euro politician. But I think it is important that we remember that we gain clout by being part of the world's largest economic super power and the idea that we would first have to, if we did what UKIP said, first have to renegotiate with 27 other countries in the rest of Europe, and then negotiate with the 50 countries through which we have trade agreements because of our membership of the European Union. So that is 77 countries that a future government will have to renegotiate trade agreements with just to get some of the trade access back that we've lost. I tell you a government of the future would do nothing for the next 20 years.

NIGEL FARAGE: Not unless we get a government that believes in Britain, believes in the British people and says we can make our own arrangements all over the world that suit us and we don't have to do it.

NICK CLEGG: I believe in jobs in this country…

NIGEL FARAGE: We have got to have a global future for Britain not one tied, shackled inside a European Union that is showing itself to be out of date and failing in every measure.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Farage, I wonder if I can show you some literature that is going to be sent out as part of your campaign for the forthcoming European Union election. The EU costs the UK 55 million pounds a day. This is a leaflet that will be going out later. Where do you get that figure from?

NIGEL FARAGE: That is just… To be fair, Nick, that is just our contribution. That is the beginning…

NICK FERRARI (LBC): You don't say that here.

NIGEL FARAGE: No. If you really add it all up the true cost of the membership of the European Union is many, many times that, because what we found…

NICK CLEGG: No.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): What about the rebates, Mister Farage?

NIGEL FARAGE: If I give you 20 pounds and you give me 10 back, I'm not better off am I? So we give them gross 55 million pounds a day, yes they give us money back, but they only give us money back to be spent on ways that they choose, not the ways that we choose. The true cost…

NICK FERRARI (LBC): It is a bit misleading, is it not Mr Farage?

NIGEL FARAGE: No, it is absolutely factual.

NICK CLEGG: Of course it is.

NIGEL FARAGE: That is our contribution. As I said at the start of this programme, our membership fee of the club is 55 million pounds a day.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): I have to put it for a third time…

NIGEL FARAGE: I have excluded the loss of our fishing, I've excluded the massive cost, the environmental cost frankly of building wind turbines that figure is a very, very low figure, the true cost of EU membership is many times that.

NICK CLEGG: May I make two observations? Just like this leaflet saying that 29 million Romanians and Bulgarians are going to turn up on your doorstep…

NIGEL FARAGE: You know I didn’t say that…

NICK CLEGG: This is once again a claim that simply is not true. If you actually count the rebate, if you count what British farmers, for instance, receive from the Common Agricultural Policy, it is less than half that figure, and if you then consider how we do, how we benefit from the jobs, from the trade that we get from being part of the world's largest economy, actually reliable estimates show it is worth up to 3,300 pounds per household. But the question for Nigel Farage is, if he cares so much about British money, why is it when this government negotiated a cut which he said was not possible, a cut in the EU budget saving 30 billion pounds, why was it that the UK independent party MEPs, didn't even bother to vote for it. So if you actually have a claim in Europe where you can bat for Britain, why do the UKIP MEPS again and again and again don't stand up for Britain?

NIGEL FARAGE: Isn't that amazing, that the Prime Minister, your partner, comes back from Brussels and says I have struck a great deal. It's a victory for Britain and I hope that British MEPs will support this. This victory for Britain meant that whilst the EU's overall budget didn't increase as much as expected, Britain's contribution would rise. If that's a victory in Europe, I would hate to see what a defeat looks like.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Let's move to another question. Clive Hyman. Mister Hyman, you are a property investment consultant. Mister Hyman. It concerns control of our own borders. What do you say to future victims of criminals whom we cannot deport because of our involvement with Europe, with the EU and the Human Rights Act?

NICK FERRARI (LBC): What would you say to future victims of crime whom we might not be able to deport because of the Human Rights Act? It falls to you, Mr Farage, for the opening minute.

NIGEL FARAGE: If I was a member of the Liberal Democrat or Conservative parties that had allowed this legislation to come on to the British statute book, then what I ought to be doing is I ought to be saying I am very sorry, because the one thing there are lots of things by the way we can learn from Europe and we are learning some of them. The food is getting better here and that's great. It's true. But one thing we cannot learn from the political union centred in Brussels is about a criminal justice system and the concepts of liberty and freedom, because, you know, since Magna Carta and the evolution and development of common law we have had the fairest and best judicial system in the world, and I'm afraid what the Human Rights Act has done is throw all of this up in the air and we finish up with a ridiculous situation where we can't deport an Italian Mafia boss back to Italy because under his human rights the jails there aren't up to an acceptable standard. It's time we got back to the principle of liberty and freedom and forgot about European human rights.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Nick Clegg.

NICK CLEGG: Clive, do you remember the man Hussein Osman, who wore a backpack with a bomb in it, went to the Shepherd's Bush tube station, wanted to blow up lots of people. Thankfully the backpack didn't go off, the bomb didn't go off, he fled to Italy. He was brought back here and he now is in jail for 40 years. Do you remember that teacher, Jeremy Forrest, a couple of years ago, who basically took that young girl to France, do you remember, and he was brought back within days and he is now in jail for 5 and a half years. I just mention those two examples, because I thought you might remember them. There were actually hundreds of other examples. They were all brought back to face British justice and are now in British prisons because we have European Union rules which we wouldn't have if we did what Nigel Farage and UKIP wanted, a European arrest warrant which allows us to take murderers, rapists, paedophiles and other people who want to do us harm and bring them back here to face British justice. If we pulled out of that, which is what Nigel Farage wants, we wouldn't have got Hussein Osman back, he wouldn't be in prison now and neither would Jeremy Forrest. Actually by cooperating with other European countries, since criminals cross borders, we must cross borders too to make our streets safe.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Clegg, thank you. A response to that two words, Abu Qatada. It took twelve years to get him out of the country.

NICK CLEGG: That has nothing to do with the European Union. We did eventually deport him.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): It was the European Convention of Human Rights.

NICK CLEGG: The European Convention of Human Rights that was actually drafted by the way after the last war by British lawyers. It is incorporated into British law. It is not the European Union. European member states are signatories to it but it is simply wrong to claim that somehow our streets would be safer again, don't believe my word or Nigel Farage's. One of the most senior police officers in this country, Sir Hugh Orde, Head of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said the European arrest warrant is in his words an essential weapon in the fight against organised crime. How on earth is it possible for UKIP to claim it is somehow patriotic to make our streets less safe?

NIGEL FARAGE: Alright, I’ll tell you, Nick.

NICK CLEGG: How on earth is it possible that you can claim that somehow you are standing up for Britain if you would not actually extradite and bring back hundreds of people to face British justice?

NIGEL FARAGE: This really gets to the heart, doesn't it, of the differences between us and, by the way, I don't agree with Nick. We signed our first extradition treaty in this country in 1174, 850 years ago. We currently have extradition treaties with 92 different countries all over the world. Yes, we have to cooperate on cross border crime. We do it through extradition treaties and we do it through organisations like Interpol, which we have been working in since 1923. All right. I of course want us to have sensible extradition laws, not just with the EU, but all over the world. The European arrest warrant is totally unnecessary, and can I say that for someone like Andrew Simiyu from North London to be dragged off without the production of any prima facie evidence, to be left to rot in a Greek hell hole for over a year without his rights of habeas corpus I think is an abomination and how you can call yourself a Liberal…

NICK CLEGG: This is fantasy, complete fantasy.

NIGEL FARAGE: How you can call yourself a Liberal and to support the destruction of all the great principles of British liberty by signing up to European law I do not know.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Clegg.

NICK CLEGG: Let's just leave the rhetoric aside for a minute and let's stick to the facts. Since just 2009, so just over the last few years, 149 murderers murderers have been extradited to or from the United Kingdom because of the European arrest warrant. 120 paedophiles who have done untold damage to innocent children have been extradited to and from the United Kingdom because of the European arrest warrant, and the police tell us it is an essential weapon in their job in keeping us safe. I believe the police more than I believe Nigel Farage. Let me give you one more example. Do you remember back in 2001 there were those plane spotters, the British and Dutch plane spotters. I chuckle now but it wasn't funny then. They got caught up in the Greek legal system. They ended up in Greek jail. They had no idea what was being told to them, they had no idea what charges were being brought against them, they had no legal assistance. The European Union has now passed new rules, new laws, which means that if any of you go on holiday elsewhere in the European Union and you find yourself on the wrong side of the law, you will get help with interpretation, you will get legal help, you will get assistance. Guess what UKIP did. They voted against all of those measures. Another example of the European Union keeping us safe and protecting our rights.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Nigel Farage.

NIGEL FARAGE: If you get arrested in Spain, Nick, if you get arrested in Spain for something you haven't done, you may be left up to 18 months in prison without even facing a charge. We have a system of common law in this country, we have had it for 800 years.

NICK CLEGG: Why did you vote against measures that help those tourists?

NIGEL FARAGE: It is based on the presumption of innocence before guilt, it is based on habeas corpus and common law…

NICK CLEGG: Why did you vote against?

NIGEL FARAGE: And we must defend the principles of liberty, freedom and justice.

NICK CLEGG: You defend, we should all defend…

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Clegg. I'm moderating this debate, thank you. Would you like to respond to a question that was put twice now…

NIGEL FARAGE: I've been in the European Parliament now for 15 years. They're getting a bit cheesed off with me over there, I've got to tell you. I have not voted in 15 years for one single piece of legislation that has added to the power base of the European Commission in Brussels, and I never, ever will I never, ever will.

NICK CLEGG: Even if it means British tourists who get caught up on the wrong side of the law when on holiday, they need translation, they need help, they need lawyers, they need assistance, why is it the UKIP dogma is so strong now you won't even help British tourists when they are on the wrong side of the law on holiday…

NIGEL FARAGE: I will tell you what the dogma is. The dogma is I believe the best people to govern Britain are the British people themselves, not the European Union.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Let's move on. I think it's the situation here. I don’t agree with Nick. While we are on people's rights, Nigel Farage, a clarification would be useful. What is your position on same sex marriage, which comes into effect this Saturday? A statement was put out by your Press Office which was subsequently withdrawn. Do you support it, yes or no?

NIGEL FARAGE: Not all the while. We are signed up to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and where we have the risk that our established church and possibly other faith communities could ultimately under discrimination laws be forced to conduct services that they find anathema. If we get rid of the ECHR and it doesn't have a dominant place over our society, we will look at it again.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Nick Clegg.

NICK CLEGG: Of course I support it. I was the first party leader who came out to support it, because I think when two individuals, regardless of their gender, love each other and want to show commitment towards each other, we should recognise that in law. I just find it extraordinary that UKIP's anti European is so great they won't actually provide loving couples in Britain with the right to marry, as they will be able to under British law from this weekend. And do you know what, for me, it is just unalloyed great news that love and commitment is now going to be recognised in marriage across the whole of the country, regardless of your gender. I think it is a wonderful step forward.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): All right, we move on. We move on to Christopher King, who is an IT consultant. Mister King. CHRISTOPHER KING, Why does Great Britain always adhere so strictly to EU laws when other countries seem to cherry pick which laws they are going to comply?

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister King, thank you. A nice booming voice as well. Nick Clegg, it falls to you first, your minute.

NICK CLEGG: Actually we are roughly middle of the pack. There are some other European countries, Christopher, that are better at kind of, you know, abiding by the rules, there are some that are worse. Look, you need a, in a big marketplace like this I don't know what your business is, Christopher, but lots of people as you know are in businesses in this country where they export to the rest of the European Union. You need some basic rules. It actually helps businesses not to have 28 different rules when you are selling your products to different parts of the European Union. That's why you need to have those rules, to make sure that selling to 500 million consumers on our European doorstep in this largest economy in the world is done in a way where people don't fiddle the rules. That is why you have a court, that is why you have rules. That is why they generally speaking should of course be obeyed, and it is exactly the same of course in Britain too. You will hear from Nigel Farage 75%, no, actually the House of Commons has shown that roughly 7% of all new laws are related to the European Union, but they do need to be there, that 7 percent, in order to make sure that you, or indeed anybody else who is exporting into the rest of the European Union, can do so without fear that the rules are somehow going to work against you.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Thank you, Mister Clegg. Nigel Farage?

NIGEL FARAGE: Oh dear, oh dear.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): You've used some seconds up. I would hurry up if I were you.

NIGEL FARAGE: 7%? What are you on about? We had one of your friends from Brussels, Commissioner Vivian Reading in London the other week, saying we must all sign up to the United States of Europe and we must recognise the importance of Brussels because after all it makes 70 percent of our laws. Even Gordon Brown said over half our laws are made in Brussels. In Germany the former President conducted a review and concluded that 84% of their Federal laws were conducted in Brussels, and you put this pretence out to people, many in this room are running businesses who know that all the regulations that affect their business are made in Brussels. We obey the rules, sir, because we believe in the Anglo Saxon rule of law. It's our culture. Actually, most of the rest of northern Europe obey the rules too, but in the south they have a completely different attitude, which just goes to show what a tragedy it is that the Mediterranean were signed up to Nick's beloved Euro and that tens of millions of people have now been forced into poverty. I want a Europe where we trade together, cooperate together, but a Europe of sovereign free states, not a political union based in Brussels run by an unelected bureaucrat.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Nigel Farage, where do you get the 75 percent of laws figure from?

NIGEL FARAGE: Well, that's the estimate we made. We have asked people to count. If I went with the German figure I would have gone higher. I mean, whichever way it is, Nick, the one thing I thought everybody was agreed on was that one of the reasons we are having this debate and that Nick challenged me to this debate is that the European question, whether you agree with it or not, is of fundamental importance, and I have not met anybody serious who said that less than half of our laws were now made in Brussels.

NICK CLEGG: Can I tell you someone who is serious? It is the House of Commons library, and I suspect the House of Commons library…

NIGEL FARAGE: Ah…

NICK CLEGG: Is going to know better than Nigel Farage or indeed the German President, or anybody else, how many laws in the House of Commons, which is where laws are transposed onto the statute book, how many of them are generated here in Britain, how many of them are generated in the European Union. Their estimate is 70 percent, not 75 percent. What we have heard this evening on jobs, on immigration, on investment and now on EU laws, again and again are the wrong facts. Now, let's disagree, fine, but I really do think that we owe it to you, we owe it to everybody, to make sure these debates on a very important issue is at least based on fact and the House of Commons library has been unambiguous and said it is 7 percent, not 75%, and I believe them.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): We must move on. This is the LBC Leaders' Debate, Nick Clegg vs Nigel Farage on the European Union. You are listening on LBC, watching on LBC.co.uk. You can take part in the reaction using hashtag LBC debate. To another email question from LBC listener, Beth Porter. You talk about trust. My husband is a fireman. You want me to trust you over Europe. How can I believe your plausibility and integrity when, Nigel Farage, you put your wife on your payroll, Nick Clegg you lied about tuition fees. It falls to Nick Clegg to go first.

NICK CLEGG: Of course I accept that trust is a rare commodity in politics these days. It is one of the reasons why, in the earlier discussion we had about the referendum, it has now been taken out of the hands of politicians like Nigel Farage and myself, it is now in law that there is this guarantee that there should be a referendum, but at the end of the day it is not really what this politician or that politician says, or this political party or that political party. It is do you believe in your gut that in this world where there are so many things that we simply can't do on our own anymore, we can't go after criminals who cross borders without working with others, we can't deal with climate change without working with others, and it makes sense for us to have the clout of being in the world's largest economy. Doesn't it make sense to keep those jobs, to retain that clout and to catch those criminals rather than put all that at risk?

NICK FERRARI (LBC): We have moved a little way perhaps from individual matters, Mister Clegg, but I note your answer, thank you. There is also speaking to your, what did she say, integrity, I think, and plausibility. You are paying your wife?

NIGEL FARAGE: Well, you know, I do actually lead a group in the European Parliament and a national political party. I never publicly said I wouldn't, no.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Others in UKIP said…

NIGEL FARAGE: I very much doubt that anybody else in British politics has worked the hours and had so little fun as me over the course of the last few years.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): I’m very sorry to hear that. I don’t see how paying your wife makes up for that.

NIGEL FARAGE: Well, Nick, when you get home at midnight, if you are lucky, you need someone there to actually say I've done this, I've done that, here are the documents for tomorrow, and without having unpaid assistance from my wife for seven years, and paying her in a very modest way for five years, I couldn't have done it.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Do you enjoy what you do?

NIGEL FARAGE: Yes, I do, because I think that I mean, I was in business for 20 years. I got into politics because I felt that the career, the political class in Westminster had given away my birthright, our ability to govern our own country, and I'm on a mission to get that back and I think those messages are getting through, so yes, I love it.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Nick Clegg, we talked a little bit about the promise you made as a younger man back in 2008. We talked about tuition fees. This is a hurdle you have to cross, isn't it?

NICK CLEGG: No, look, I totally accept that when you are dealing with something as important as whether we stay in or out of the European Union it shouldn't be just up to people to hear what politicians have to say. People should be given access to the facts, because I think so many of the facts have been distorted for so long. Many people feel that they just hear lots of polemic, lots of rhetoric, they want to know what the facts are, they want to know what the facts are about the number of jobs that are at stake, how we catch criminals, how we protect ourselves from climate change, and I just think at the end of the day it comes down to whether you believe that the world has changed such that you can actually do more by working with other countries, or whether you achieve more, and I don't think we could, by simply becoming isolated and turning our back on the rest of the world.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Okay. What I want to do gentlemen, I am going to ask you for about 45 second answers and I'm going to have to be quite brief on this. This is the final LBC listener email from Paulina Polileva, Why are countries such as Ukraine so keen to develop closer ties with the EU while in the UK there is a debate about doing the opposite. We have to be fairly brutal on time. I will come to you first. Mister Clegg.

NICK CLEGG: Paulina makes a very important point. It is very moving to see those people demonstrating for their freedom, demonstrating for their rights, some of them dying for it in Kiev. What we have seen in the European Union, despite its flaws, and yes it needs to be reformed, is you've seen a number of countries that were under the Communist yoke in central and eastern Europe becoming democracies because they have become part of the family of nations within the European Union, we have seen a number of dictatorships in the south of Europe that have become part of the European Union and have become democracies having been Fascist dictatorships, and that, I think, is one of the things we can be proud of, because it was the British government that pioneered the enlargement of the European Union so we would have more peace, more democracy and more rule of law in our European neck of the woods.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Clegg, thank you for being so brief. You must respond as well, Nigel Farage.

NIGEL FARAGE: The British government has actually geed up the European Union to pursue effectively an imperialist, expansionist and even Mister Barroso, the Commission President once himself said that we are building an empire. We have given a false series of hopes to a group of people in the western Ukraine, so geed up were they that they actually toppled their own elected leader. That provoked Mr Putin, and I think the European Union frankly does have blood on its hands in the Ukraine and I don't want a European army, Navy, Air Force or European foreign policy. It has not been a thing for good in the Ukraine.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): We come to our closing statements. Again, it falls to Nick Clegg to go first. It has to be a tight minute, Deputy Prime Minister. Please start.

NICK CLEGG: You know what is at stake here, British jobs, safety, our economic recovery, our place in the world, so don't be fooled, because quitting Europe would put all of that at risk all of it and it would also turn it into a country that we don't want to be, closed and narrow, isolated. I want us to be Great Britain, not Little England, and if you feel the same then now is the time to make your voice heard, because Labour and the Conservatives are going to do nothing nothing to stop us heading the towards the exit. So if you believe as I do, even if you haven't voted for the Liberal Democrats before, but even if you believe we are better off in, then at least on this occasion, on May 22nd in the European elections, I hope you will give us your support. Thank you.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Mister Clegg, thank you. A minute for you, Nigel Farage.

NIGEL FARAGE: Nick Clegg did not answer the question that I repeatedly asked him tonight, Namely, is it true that we have a total open door to 485 million people from Europe, many of them from poor countries? He wouldn't answer that. The answer is yes, we have a total open door, and that is the issue I think that has woken people up, that by being a member of the European Union, we have lost the ability to govern our country and to control our borders. Now, Nick represents a tired status quo, defending a model that maybe 40 years ago looked like a good idea, but leaves us totally unfit to compete in a twenty first century global economy. Trade with Europe, co operation with Europe, friendship with Europe, but I am British and I believe the best people to govern Britain are the British people themselves, and I believe that by divorcing ourselves from this failed project, not only will we free Britain, we will provide a good example for much of the rest of Europe too. I think the majority of people are now on our side. They believe we must get our country back. We are going to fight damned hard in the next few weeks and put that choice on the ballot paper for you on May 22nd.

NICK FERRARI (LBC): Nigel Farage, thank you for that. That is all we have time for, I'm sorry. Hopefully you might know know whether you are in, you are out, or perhaps just a little shaken all about. So who won? The verdict follows immediately on LBC with continuous coverage from Ian Dale in the spin room, and remember, Nick Clegg is with me tomorrow morning at 9 on the LBC Breakfast Show for Call Clegg. Nigel Farage joins me the day after on Friday. Many thanks to you for listening and watching, to our studio audience and questioners, and of course to Nick Clegg and Nigel Farage for taking part in this Leaders' Debate. Good night.