

Brexit battle reaches Britain's central bank

Form Euro News – 歐洲觀點

<中文摘要>

英格蘭銀行總裁馬克卡尼，認為離歐會重擊英國經濟。以下為馬克卡尼的談話重點：

- 英格蘭銀行(BoE)無法評估公投對經濟造成的長期影響。但短期上，英鎊可能貶值，國外投資也會減少。
- 因為不確定因素增加，所以政府會很多決策會收手，間接影響投資程度和家庭消費。但從另一個觀點來看，英鎊貶值會讓消費者物價增加，加速通縮(這是英國政府所期待的)。
- 離歐對英國金融產業的影響：**如果英國不能保證在離歐之後，還可以跟歐盟市場保持暢通，很多大的金融公司將會出走。**
- 如果留歐，未來歐盟更大更完整的整合，對英國將會一項風險。
- 保守黨成員 Jacob Rees-Mogg，認為馬克卡尼這翻對歐盟有利的言論是有失尊嚴。
- 筆記：消費者物價(Consumer prices)是用來觀察通貨膨脹水平的指標。

<原文>

Bank of England Governor [Mark Carney](#) has been appearing before eurosceptic UK lawmakers, defending his view that Britain leaving the [European Union](#) could hit the country's economy.

Carney said the BoE would not assess the long-term implications of the referendum for the economy. But a vote for [Brexit](#) would deliver a short-term hit to growth and the value of the pound, and foreign investment would probably also diminish.

On inflation – [which is way below the Bank's target](#) – Carney said consumer prices could be affected in various ways: "There can be short term implications for activity in the [United Kingdom](#) and therefore more pressures on prices. There could be lower levels of activity because of the degree of uncertainty that could affect investment and household spending."

On the other hand, he said, a weaker pound could push up prices and therefore inflation.

Asked about the implications of an exit for [Britain's huge banking industry](#), Carney said some big financial firms might move business out of Britain if the country did not secure the same kind of access it currently has to the EU. That kind of negotiation could take “a very long time”, he added.

Carney is trying to tread a fine line of giving the Bank's opinion on what might happen but without being seen as backing one side or the other.

To that end, Carney said there were risks from remaining inside the EU due to the greater integration planned by the 19-member eurozone.

But he also praised [a deal struck by British Prime Minister David Cameron](#) last month that set out the terms of Britain's membership of the EU, saying it would help the BoE do its job.

Supporters of Britain leaving the European Union have accused him of overstated the positives of staying in.

[Jacob Rees-Mogg](#), a member of the ruling Conservative Party, said on Tuesday it was “beneath the dignity” of the BoE to make “speculative” comments about the benefits of EU membership and that Carney was damaging the BoE's reputation.