

Business and Brexit - not as simple as it seems

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中文摘要：

1. 根據 BBC 民調：很多企業贊成留歐，也有企業想要離歐。但是，留歐的企業比較式微了。
2. 有一個投資公司內部舉行投票。去年贊成留歐和離歐分別是 80:20，今年則是 60:40。
3. John Longworth(BBC 最高執行長)認為英國離歐的前景會比較好，因為歐盟不會改革的。
4. Sajid Javid(英國財政部經濟秘書)認為要求歐盟改革，然後英國留歐會比較好。因為離歐可能會造成很多英國人民會失去工作，英國經濟成長也會有問題。
5. 本文作者認為，BBC 的民調對象都是比較小型的公司，很多根本沒有出口產品到別的國家。根據很多其他的民調顯示，英國企業大多贊成留在歐盟的。而且，很多企業主明確主張，留在歐盟對英國的經濟式比較有幫助的。

It may be anecdotal, but businesses I have spoken to this morning suggest the leave EU campaign has had a reasonable start.

One theme is emerging from today's British Chambers of Commerce annual conference.

Yes, many businesses support remaining in the European Union.

But many also say the "leave" campaign has had a good start.

And opposition to Brexit might be softening.

One executive of a significant investment fund I spoke to this morning said that it was polling its leadership network to see if the tone towards the EU was changing.

Last year, this group of people, numbering several hundred senior business figures who deal with entrepreneurs and medium sized, fast growing businesses, split 80-20 in favour of staying in the EU.

Now, early polling returns suggest that the split is 60-40, the fund executive said.

John Longworth, the director general of the BCC, has gone as far as he feels able on whether Britain should remain in the EU.

The BCC has said it will not campaign for either side as its membership is split.

But Mr Longworth said this morning that in his personal opinion, Britain's long term economic future could be "brighter" outside the EU.

The EU cannot reform, he argued.

Many will see his words as confirmation that Mr Longworth, who leads an organisation representing thousands of businesses, is an "outer".

There was not a lot more warmth from Sajid Javid, the business secretary, who does support Britain remaining in the EU.

He admitted he was still a "Brussels basher" and that in his heart he was a eurosceptic.

But his head told him that "uncertainty is the enemy of jobs and growth". So, better to stay in a reformed EU.

The BCC tends to represent smaller businesses which are on the whole more sceptical about the EU.

Many do not export at all, or to other parts of the world.

Of course, most polls suggest that businesses as a group, large and small, back remaining in.

And many of the UK's largest employers have made it clear they believe a future in the EU is the best for the British economy

But the mood, among some at least, could be changing.