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After days of speculation, Boris Johnson announced yesterday that he will be 'advocating Vote Leave ... because I want a better deal' **EPA**

# Out for himself

- Boris Johnson confirms he will back Brexit – putting him in line for No 10 if UK votes to leave
- Downing Street fears up to 150 Tory MPs could defy PM by campaigning against his EU deal

**OLIVER WRIGHT**  
POLITICAL EDITOR



Boris Johnson has gambled his long-standing ambition to become Britain's next prime minister on winning the referendum to pull the

country out of the European Union by becoming the most significant Tory to declare in favour of Brexit.

The London Mayor said yesterday that after a "huge amount of heartache" he had made the "agonisingly difficult" decision to go against David Cameron and "advocate

Vote Leave". But significantly he seemed to suggest that a "leave" vote might not necessarily be final and could instead result in a "new relationship" between the UK and rest of Europe based upon "trade and co-operation".

"There is only one way to get the change we need – and that

is to vote to go; because all EU history shows that they only really listen to a population when it says no," he said. "I would like to be in a reformed EU and that's my hope, an EU that's based on fundamental treaty change."

Mr Johnson's decision makes him the natural leader

of the "leave" campaign and the front-runner to become prime minister should be the country vote Out in June's referendum.

While Mr Cameron has insisted he would stay on whatever the result, most

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