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Fundamental Reform or Brexit? As David Cameron prepares to set out his stall in Brussels this week, senior Conservative MPs say what must change in our relationship with the EU.

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As the prime minister prepares to set out his goals for renegotiation at a Brussels summit, he may find an agenda there quite different from that wanted by people at home. Here, three senior MPs explain what is needed in Politeia's publication, [The UK and the EU: What must change?](#)

In particular the UK parliament must once again decide on the vital matters which affect national life. The UK courts must once again become the ultimate arbiter of matters such as UK human rights law.

As the authors **Sir Bill Cash MP**, **Bernard Jenkin MP** and **Rt Hon John Redwood** explain, the prime minister has indeed made clear he wants 'to reform the EU and to change our relationship with it fundamentally'. They commend his promise that a Conservative Government will negotiate for the return of powers to the UK on vital matters of national policy (the 'three guarantees'). They support his ambition:

'to build a European Union that is more competitive, more flexible and more accountable to the people, where powers flow back to member states, not just away from them, and where freedom of movement is no longer an unqualified right.

The authors explain:

'This means setting out the legal and constitutional basis for the new relationship based on trade and co-operation'.

'Rather than a limited opting out of certain things or repatriating certain powers, the UK must have the legal and constitutional means to limit EU legislation and the activities of the ECJ to areas defined by UK statute. Anything else (e.g. immigration issues, or welfare, or employment and trade union law, defence, foreign policy) **should be explicitly confined to bilateral or multilateral agreements as between sovereign states** (i.e. 'co-operation'). **This ... means opting out of all the rest of the Treaty architecture and the *acquis*.**'

If the prime minister's renegotiation does not achieve fundamental change, the authors argue that Britain should leave the EU. As they explain,

'Our trade is not at risk ... Our jobs are not at risk. On the contrary, out of the EU the UK can trade more successfully with the rest of the world, get on with concluding better trade deals with the rest of the world, and can make its own decisions on business costs and regulations.'

They conclude by warning that more important still, the future of our tradition of parliamentary government and the freedoms it ensures is at risk. The authors conclude with a warning:

'At stake is much more than the issue of the market. At stake is whether we will live in a democratic country in future or not. We want the British people to be sovereign again. If they want to change policy, laws, taxes or spending, their will expressed in a General Election or in polls and lobbying should prevail....That is why we need to change our relationship and restore our rights of self government.'

Authors

Sir Bill Cash MP was MP for Stafford (1984-1997) and since then MP for Stone. He served as Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee (2010-2015) and Shadow Attorney General (2001-03).

Bernard Jenkin MP has been the MP for Harwich and North Essex since 1992. He has served as Shadow Secretary of State for Defence and in the Chair-elect of the Public Administration Select Committee.

Rt Hon John Redwood MP has been the MP for Wokingham since 1987. He has held ministerial position in previous governments at the Departments of Trade and Industry and Local Government and served as Secretary of State for Wales.

[The UK and the EU: What Must Change?](#) is published by Politeia, 33 Catherine Place, London, SW1E 6DY.

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