

An introduction to the implications of



Professor Ed Hill, NOC

Impacts for staff

If Britain leaves the EU, what will happen to the EU citizens living here?



“We remain fully open to scientists and researchers from across the EU. We hugely value the contribution of EU and international staff. And there are no immediate changes to their rights to live and work in the UK.” Jo Johnson MP 30 June 2016

Researchers, scientists, students

“We will continue to attract the brightest and the best to work or study in Britain – indeed openness to international talent must remain one of this country’s most distinctive assets” – Theresa May, Prime Minister, in her speech on the UK’s objectives for EU exit, January 2017.

Government’s response to the House of Lords S & T Committee reports on UK Science after the Referendum: *“Our research community is enriched by the best minds from Europe and around the world. Securing the status of, and providing certainty to, EU nationals already in the UK and to UK nationals in the EU is one of this Government’s early priorities for the forthcoming negotiations.”*

February 2017

Impacts on funding

UK and EU flow of funds 2007-2013 (€bn)



The UK pays in considerably more to the EU than it gets back. However, the British scientific community benefits from the EU (figures in blue).

Funding - Horizon 2020

August 2016 – Treasury agrees to underwrite funding for approved Horizon 2020 projects applied for, before UK leaves the EU.



HORIZON 2020

In Autumn Statement, Government committed an extra £2 billion a year by 2020/21. This is in addition to previous decisions to protect science funding with a total investment of £26 billion from 2016/17 to 2020/21.

Funding - beyond Horizon 2020

Status for UK participation in next Framework programme unknown – could include UK matching funding or negotiated access via associated country status.

Other European (non-EU) mechanisms for strategic partnerships and joint funding of research on case by case basis may become more 'interesting' - such as the Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs).

JPIs already addressing topics of interest to the UK marine science community e.g environmental impacts of deep sea mining, micro-plastics, ocean-climate nexus/marine and maritime technologies.

Impacts on environmental policy

'It is my ambition and it's my department's vision to be the first generation to leave our environment better than we found it since the industrial revolution.'

Environment Secretary Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom
September 2016

UK and European Policy



UK legal and policy framework includes:

UNCLOS

Conventions of the IMO

Oslo and Paris Convention

World Summit on Sustainable Development

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

European Policy

Water Framework Directive
Marine Strategy Framework
Directive

Wild Birds and Habitats Directives
Bathing Water Directive
Common Fisheries Policy

Marine Spatial Planning – to
support sustainable development

INSIDE SINGLE MARKET	OUTSIDE SINGLE MARKET
<p>UK no longer subject to:</p> <p>Bathing Waters Directive Birds and Habitats Directives Maritime Spatial Planning Directive</p>	<p>UK no longer subject to:</p> <p>Bathing Waters Directive Birds and Habitats Directives Maritime Spatial Planning Directive</p>
<p>Common Fisheries Policy would no longer apply</p>	<p>Common Fisheries Policy would no longer apply</p>
<p>Remain subject to OSPAR, IMO and UNCLOS</p>	<p>Remain subject to OSPAR, IMO and UNCLOS</p>
<p>Access to many EU funding programmes relevant to marine could continue (e.g. Horizon 2020) but no access to EU LIFE funding</p>	<p>Access to EU funding programmes unlikely</p>
<p>Still comply with EU water legislation</p>	<p>No longer subject to Water Framework Directive</p>
<p>Uncertainty about MSFD</p>	<p>No longer subject to MSFD</p>

The 'Great Repeal Bill'

(or possibly the European Union Bill) will ...

...repeal the European Communities Act 1972 which provides legal authority for EU law to have effect as national law in the UK

...transfer EU laws currently in force onto the UK statute book

...be introduced during the next Queen's speech and parliamentary session in May or June 2017



Image: iStock

Recommendations by Environmental Audit Committee (2017):

- Legislate for new Environmental Protection Act (EPA)
- The 25 year plans for Natural Environment and Food, Farming and Fisheries to form basis of new EPA
- Negotiate to address impact of international issues
- Identify legislation which may be difficult to transpose
- Defra to ensure plans for post-EU environmental coordination between the countries of the UK is sufficient to ensure funding is allocated fairly and transparently, with shared strategic objectives complemented by minimum environmental standards, so that the UK can continue to meet its international obligations.
- Overseas Territories to receive sufficient funding and support to meet their international obligations.

Science and Technology Select Committee: A time for boldness: EU membership and UK science after the referendum (December 2016)

Build on existing mechanisms e.g. Global Challenges Fund

UKRI to search the world for outstanding scientific leaders

Government to consult scientific community to host at least one new international research facility

Recommendation to compensate for any reduction of funding from the EU

Assess need for CSA in Department for International Trade

Explore collaborations and shared protocols in the scientific domain with Governments and funding agencies in major scientific nations, particularly where existing relationships are already strong. The UK-US axis on science stands out as an opportunity worth exploring.



The UK will continue to have a shared vision for '*clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas*' as set out in the UK marine science strategy.

References

Hull, S (2016) *Brexit: Implications for the future of UK's Marine Environment*, ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd: <http://www.masts.ac.uk/media/36106/white-paper-brexit-implications-for-marine-environment.pdf>

Hull, S (2016) *A Brexit Blueprint for Sustainable Seas* ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd. <http://www.abpmer.co.uk/media/1590/white-paper-brexit-blueprint-for-sustainable-seas.pdf>

House of Commons (2017) *The Future of the Natural Environment after the EU Referendum* Environmental Audit Committee [on-line]
<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvaud/599/599.pdf>

Brexit Explained: the Great Repeal Bill: <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/brexit-explained/brexit-explained-great-repeal-bill> [23.3.2017]

House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee (2016) *A time for boldness: EU membership and UK science after the referendum* [on-line]
<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201617/ldselect/ldsctech/85/85.pdf>

Government Response to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee reports: “A Time For Boldness: EU Membership and UK Science after the referendum” and “EU Membership and UK Science” (2017) <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/science-technology/EU-membership-follow-up/HMG-response-EU-Membership-and-follow-up-report.pdf>