- ✓ A stronger economy at home
- ✓ Renewed respect abroad
- ✓ Real change in Europe

Conservative party European Election Manifesto 2014

Conservatives

Real change we have delivered:

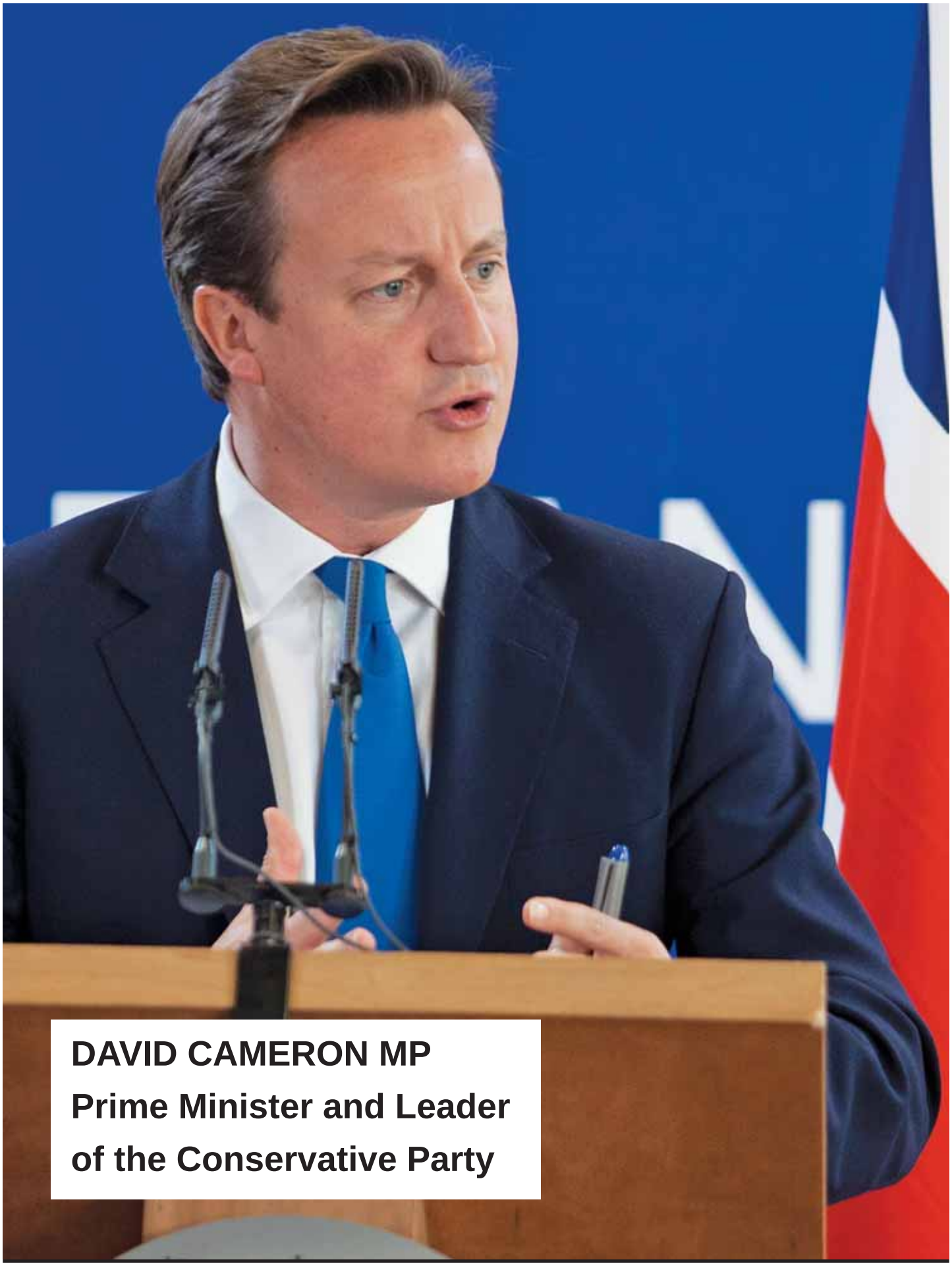
- ✓ **The first-ever EU budget cut, saving British taxpayers £8.15 billion**
- ✓ **Taken Britain out of Eurozone bail-outs**
- ✓ **Vetoed a treaty that would have damaged Britain's interests**
- ✓ **Reduced red tape for British business**
- ✓ **Taken action to fix our immigration system and limit migrants' access to benefits**

Real change we will deliver:

- An in-out referendum on Britain's membership of the EU
- More powers back to Britain
- A better deal for British taxpayers
- Continued control of our borders and a crackdown on benefit tourism
- More control of justice and home affairs
- More trade and continued economic independence – by saying no to the Euro and 'ever closer union'

A stronger economy at home,
Renewed respect abroad,
Real change in Europe.

Only with the Conservatives



DAVID CAMERON MP
Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party

For real change in europe, vote conservative

We have a very clear message in these European elections: if you want real change in Europe, vote Conservative.

The Conservatives are the only party with a track record of delivering change in Europe – and the only party that can and will hold an in-out referendum on Britain's membership of the EU.

Europe needs real change

Many people in Britain – including me – feel strongly that the European Union must change.

I hear time and again from people about their frustrations with the EU: it is too bureaucratic and too undemocratic. It interferes too much in our daily lives, and the scale of EU migration triggered by new members joining in recent years has had a huge impact on local communities.

For young people who need it to generate more jobs, for communities facing pressures on public services and housing, and for businesses struggling with red tape, the need for real change in Europe is urgent.

I completely understand and share these concerns. So do many across Europe. We know that if we are to succeed in an intensely competitive world, where countries in the South and East are steadily growing in economic power, the EU must become much more competitive, or at least not prevent Britain from becoming more competitive. It is not ‘ever closer union’ and ever more red tape we need, but ever more ways of creating new businesses, trading and doing deals.

Ultimately, reform of the EU is not about new agreements and communiqués, but new jobs and new opportunities – new hope. It's about more young people knowing the purpose and pride of going out to work in the morning and getting on in life.

To regain people's trust, the EU must demonstrably help people prosper.

Our long-term economic plan

Changing Europe in this way is vital to Britain's long-term economic plan. The Government I lead is implementing a clear plan to turn our economy around and give all our people the best chance of success. It is a plan to create more jobs, give more hope to young people and to give families across Britain more financial security and peace of mind.

Already the plan is working. Our deficit is down, our economy is growing, 1.3 million more people are in work – that is 1.3 million people who go to sleep at night with the peace of mind of a regular wage. We are one of the fastest growing economies in Europe.

But we want to go further, create more jobs and more opportunities – and there is no doubt that a reformed European Union can help us with that. The EU's own market is the biggest and wealthiest on the planet. We have 500 million consumers on our doorstep. The EU is currently trying to open up trade with North America and Asia – promising more wealth and more work here in the UK. The prizes are huge, if only the EU is dynamic and flexible enough to go for them.

And now that we have a stronger economy at home, we have renewed respect abroad – to fight for real change in Europe.

A record of delivering change

We know the changes we are seeking. And unlike any other party standing in these elections, we don't just talk about "real change" – we have delivered it.

I vetoed a treaty that was not in Britain's interests. We cut the EU budget for the first time in its history, saving British taxpayers billions of pounds. Where Labour weakly signed us up for Eurozone bail-outs, we got Britain out. We stood up to Europe on a financial transactions tax that would have hurt our economy. We protected our rebate – whereas Labour gave £7 billion away.

None of these things were inevitable. They happened because Conservatives in Europe fight hard for Britain's interests. And that is exactly what we will keep on doing in the months and years to come.

Only Conservatives will deliver an in-out referendum

The EU now plays a major role in all our lives. That role has changed dramatically since the 1975 referendum on our membership of what was then just the Common Market, the last time the British people were given a say. It is a fundamental principle for me that membership of the European Union depends on the consent of the sovereign British people – and in recent years that has worn wafer-thin.

That's why, if I am Prime Minister after the election, I will negotiate a new settlement for Britain in Europe, and then ask the British people: do you wish to stay in the EU on this basis, or leave? I will hold that in-out referendum before the end of 2017, and respect the decision.

In contrast, Labour and the Liberal Democrats won't stand up for Britain and they refuse to give people a choice in a referendum. UKIP offer no serious plan and simply can't deliver on anything they promise.

So the choice at these elections is clear: Labour and the Liberal Democrats won't give people a say. UKIP can't give people a say.

Only the Conservatives can deliver real change in Europe – and only the Conservatives can and will deliver that in-out referendum.

DAVID CAMERON MP
Prime Minister and Leader
of the Conservative Party

Conservative Priorities for Europe

Here are some of the key changes we will fight for:

- **Powers flowing away from Brussels, not to it, and cutting the cost of EU administration.**
- **National parliaments able to work together to block unwanted European legislation.**
- **Businesses liberated from red tape and benefiting from the strength of the EU's own market – the biggest and wealthiest on the planet – to open up greater free trade with North America and Asia.**

- **Our police forces and justice systems able to protect British citizens, unencumbered by unnecessary interference from the European institutions, including the European Court of Human Rights.**

- **Free movement to take up work, not a freedom to move just for more generous benefits.**

- **Support for the continued enlargement of the EU to new members, but with new mechanisms in place to prevent vast migrations across the continent.**

- **End our commitment to an 'ever closer union,' as enshrined in the Treaty, to which every EU country has to sign up. It may appeal to some countries. But it is not right for Britain, and we must ensure we are no longer subject to it.**

In other words, yes to the Single Market. Yes to turbo-charging free trade. Yes to working together where we are stronger together than alone, as we are doing today on Ukraine. Yes to a family of nations, all part of a European Union – but whose interests, crucially, are guaranteed whether inside the Euro or out.

No to ‘ever closer union’. No to a constant flow of power to Brussels. No to unnecessary interference. And no, of course, to the Euro, to participation in Eurozone bail-outs or notions like a European Army.

Crucially, the British people will have a clear choice: to remain in the European Union or to leave it. Sovereignty must remain with the British people through our own democratic institutions.

The more Conservative MEPs elected in May, the harder we will be able to campaign for – and deliver – our plan for change.

SYED KAMALL MEP
Leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament

Foreword from the Leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament

The British people want a better deal in the European Union and they want the right to decide whether to stay in the EU or leave altogether. Our Prime Minister, David Cameron, has made that clear, and set out a plan to make it happen. It is a plan that Conservative MEPs will do everything they can to deliver.

We have to face facts. Because of the Treaties Labour signed when they were in Government – Amsterdam, Nice and Lisbon – the European Parliament today has real power. It now jointly makes most EU laws with the governments of the 28 countries that are members of the EU. The Conservatives are the only party with a plan, who will turn up and fight for Britain's interests.

Conservatives have a track record that proves we can deliver for Britain. People said we could never cut the EU budget, but we did. People said that we would never get out of bailing out Eurozone countries, but we did. People said the EU could never change, that we were stuck with the disastrous Common Fisheries Policy and its shameful practice of discarding perfectly edible fish, but we reformed it.

Our reforms are opening up huge new opportunities for British business. We have been at the forefront of the effort to conclude free trade deals with South Korea, Canada and Singapore, and are working towards deals with India, Japan and the United States. We have led a programme to cut EU red tape and meddling in people's lives.

So the people you elect on 22nd May will make a difference.

If you want more EU red tape, more interference from Brussels, a bigger EU budget and no referendum – vote Labour. They are the ones who signed away power after power to the EU and refused to give the British people a vote, and they are the ones who opened the door for uncontrolled migration.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats oppose our plan, won't stand up for Britain and refuse to give the British people a say.

UKIP MEPs are happy to take the salary and the expenses, but they won't turn up to vote to defend Britain's interests. Conservatives have a plan: reform of the way the European Union works, renegotiation to bring powers back to Britain and then a historic referendum in which the British people have their say for the first time since 1975. I am asking for your vote so we can put this plan into action.

Britain needs people on the ground fighting our corner in Brussels. David Cameron has set out a clear plan, and has behind him a strong team of people who will work to deliver it. If you want real change in Europe, MEPs who stand up for Britain's interests, and the right to decide on Britain's future in Europe in a referendum – vote Conservative.

Syed Kamall MEP
Leader of the Conservatives
in the European Parliament

Real change: delivering an in-out referendum on Britain's membership of the EU and a new settlement in Europe

The British people now have a very clear choice: if you want a referendum on whether Britain should stay in the EU or leave, only the Conservative Party can and will hold one. Labour and the Liberal Democrats don't want change and refuse to give people a say, while UKIP simply cannot deliver.

We have a track record of real change and delivery in Europe that no previous Government has matched. We cut the budget, reducing the cost of Europe to British taxpayers. We vetoed a treaty that was not in our national interest. We withdrew British taxpayers from obligations to bail out the Euro.

Conservatives now want to go even further by negotiating a better relationship with the EU. If we win the next general election, we will give the British people an in-out referendum on Europe by the end of 2017.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats want to deny the British people their right to a referendum, while UKIP don’t have the power to deliver one. It is only the Conservatives who can deliver real change.

What we have delivered:

- ✓ We are the only one of the three main parties to have committed formally to holding an in-out referendum in the next Parliament.
- ✓ We have cut the EU budget for the first time, while protecting Britain's rebate, saving British taxpayers £8.15 billion.
- ✓ We stopped British involvement in Eurozone bailouts, thus securing the first ever return of power from Brussels.
- ✓ We vetoed a treaty that wasn't in Britain's interests.
- ✓ We ensured that key decisions on banking union require Britain's consent, protecting our position in the single market and maintaining the competitiveness of our world-leading financial services industry.

- ✓ Britain has taken the lead in exercising ‘yellow card’ powers, which bring back democratic accountability over EU decisions by enabling national parliaments to force the European Commission to reconsider proposed new EU laws.

- ✓ As pledged, the Conservative Party formed a new group in the European Parliament – the European Conservatives and Reformists – this means that for the first time the European Parliament now has a mainstream group dedicated to a Europe of nation states, not a federal Europe.

What we will do:

- Hold an in-out referendum on Britain's EU membership by the end of 2017, the first time the British people will have had a say since 1975.

- End Britain's commitment to 'ever closer union.' It is a political project that is not right for Britain, and we must ensure we are no longer part of it.

- Make decisions for ourselves, working with our European partners where it makes sense to do so and support the establishment of a new principle in the EU: 'Europe if necessary, national when possible.'

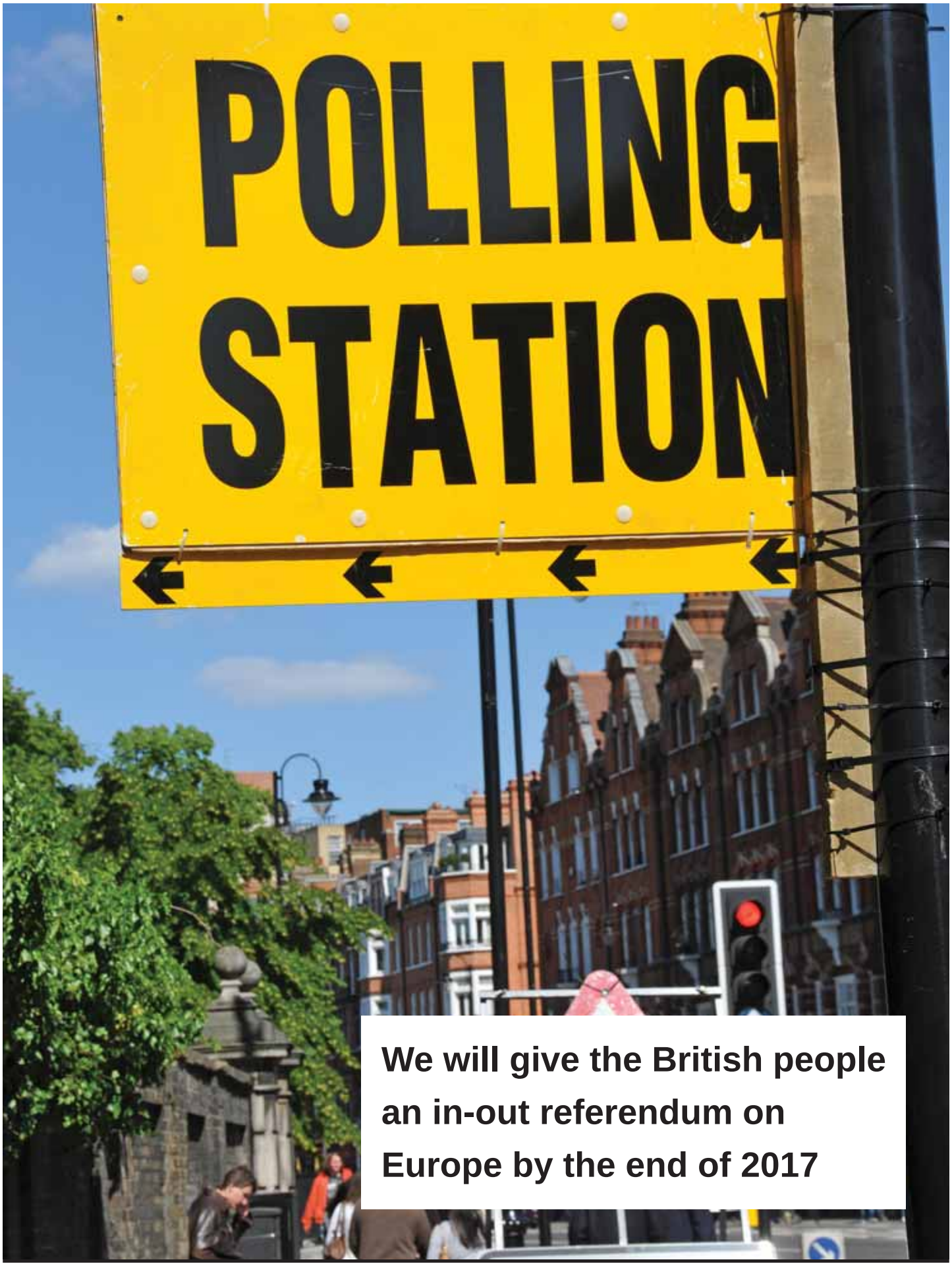
- Ensure a bigger role for national governments in setting the EU's agenda.

- Preserve the integrity of the Single Market by insisting on protections for those countries that have kept their own currencies.

- Keep up the pressure for a single location for the European Parliament, so that your taxes are not wasted on maintaining two costly sets of official buildings.

- Continue the downward pressure on expenditure and tougher scrutiny of the EU budget and accounts.

- Strengthen the ‘yellow card’ power for national parliaments and introduce a system of ‘red cards’ so that national parliaments can group together to block legislation that need not be agreed at the European level and bring back democratic accountability over EU decisions. We also support the Dutch Parliament’s proposals for further increased national Parliamentary control over EU legislation.



We will give the British people an in-out referendum on Europe by the end of 2017

Real Change: Delivering our long-term economic plan in Europe

The Conservatives are the only party with a long-term economic plan to secure Britain's future:

Reducing the deficit so we deal with our debts, safeguard our economy for the long-term and keep mortgage rates low.

Cutting income tax and freezing fuel duty to help hardworking people be more financially secure.

Creating more jobs by backing small business and enterprise with better infrastructure and lower jobs taxes.

Capping welfare and reducing immigration so our economy delivers for people who want to work hard and play by the rules.

Delivering the best schools and skills for young people so the next generation can succeed in a competitive world.

This plan is already working. Our economy is growing. The deficit is set to halve. Debt is lower. More than 1.7 million private sector jobs have been created since 2010. Hundreds of thousands of families who now have decent jobs, better prospects, and more security and peace of mind about their children's future.

To keep on with this plan, and keep on delivering for the British people, we need real change in Brussels. We need real change to reward those who work hard and play by the rules; to back our businesses and create more decent well-paying jobs; to get real value for every single taxpayer's penny that goes to Europe. It is only the Conservatives who can deliver that change.

What we have delivered:

- ✓ We have cut the EU budget, for the first time in history, and pushed for better value for money for British taxpayers in all spending.

- ✓ We have taken the lead in protecting small and medium-sized firms by ensuring they will no longer be subject to a raft of EU-wide legislation.

- ✓ We have championed a European patent system and secured a London-based European Patent Court, which will generate up to £200 million a year for the British economy.

- ✓ We have stopped Britain being subject to an EU-wide Financial Transactions Tax, which would have hurt savings and pensions and lost British and European jobs to the United States and Asia, and opposed one size fits all European taxation.

- ✓ We have increased transparency in the bidding for European research funds, ensuring that Britain's first-class research institutions benefit by competing on a level playing field.

- ✓ We have prevented a European ban on stem cell research, which would have undermined our ability to find cures to the most terrible diseases and damaged Britain's life sciences industry.

- ✓ We have been at the forefront of the effort to conclude free trade deals with South Korea, Canada and Singapore, which have opened up valuable markets for British exporters.

- ✓ We have led the charge on tax reform, tax transparency and tax evasion around the world. We put it at the heart of the G8 agenda and ensured that 44 countries have now committed to early implementation of automatic information exchange on tax matters.

What we will do:

- Continue to keep up the pressure for lower EU spending, further reform the Common Agricultural Policy and the EU's Structural Funds and focus EU spending on growth and jobs to get better value for money for British taxpayers.

- Further expand the Single Market both by breaking down remaining barriers and ensuring that new sectors are opened up to British firms.

- Take further steps to reduce the burden of excessive red tape on businesses by simplifying or withdrawing more EU rules wherever possible, just as we have done at home with our Red Tape Challenge and one-in-two-out programme.

- Deal with the damaging effects of the Working Time Directive, in particular on our public services.

- Drive forward the efforts to finalise ambitious free trade deals with the United States, Japan and India – which can win millions of jobs – and push for EU-ASEAN and Mexico free trade agreements and an investment deal with China.

- Create a real Digital Single Market so Britain's technology entrepreneurs in Tech City and beyond can sell their market-beating products and services across Europe.

- Ensure that new rules target unscrupulous behaviour in the financial services industry, while safeguarding Britain as a global centre of excellence in banking, and fend off attempts to restrict legitimate financial services activities.

- Enable more British students to benefit from the popular Erasmus programme that allows students to spend time at EU universities, at no extra cost to them.

Our Long-term Economic Plan

1 Reducing the deficit

2 Cutting income tax and freezing fuel duty

Creating more jobs

4 Capping welfare and reducing immigration

5 Delivering the best schools and skills for young people

Real Change: On Immigration

The Conservative Party has always believed in maintaining tight control of Britain's borders. Immigration has contributed a great deal to Britain's society, economy and culture. But uncontrolled immigration – such as we saw under the last Labour Government – makes it difficult to maintain social cohesion, puts pressure on public services, such as housing, and can affect wages for people on low incomes. We are clear that, under Labour, immigration was far too high. Net migration more than quadrupled between 1997 and 2010, totalling 2.2 million people – equivalent to two cities the size of Birmingham.

In government since 2010, we have built an immigration system that works in the national interest. Our reforms have cut non-EU migration to its lowest level since 1998. While other countries have thrown open their borders, the Conservative Party has kept Britain out of the Schengen open borders area.

At the same time, we are making sure that those who do come here are the brightest and the best, those who have the skills and entrepreneurial talent to help create jobs and growth.

We support free movement for workers in Europe, which allows Britons to seek jobs and gain customers across the continent, but we need to stop benefit tourism and abuse. One and a half million British citizens live in other EU countries, working there, living in retirement or studying. And while we welcome hardworking people from other European countries, we will not accept abuses of free movement, particularly in the form of benefit tourism by people who have no intention of working or making a contribution to society. Other EU countries are already taking steps to deal with these issues.

What we have delivered:

- ✓ Kept out of the Schengen open borders area, which allows citizens in mainland European Union nations to travel across borders without having their passports checked.

- ✓ We have toughened up rules on access to benefits for people from other EU countries, clamping down on benefit tourism and making it easier to expel people who are not here to work and who cannot support themselves.

- ✓ We have further tightened up rules so that no one can come to this country and expect to get out-of-work benefits immediately.

- ✓ We will not pay out of work benefits at all for the first three months and only then after English-language assessments.

- ✓ We no longer pay benefits indefinitely to EU migrants; we changed the rules this year so we will now be cutting benefits off after six months unless migrants have a real prospect of employment.

- ✓ We are toughening up the test which migrants who want to claim benefits must undergo – and if they don't pass that test, we will cut off access to benefits. In addition, newly arrived EU jobseekers will not be able to claim housing benefit. We will defend this in the courts against Brussels.

- ✓ We are cracking down on businesses which exploit migrant workers by paying them less than the minimum wage – fining them up to £20,000 for every underpaid employee; more than four times the previous fine.

- ✓ If people are not here to work, but begging or sleeping rough, they will be deported and barred from re-entry for 12 months, unless they can prove they have a job.

What we will do:

- Press for a return to free movement of workers; free movement is a central principle of the EU, but it cannot be a freedom to move just for more generous benefits.

- Push for an end to a system where immigrants can claim welfare payments for their relatives abroad; free movement of workers should not be about exporting child benefit, and we will work with our European partners to address this.

- Change how free movement comes in for countries joining the EU in the future so we do not see the level of migrations we have had in the past: for example, by requiring a new country to reach a certain income or economic output per head before allowing full free movement.

- Remain open to the best and brightest students from around the world, but continue to remove licences from bogus colleges, on top of the 700 already taken away since 2011.

- Continue to prevent extremists and preachers of hate from coming to Britain and spreading radicalism and community discord.

We will maintain tight control of Britain's borders, and not accept abuses of free movement

Real Change: On Justice

The Conservative Party is the party of law and order. We want to maintain British control of our justice system. We want to ensure that people feel safe as they walk the streets and safe in their homes at night – and few things are more important than that.

We in the Conservative Party are clear: we want the British Parliament and devolved legislatures drawing up our laws, British courts applying those laws, and police forces deciding how best to deal with crime. That's why we exercised the UK's opt-out from pre-Lisbon Treaty police and criminal justice measures in Europe and have made clear that we would join in no EU police or criminal and justice legislation without appropriate Parliamentary scrutiny.

Of course, there are some areas where it makes sense to maintain practical co-operation at the European level. In an age when crime is increasingly mobile – when gangs can operate across borders – keeping our people safe must mean working with other nations, whether that is identifying criminals at border crossings or deporting illegal immigrants. We do not want an EU criminal justice code; but we do want practical co-operation that protects our people from harm.

What we have delivered:

- ✓ We opted out of European control of large parts of our justice system where it was unnecessarily interfering in our national rules with little tangible benefit for our citizens.

- ✓ We have acted to address the flaws in the European Arrest Warrant that the Labour Government ignored. Our major reforms to how it works will make it a proportionate and effective tool in fighting crime and bringing those criminals to justice.

- ✓ Implemented the European Prisoner Transfer Agreement, enabling the UK to send European criminals back to their own country to serve out their prison sentence.

- ✓ Improved how information is exchanged between police forces and national border controls, making it easier to prevent criminals and illegal immigrants entering the UK.

- ✓ Helped introduce a European Protection Order so that partners – usually women – who have suffered domestic violence can rely on a restraining order obtained in their home country, wherever they are in the EU.

- ✓ Used the UK's opt out to keep Britain out of greater EU control over asylum and immigration policy.

What we will do:

- Undertake radical reform of human rights laws and publish a detailed plan for reform that a Conservative government would implement immediately: we will scrap Labour's Human Rights Act, curtail the role of the European Court of Human Rights in the UK and make certain that the UK's Supreme Court is in Britain and not in Strasbourg.

- Press for further practical co-operation on tackling terrorism, crime and illegal immigration.

- Step up European co-operation in the fight against modern slavery, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

- If we opt back into the European Arrest Warrant, we will build on our reforms to make sure that it is not applicable for minor crimes; that alternatives can be used where possible; that lengthy pre-trial detention can be avoided; and that people are not extradited for doing things that are not illegal in the UK.

- Keep the UK out of harmonising measures on criminal law, asylum, immigration and border control that offer no benefit to Britain – including saying no to a European Public Prosecutor's Office.

We want to maintain British control of our justice system, but with practical co-operation that protects our people from harm

Real Change: On Energy

The UK faces real and significant challenges in the coming years, not least on energy. We need to secure energy at an affordable price, cut carbon in order to help prevent dangerous climate change, and reduce our reliance on any one technology or source of supply. Indeed, developments in Ukraine have woken Europe up to the importance of diversifying its energy sources.

In meeting these challenges, the EU has some important roles to play. For instance, we support EU countries agreeing an over-arching climate goal, and using the Emissions Trading Scheme to drive these reductions across Europe at the lowest possible cost. That is in all our interests – and in the interests of generations to come.

But it is also vital that we maintain our energy sovereignty. For families and businesses across Britain, energy bills are a big slice of their budget – and, in order to help drive down this cost, we must have control of our own energy mix. A secure supply of energy is a fundamental duty of national government and this should not be jeopardised by EU agreements or actions.

What we have delivered:

- ✓ Underpinned Europe's climate ambitions by cutting carbon at home. UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2012 were 25% lower than in 1990 thanks to Government action to decarbonise our power supply.

- ✓ Unlocked new sources of low-carbon energy by:

  – setting up a £3.5 billion Green Investment Bank;

  – putting in place a framework that has made the UK the world's most attractive market for offshore wind and secured the first new nuclear power station for a generation at Hinkley Point; and

  – investing £1 billion capital spend on carbon, capture and storage, which could save the UK more than £30 billion a year by 2050.

- ✓ Improved our energy security by unlocking investment in the UK North Sea, and by developing UK shale gas.

- ✓ Further enhanced our energy security by committing to interconnecting the UK power network with neighbouring countries.

- ✓ Stopped EU attempts to ban further offshore oil and gas drilling, following Commission proposals to over-regulate this industry.

- ✓ Stopped EU attempts to over-regulate the UK's emerging shale gas industry, which we have supported by putting in place the most competitive tax regime in Europe and a comprehensive package for local communities – worth £1 million a year for a typical site.

- ✓ Helped hardworking people by cutting energy bills by an average of £50 and legislated to force energy companies to put people onto their lowest tariff that meets their preference.

What we will do:

- Ensure the EU completes the creation of a single energy market across Europe, in order to ensure greater energy security and lower prices for UK consumers.

- Ensure that the EU Commission's strategic review of European energy security for the next 25 years is implemented; this will further help us plan for the UK's energy future.

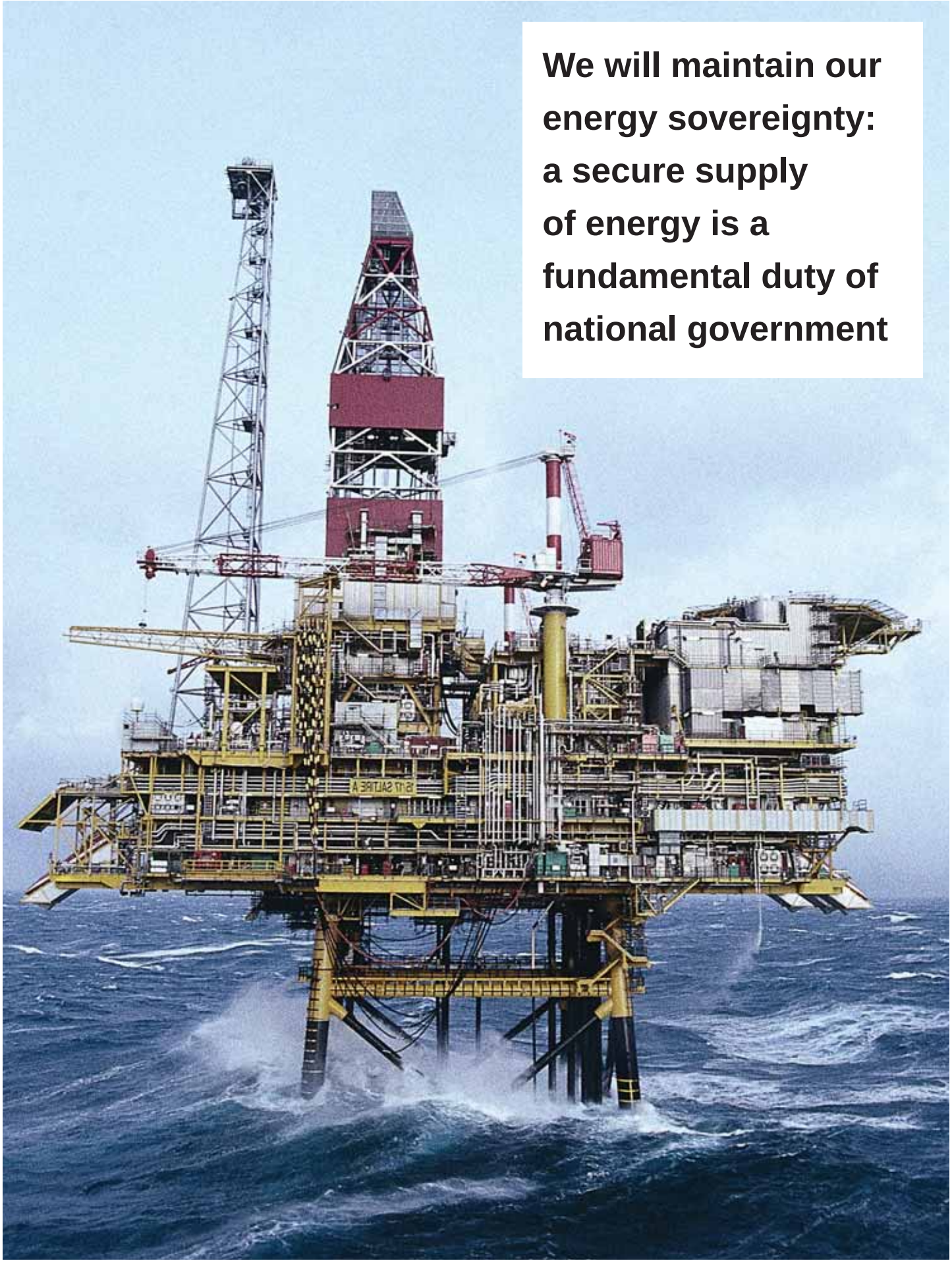
- Work with European partners such as Poland to develop fully Europe's shale gas resource. We have commissioned a joint taskforce which will report at the end of the year.

- Support an ambitious and equitable international deal on climate change, including campaigning for EU countries to cut emissions by at least 40% by 2030.

- Support and further reform the EU Emissions Trading Scheme as the most cost-effective means for EU countries to cut emissions.

- Ensure that the proposed 2030 renewable energy target is non-binding on individual EU countries. In order to cut carbon as cost-effectively as possible, nuclear, carbon capture and renewables technologies should be allowed to compete on a level playing field.

- Work with European partners to ensure that each country should have the right to choose their energy mix.



We will maintain our energy sovereignty: a secure supply of energy is a fundamental duty of national government

Real Change: For Farmers, Fishing Communities and our Natural Environment

Britain's farmers and fishing communities play a vital role in our national life and help sustain a rural economy that is worth £211 billion a year. These activities put food on our tables, nurture our countryside and form the heart of many communities. For years, they were disadvantaged by European policy – and for years Conservatives have fought to change that.

British farming has a well-deserved and world-wide reputation for its top quality produce, robust traceability and rigorous production standards. As the world's population continues to grow and tastes and diets develop, we believe that there are phenomenal opportunities to sell British food and drink abroad. That's why Conservatives in Government have prioritised opening up new markets to British producers.

Too often the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) puts British farms at a disadvantage, burdening them with unnecessary expense and red tape. We are passionately committed to reforming the CAP further, getting a better deal for our farmers, and allowing them to sell their top quality produce all around the world.

We support rural communities. That's why we have made spending on flood defences a major priority for this Government, as well as creating a special £10 million Farming Flood Recovery Fund to help those affected by the recent extreme weather. We have also made it our mission to complete the roll-out of superfast broadband, a technology that can truly bridge the gap between urban and rural.

The Common Fisheries Policy used to be a disaster. We fought hard for wholesale reform – and won. Today, the micro-management from Brussels is being reversed; the appalling practice of edible fish being thrown back into the sea to meet a bureaucratic requirement is being abolished; and we now have a legally binding commitment to fish at sustainable levels. All this means that today, fishing communities from the Highlands to Cornwall have more security and peace of mind.

What we have delivered:

- ✓ Opened up 112 markets for animals and animal products in the last year alone. For example, we have:

  - signed a deal on pork with the Chinese that has contributed to £9 million of growth in the pork market, in addition to £12 million of growth in hides and skins;

  - secured a deal on beef to Singapore worth up to £10 million a year; and

  - agreed a deal on animal genetic material with China, which alongside live pig exports, is worth up to £45 million over five years.

- ✓ Helped British fishermen manage their own businesses by stripping away the ineffective micro-management by Brussels, allowing us to work with our closest neighbours instead.

- ✓ Pushed for radical reforms to the Common Fisheries Policy, fought for tougher science-based targets to ensure sustainable fishing and ended the shameful policy of throwing back perfectly edible fish.

- ✓ Reformed the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund which supports British fishing communities, while at the same time ending subsidies that fund destructive fishing practices.

- ✓ We continue to champion the highest standards of animal welfare and in Europe we have led the way by pushing for tough legal action against countries who have failed to adhere to the phased bans on battery cages for chickens and sow stalls for pigs throughout the EU.

- ✓ Improved the terms of the CAP and gained powers for the countries of the EU on how to implement it, leaving our farmers in a better position to compete in the global marketplace.

- ✓ Fought for a science-based Genetic Modification policy in the EU to keep British farmers competitive, get better value for British consumers and further bolster the British biotechnology and life sciences industries' world-leading position.

- ✓ Given our farmers the support they need to compete:

  – reduced the burden of form-filling on farmers, with two domestic regulations being removed for every one introduced and 8,000 fewer dairy inspections a year since 2011;

  – put in place the first Government Buying Standards for food and catering services, which ensure that government departments and agencies buy more sustainable food and give small and local producers fair access to public contracts worth up to £2.1 billion a year;

  – backed the Red Tractor scheme, which gives consumers confidence in the food they buy and which boosts British farming;

- taken steps to address weaknesses in our food system revealed by the horsemeat scandal, including by asking Professor Chris Elliott to lead a rigorous, independent review;

- promoted the use of protected food names which showcase British farming excellence, like Anglesey Sea Salt, West Country Beef and Lamb, Yorkshire Wensleydale Cheese and Traditional Farmed Gloucestershire Old Spots Pork;

- spent over £2.4 billion on flood defence infrastructure in the first four years of this Parliament, compared to the £2.2 billion spent in the final four years of the last Parliament; and

- invested £790 million to extend superfast broadband to 95% of the UK by 2017. This will be match-funded by local authorities.

- ✓ Set up the UK's first Marine Protected Zones, protecting 27 areas, covering over 9,000 square kilometres, with a commitment to designate up to 100 further Zones over the next Parliament. 10% of UK seas are now protected, and a quarter of English inshore waters.

- ✓ Launched a national tree planting campaign – The Big Tree Plant – which has already seen 100,000 trees planted, and will plant a million by 2015.

What we will do:

- Push for continuing reform of the CAP so that it costs less and offers better value for money.
- Ensure that the new CAP reforms are implemented and adhered to by all EU countries, so our farmers are not unfairly disadvantaged.
- Secure further export opportunities for British farmers both in the EU and globally, and fight to ensure that farming is included in free trade agreements such as that with the USA.
- Cut red tape to reduce the costs to all businesses by at least £1 billion by 2019.
- Ensure the ban on discarding perfectly edible fish, along with the wider fisheries reforms are implemented fully.

- Build on this success to secure further reform and give local people a bigger say in the future of the fishing industry.

- Work to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

- Support the introduction of food labelling to give consumers more information about where and how our food is produced, while avoiding burdensome rules for small firms.

- Actively work to improve animal welfare standards and ensure that rules are properly enforced throughout the EU.

- The historic six-year capital settlement secured from 2015/16 to 2020/21 means we will be investing a further £2.3 billion in UK flood defences.

- Invest £10 million in an innovative technology market fund to test how superfast broadband can be extended to the final 5% of the most rural areas.

We are fighting to give Britain's farmers and fishing communities security and peace of mind

Real Change: For a Secure Britain

Britain's fortunes are tied to the wider world. Terrorist plots hatched thousands of miles away can threaten our streets. Deals done in China or India can create thousands of jobs back home. Conflict in far-off countries can lead to mass migration here. So tackling global poverty, resolving conflict and spreading democracy – in short, engaging with the world – are resolutely in Britain's national interest.

EU policy must never be a replacement for national decision-making and national defence policy, and neither should it duplicate or undermine the work of NATO, which must remain the bedrock of our security. Where EU policy conflicts with our interests, or undermines national sovereignty, we act – as we did when we vetoed the creation of an EU military headquarters.

The EU's foreign and security policy can be an important means of advancing our national interest by shaping a more stable and prosperous world. Together we have the clout to influence our wider neighbourhood, whether that is supporting economic development in the South of Europe, or helping countries to the East of the EU – such as the Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia – onto a more open, democratic path.

We will continue to stand up robustly for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the international rule of law. We want to see a Ukraine that has good relations with Russia but we also believe it has as much right as any other European country to determine its own future.

The Ukrainian people have shown that they have had enough of the pervasive corruption that has held their country back. We will support them in their efforts to build a true democracy in which the law is applied fairly and fully to all. The EU also has a crucial role to play. We will continue to work with our European partners so that the EU works with the Ukrainian people towards these goals.

Developments in Ukraine have been clear proof of the risks of excessive European energy dependence on Russia. A long term goal for all European countries should now be greater energy independence and security: that must be one of the long term costs to the Russian Government of its behaviour toward Ukraine.

For Conservatives in Brussels, Britain's national interest is always our first priority: the safety of our citizens, and the jobs and opportunities created back home.

What we have delivered:

- ✓ Maintained Britain's right to make its own decisions.
- ✓ Protected NATO as the cornerstone of our security and blocked attempts to duplicate defence structures.
- ✓ Led efforts for co-ordinated action at the European level through co-operation between sovereign states on the most serious international issues:
  - standing up to Russia over Ukraine;
  - secured the toughest ever EU sanctions on Iran, which has brought the Iranian government to the negotiating table on its nuclear programme, the best hope for peace in the region;
  - successfully used EU sanctions to incentivise the Burmese government to turn towards the greater freedom and openness we now see in the country;

- provided the headquarters for the EU anti-piracy mission off Somalia that has helped see attacks on shipping plummet;

- in Mali, we and our allies are helping to support the establishment of an effective government in a country that almost fell to terrorism; and

- we successfully championed greater EU trade access for Pakistan, including lower tariffs which provide crucial help for their economy.

✓ We have strengthened our alliance with France by signing the historic Lancaster House Treaties to improve defence cooperation, including the creation of a combined expeditionary force to carry out joint operations, closer cooperation on equipment procurement, and joint facilities to support our independent nuclear deterrents.

✓ Played a leading role in international efforts to remove the scourge of anti-personnel landmines.

- ✓ In Libya, the United Kingdom led the international diplomatic and military effort that prevented Gaddafi's regime from massacring his own people.

- ✓ We have been the world's second largest donor of international aid to help the Syrian people in their hour of need and we have played a leading role in efforts to find a peaceful solution to this appalling conflict.

- ✓ In Sri Lanka, thanks to a UK-sponsored resolution at the UN, for which we won the support of EU and many other countries, we have successfully secured an independent international investigation into allegations of war crimes. That will be the best possible basis for proper reconciliation and a better future for the Sri Lankan people.

What we will do:

- Continue to stand up robustly for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the international rule of law.

- Ensure the rights of Gibraltarians are fully respected, particularly regarding free movement, aviation and maritime policy.

- Ensure defence policy remains firmly under British national control, maintaining NATO and the transatlantic relationship as the cornerstones of our defence and security policy.

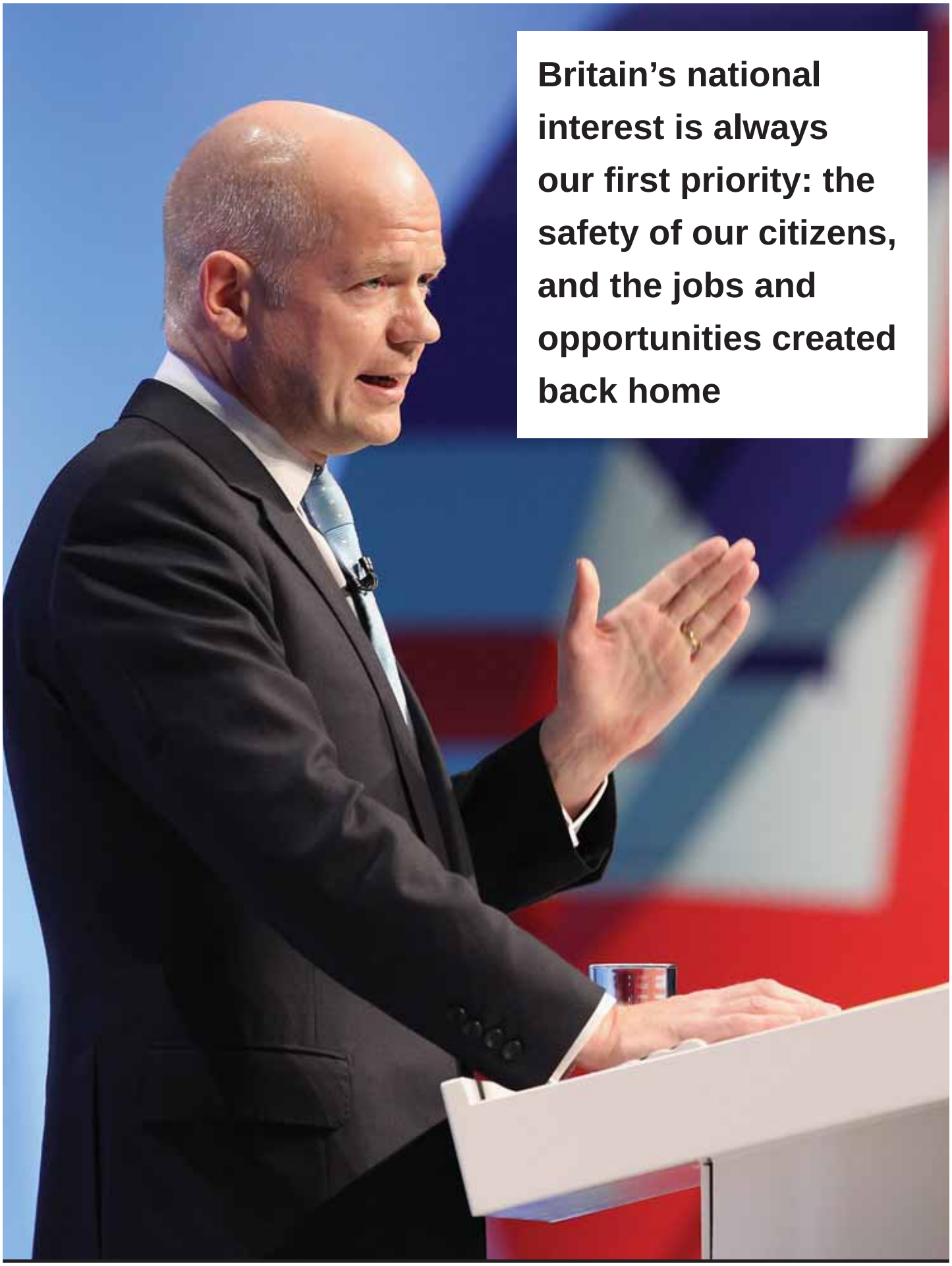
- Push for open markets to the benefit of British defence industries, contributing to further economic growth and jobs at home.

- Continue to drive up the effectiveness of the EU's efforts to tackle poverty in the world's poorest countries, and ensure that the EU plays its part in responding to humanitarian emergencies around the world.

- Continue to push at the EU level David Cameron's work through the UK G8 Presidency to clamp down on tax avoidance, promote transparency in company ownership, and root out corruption in extractive industries.

- Increase opportunities for the poorest countries to trade with the EU and each other by further opening EU markets, reducing EU export subsidies and negotiating generous Economic Partnership Agreements.

- Work for a greener environment, including steps to cut carbon emissions across Europe and efforts to limit global warming to 2 degrees.


Britain's national interest is always our first priority: the safety of our citizens, and the jobs and opportunities created back home

- ✓ **If you want to keep the cost of Europe down Vote Conservative**

- ✓ **If you want Europe to work for British business Vote Conservative**

- ✓ **If you want to keep the Pound and Britain out of the Euro Vote Conservative**

- ✓ **If you want our country to keep control of its own borders Vote Conservative**

- ✓ **If you want to keep Britain out of Eurozone bailouts Vote Conservative**

- ✓ **If you want to take back control of criminal justice**
  Vote Conservative

- ✓ **If you want an in-out referendum on whether to stay in the EU**
  Vote Conservative

A stronger economy at home,
Renewed respect abroad,
Real change in Europe.

Only with the Conservatives

Conservatives

Promoted by Alan Mabbutt on behalf of the Conservative Party, both at 4 Matthew Parker Street, London, SW1H 9HQ