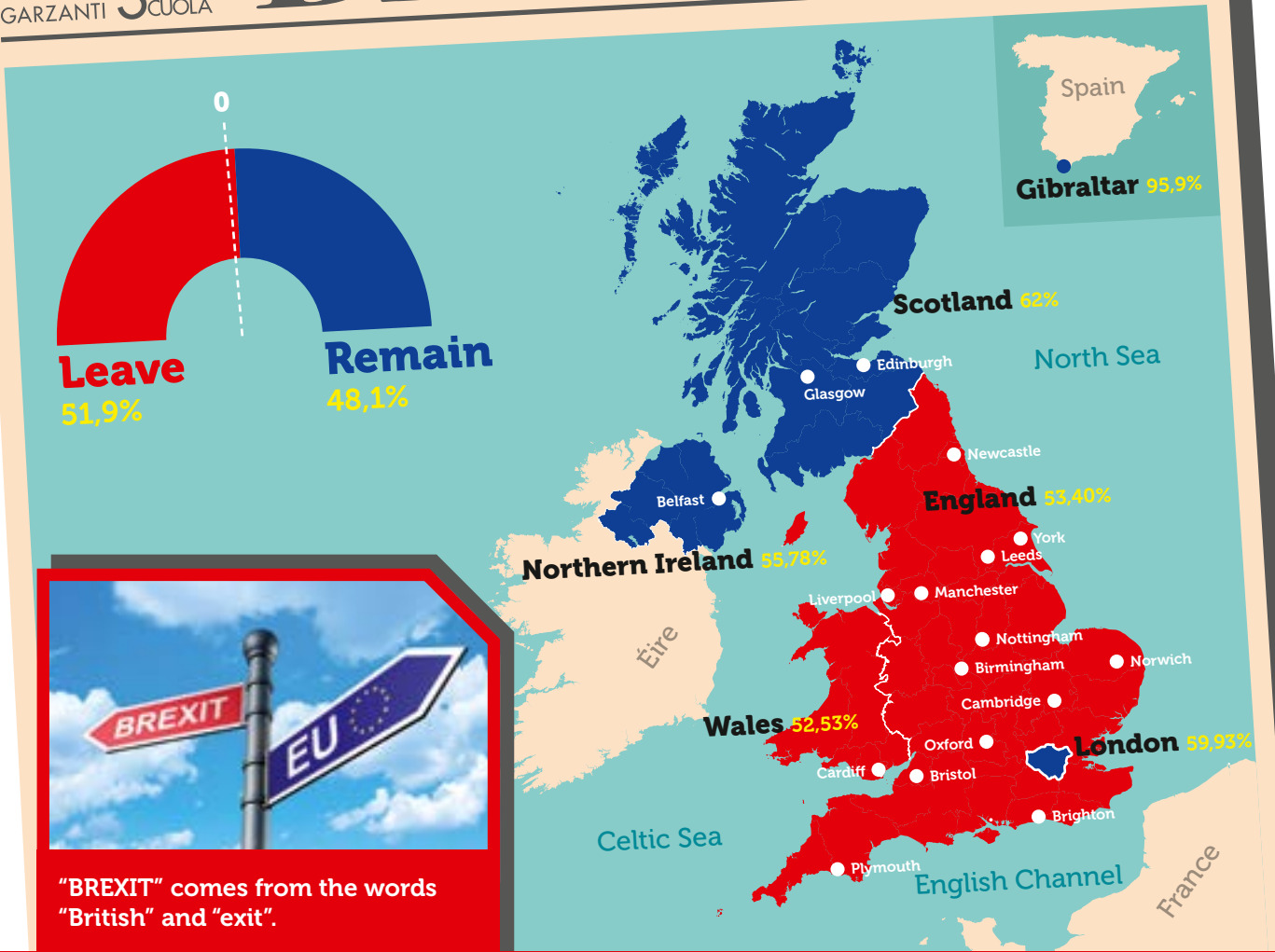


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BREXIT

SPECIAL



"BREXIT" comes from the words "British" and "exit".

The Referendum

On 23rd June 2016, there was a referendum. British citizens voted 'yes' or 'no' to the question: **"Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"**

Referendum of the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union

Vote only once by putting a cross ~~X~~ in the box next to your choice

Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?

Remain a member of the European Union

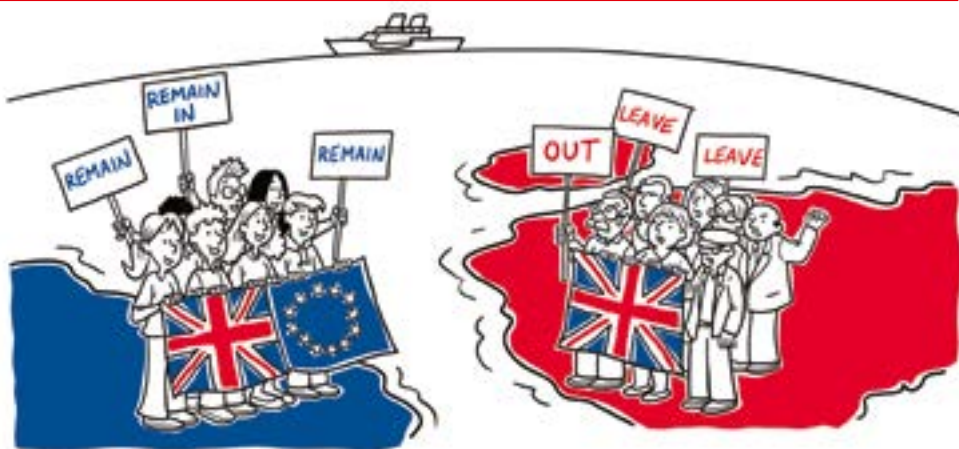
Leave the European Union

The Result

46.5 million British citizens could vote and the turnout for the referendum was 71.8%.

51.9% voted to **leave** the European Union (EU) and 48.1% voted to **remain**.

There were some regional differences: the majority of people in England and Wales voted to *leave* the EU; the majority of people in London, Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to *remain*. 95% of the 30,000 British citizens of Gibraltar, a British territory on the southern coast of Spain,



also voted to *remain*.

60% of people over 65 years and 57% of people between 45 and 54 years voted to *leave*; while 73% of people under 25 years voted to *remain*.

Leave vs remain

Some politicians from the two main parties, Labour and Conservative voted to *remain*, including the Prime Minister David Cameron whilst others voted to *leave*. Members of UKIP (the UK Independence Party) and its leader Nigel Farage voted to *leave*. The debate was very bitter and sometimes dramatic; a few days before the vote, the Labour MP Jo Cox was murdered by a fanatical supporter of the Leave campaign.



In commemoration of the death of Jo Cox, the election campaign was suspended for a day.

OUT

Why people wanted to leave the EU:



OUT to **regain national sovereignty** and to have British laws and regulations not EU ones

OUT to **reduce immigration**: many people think immigrants take work away from the British people and cost British taxpayers a lot in terms of health and social services

OUT to **save money**: Britain pays millions of pounds to be a member of the EU and this money could go to health care instead

Why people wanted to remain in the EU:

IN to **avoid risking the economic and social future** of the UK by leaving the EU – with no possibility of rejoining

IN to **maintain the benefits of the single market**: on average, for every pound that Britain gives to the EU it receives ten pounds in investment and trade

IN to **avoid the risk of an economic downturn** as a result of leaving the EU, which would make the UK more vulnerable both on an international front (global market) and on the domestic front, with the risk that Scotland and Northern Ireland might want to leave the UK

IN to **maintain the benefits of educational exchanges and work** for UK citizens in other EU countries, especially for young people

IN

A bit of history: EU membership

The United Kingdom joined the EEC (European Economic Community, as the EU was previously called) in 1973, along with Ireland and Denmark. Britain held a referendum in 1975 and 62% of the British public voted to continue to *remain* a member of the EEC.



The UK economy, always in favour of free trade, has enjoyed many benefits of EU membership including:

- **the free movement of goods**, with no payment of customs duties;
- **the free movement of capital**, with the possibility of making financial transactions with the other EU countries;
- **services** that allow businesses to be located and sell their products in any EU country;
- **the possibility for European citizens to live and work** in any EU country.

Special conditions

Throughout its EU membership, the UK has always requested special conditions, namely:



- **not be a part of the Eurozone**: Britain maintained the British pound with floating exchange rates and did not adopt the euro as single currency;
- **not be a part of the Schengen area**: Britain did not sign the 1985 treaty, which allows the free movement of European citizens, without border controls, inside the Schengen "area";
- **a "special privilege"** which allows Britain to be exempt from further political integration via EU Treaties.

After Brexit

When the UK leaves the EU the number of **Member States will decrease from 28 to 27.**

1 Soon after the referendum Prime Minister David Cameron resigned as he was strongly in favour of remaining in the EU. **Theresa May** took his place as the leader of the Conservative Party (13th July 2016).

2 After the referendum victory, **Nigel Farage** resigned as UKIP leader.



Theresa May in front of 10 Downing Street in London, the official residence of the Prime Minister.



3 After the shock of the first days the **British financial markets and the exchange rate of the pound** with other world currencies was not affected by Brexit.

4 Unlike the **financial markets and stock exchanges of the other EU countries** have reacted negatively and have suffered declines.

5 Young British and European students are waiting for further information as to whether **Erasmus agreements** to study abroad will continue.

The future of the EU?

Better informed citizens

A Member State's decision to leave the EU makes us reflect on the fact that the Union itself is not something that can be taken for granted. Between 2014 and 2020,

approximately 4 million European students will complete their education or training in an EU State. Knowledge of EU rules, an awareness of its role in the globalized world, and the ability to listen and discuss

the opinions and criticisms of the inhabitants of the different Member States is the first step to becoming educated citizens, able to build our future.



A long period of uncertainty

From its foundation until 2009 no-one thought that a Member State would want to leave the EU. In 2009, the Lisbon Treaty set out the regulations for leaving, which allow for a period of up to two years to agree on how a Member State should leave. During this period,

the UK will continue to be an EU Member State. The consequences of the vote are therefore not immediate, and much will depend on the outcome of these negotiations. The UK has announced that it will start the exit procedure at the end of 2016. It will then take at least

another year to define a new agreement with the EU. The **European Central Bank** and the **International Monetary Fund** are cautious about the future of the European and world economy, and there may be a long period of uncertainty before the consequences of Brexit become clear.



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