

**Welsh Liberal
Democrats**

**Democratiaid
Rhyddfrydol Cymru**



MOTION AGREED BY AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2023

TOWARDS A CLOSER FUTURE WITH EUROPE

Conference notes:

- A. The decision of the United Kingdom following a referendum on June 23rd 2016 to exit from membership of the EU by a margin of 52/48%;**
- B. That the United Kingdom left the EU on January 31st 2020;**
- C. That the Liberal Democrats campaigned relentlessly and unambiguously for Britain to stay in Europe;**

Conference further notes that:

- a. Following the referendum, no major UK political party has actively campaigned to rejoin the EU;**
- b. That Federal Conference has reaffirmed the Liberal Democrats' support for a longer-term objective of UK membership of the EU;**
- c. Since the UK left the EU three years ago, Welsh agriculture, food and many other industries are experiencing significant difficulties in exporting goods to the EU, caused by increased bureaucracy and administrative barriers;**
- d. Wales is experiencing severe labour shortages as a result of many EU citizens re-locating to their home countries since 2020 and the administrative difficulties of employing staff from outside the UK;**
- e. Within the G7, the UK economy has been the worst performer in terms of real GDP growth between the end of 2019 and June 2023.**

Conference believes:

- I. That the Liberal Democrats have the strongest, most historic and steadfast European profile amongst the major UK political parties and that this has been a major attraction for many of our members;**
- II. That the Welsh Liberal Democrats must continue to show an unremitting commitment to the strongest ties possible with Europe, notwithstanding the post Brexit status of the country.**

Conference Calls for the Welsh Liberal Democrats to:

- 1. Reaffirm the Liberal Democrats' support for a longer-term objective of UK membership of the EU in the next Welsh General Election manifesto;**
- 2. Campaign for renewed membership of the European single market and the customs union;**
- 3. Make a clear declaration of support for the closest possible working relationship between Wales and Europe;**
- 4. Support freedom of opportunity for Wales to collaborate fully with the EU with scientific, educational, artistic, cultural and security initiatives;**
- 5. Campaign to safeguard and promote industry, tourism and agricultural enterprise between Wales and the EU.**