Say *No* to accession negotiations

1. No majority for joining the EU
A minority of voters and parliament wants Iceland to join the EU. One of the governing parties is opposed to joining. There is no consensus on starting the accession process.

2. The Cost Will Run into Billions
The government estimates that the direct cost of accession negotiations will amount to ISK 2 billion. The costs incurred by municipalities, organisations and businesses required to contribute work to the accession process has not been estimated.

3. Unclear Benefits
Iceland already has access to the single market and would be the first country in decades to seek membership without any financial gain. Annual membership fees would amount to tens of billions of ISK and the EU has plans to increase costs.

4. Increased Uncertainty
The accession process would be a step towards a fundamentally different operating environment for Iceland's key industries. It could discourage investment in agriculture, food production, fish processing and other sectors.

5. Foreign Policy Put on Hold
The negotiation of free trade agreements falls under the EU's authority. If Iceland sets a course towards joining the EU customs union, other countries are unlikely to be willing to negotiate separate free trade agreements with Iceland.

6. Misplaced Priorities
Accession negotiations would require a great deal of work from government, municipalities, and businesses. This would inevitably divert resources from more urgent priorities.

7. A Nation Divided
Voting "No" would put the issue aside, while a "Yes" would lead to a more intense debate for the next referendum. EU accession should not be on the agenda unless a clear majority of the public is interested in joining and a majority of Parliament supports it.

8. Unclear Mandate
In 2009, Parliament approved clear objectives and red lines from which the government was not permitted to deviate. The government was also required to keep Parliament regularly informed of the progress of the negotiations. If the public votes "Yes" in August, it is unclear whether these safeguards remain in place.

9. The State Of The EU
An accession treaty would not change the fundamental terms of EU membership: Iceland would transfer considerable control to the EU, have very limited influence, face more tariffs and pay tens of billions ISK annually.
It would also not change the EU's weak economic outlook or its movement towards greater centralisation and militarisation.

Heimssýn

Heimssýn - Iceland's No to EU movement

Why the EU *is not for* Iceland

1. Different Circumstances

Iceland's economy is mainly resource-based. Our circumstances require more tailored laws and faster decision-making than Brussels can provide. Iceland should remain in control of its own affairs, rather than adopt an EU regulatory and administrative system that is too costly and extensive for a country of its size.

2. Little Say in the EU

Iceland would have the least influence. It would have one seat in the EU Council and one in the Council of Ministers, but only 1/1000 of the votes. Only six of 720 members of the EU Parliament and one member of the EU Commission, who would not be permitted to represent Iceland's interests.

3. Different Interests

Iceland has rich fishing grounds, a vast exclusive economic zone and abundant clean energy—all scarce resources in the EU. Iceland's income per capita is also twice the EU average. The EU can be expected to put the interests of the Union as a whole ahead of Iceland's.

4. Higher Tariffs

The EU is a customs union that imposes tariffs on around 70% of imported product categories, compared with only about 10% in Iceland. With EU membership, tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles could rise from 0% to as much as 45%, clothing from 0% to 12%, footwear to as much as 17%, and e-bikes to between 10% and 70%. EU carbon tariffs would apply to fertiliser, cement and steel. Prices within the EU are therefore generally higher than outside it. 75% of customs revenue goes to the EU.

5. Economic Stagnation

Economic growth in the EU has been only half as fast as in the United States and Iceland. There are many reasons, including burdensome regulation, high energy prices, lack of innovation and companies relocating elsewhere.

6. The Euro Is a Problem

Iceland's economy is dynamic and prone to fluctuations. The ISK allows a quicker recovery from economic shocks. Under the euro, such shocks are more likely to result in unemployment, bankruptcies and emigration rather than inflation. A monetary policy that does not reflect Iceland's economic conditions could cause serious damage.

7. Tens of Billions in Payments

Iceland would pay the EU annually 0.7% of GDP, 0.3% of VAT revenue and 75% of collected customs duties—around ISK 50 billion a year in total. Iceland would receive only a fraction of that back because it is considerably wealthier than most member states. The EU has announced plans to increase these contributions by more than half. This does not include cost of special EU initiatives, often

8. Militarisation

Statements by EU leaders and opinion polls indicate support for creating a common EU army. Costly initiatives are under way to strengthen military capabilities and cooperation between states.

9. No Easy Way Out

The UK's withdrawal from the EU was both difficult and costly, showing that EU membership is not easily reversed. In addition, EU rules contain no provisions for ensuring a safe exit for countries that have adopted the euro.

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