# Debate in Westminster Hall reveals ongoing divisions over Brexit



A debate held in Westminster Hall on a Monday evening has brought to light the deep divisions surrounding the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, especially in the wake of a petition that has alarmingly gathered significant public support. The petition, which has amassed 134,370 signatures, calls for the UK to rejoin the EU, igniting fresh concerns about the ramifications of Brexit—concerns many would argue should not still dominate the political discourse now that the country has made its decision.

Labour MP Fred Thomas, representing Plymouth Moor View, took to the floor with a sweeping condemnation of Brexit, labelling it as an "almost unmitigated disaster." However, his rhetoric conveniently ignores the underlying reasons the British public voted to leave the EU in 2016. He insisted that the party's manifesto clearly stated it would not pursue rejoining the EU, customs union, or the single market—a position now fortified by their electoral commitments that they seem all too eager to rigidly uphold, regardless of public sentiment shifting over time.

Independent MP for Canterbury, Rosie Duffield, acknowledged the petition with a nod, as if the strong public backing signals a need for re-evaluation rather than a stern reminder of Brexit's democratic legitimacy. She reminisced about Labour cabinet members expressing concerns during Brexit's passage—a narrative that underscores their usual indecision rather than a commitment to moving forward and respecting the will of the people.

Tim Roca, a Labour MP from Macclesfield, chimed in with the suggestion that public sentiment is leaning towards reevaluating the decision to leave. However, this raises serious questions about the validity of democratic choice when parties like his seem more focused on a nostalgic longing for the EU than acknowledging the clear outcome of Brexit.

Meanwhile, Mike Martin, the Liberal Democrat MP for Tunbridge Wells, attempted to highlight specific consequences of Brexit, lamenting the UK's exclusion from essential EU Defence funding initiatives. His comments demonstrate an almost desperate longing for ties with the very institutions that many voted against, further muddying the waters of national security in a post-Brexit landscape.

Stella Creasy, another Labour MP and former shadow minister, echoed the gloom, referring to Brexit as a "disaster" by any measure. Her call for candid discussions about addressing the aftermath of Brexit appears to ignore the resounding mandate delivered by the British public for independence and self-governance.

Contrastingly, Traditional Unionist Vote MP Jim Allister offered a much-needed rebuttal, asserting that the petition represents merely an "echo chamber for the laments of two or three dozen Europhile MPs." He rightly critiqued the demand to rejoin the EU without a further referendum, reminding everyone that the British public has already expressed their determination to leave.

As this debate rages on, it is abundantly clear that the fallout from Brexit remains a contentious issue, with many seeking to undermine the democratic process instead of focusing on the future. The pressing questions of sovereignty, control, and opportunity present a path that should not be obscured by the persistent calls to revisit past decisions that the people have already made.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/whall/?id=2025-03-24a.239.0> - This URL provides evidence of a Westminster Hall debate on the UK rejoining the EU, highlighting the significant public support shown by a petition with over 128,537 signatures. It also discusses the complex and multifaceted nature of the decision to rejoin the EU.
* <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2025-0067/> - This link offers details about a Westminster Hall debate on a petition calling for the UK to rejoin the EU, noting the potential benefits such as boosting the economy and increasing global influence. It also outlines government responses and the process for EU membership.
* <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/whall/?d=2025-03-20> - This URL provides information about Westminster Hall debates, which are used for discussing topics like the UK's future relationship with Europe. It highlights the open nature of these sessions, encouraging constructive debate among MPs.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - The source article mentions Noah Wire Services as the source of information, but it does not provide a specific URL supporting claims directly. This is more about the attribution than a direct corroboration.
* <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/mps/34877/rosie_duffield/canterbury/> - This link could potentially provide background information on Independent MP Rosie Duffield, though it doesn't directly support the specific claim mentioned about her in the article.
* <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2022/inquiry16/> - This URL is not directly related to the article but could be used to explore broader discussions on Brexit and national security initiatives in the UK Parliament.