
EU LEADERS RATTLED BY UK PLANS FOR A REFERENDUM ON MEMBERSHIP

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24.01.2013 EuroNews British Prime Minister David Cameron has promised a referendum on the UKs membership of the European Union by 2017, provided he is re-elected. "It is time for the British people to have their say. It is time for us to settle this question about Britain and Europe, A Cameron said. Cameron says the UK must negotiate a new settlement with the EU first, and then the British public will vote. German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle has criticised the UKs stance: "We share the vision of a better Europe. We need a new commitment to the principle of subsidiarity, not all and everything must be decided in Brussels and by Brussels. We do indeed differentiate, but cherry-picking is not an option, A Westerwelle said. But Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti says he thinks the people of the UK will stick with the union: "I am confident that if there is to be referendum one day, the UKs citizens will decide to stay in the European Union and contribute to shaping its future. I think the European Union does not need unwilling Europeans. We desperately need willing Europeans, A Monti said. For now, British polls are very evenly split between those who want to stay in the union and those who think its time to go.

Kaynak/Source: