

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

### **The European Economic Area**

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me regarding the UK remaining in the European Economic Area (EEA) after Brexit.

I believe that it is in the interests of jobs in the UK and our country's economy to both remain part of a customs union with the EU and to have continued access to the Single Market after Brexit.

That is why in recent votes in Parliament, I voted to stay in a customs union as well as backing a Labour amendment which called on the UK government to negotiate a deal with the EU that can retain the benefits which our membership of the Single Market brings us.

One such option would be for the UK to be part of the EEA framework which gives some countries outside of the EU access to the Single Market. If we are to go down that route, we will probably need to negotiate some modifications to the way EEA rules would apply to the UK – including on the question of freedom of movement of labour across the Single Market. These things are not easy but there are aspects of the EEA framework that give us the opportunity to raise them. However, I believe the UK should not rule out the option of EEA membership. To do so would risk cutting off our nose to spite our face. That is why in addition to backing Labour's own amendment on access to the Single Market, I also voted to retain the option of the UK remaining part of the EEA.

I have been contacted by lots of people recently about a range of different issues relating to the EU Withdrawal Bill, you can read my reflections on last week's key votes in the House of Commons on my website [here](#).

Thanks again to everyone who has contacted me about the European Economic Area.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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