

What the EU has done for London

Londoners benefit hugely from membership of the EU. As well as 50 years of peace and prosperity, the EU has also brought more day-to-day benefits.

Here are just a few ways in which Londoners have gained from EU membership:

Over £700 million of European Structural Funds invested in London 2000-2006, including:

- £500m London-wide for tackling barriers to labour market participation
- £185m of Regional Development Funding, of which £20m for regenerating areas of industrial decline in the Thames Gateway, Lee Valley and West London in an environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive way
- £7m of Urban funding targeted at community-based regeneration in Stockwell, South London

Environmental benefits for Londoners, including:

- Obliging Thames Water to build a new tunnel to stop sewage flowing into the Thames
- More ambitious recycling and carbon emission reduction targets by 2020 to combat climate change
- Car manufacturers obliged to reduce car emissions from new vehicles
- Noise-reduction measures at Heathrow
- High speed rail links as real alternative to air travel facilitated by the EU's promotion of Railteam and other initiatives

Consumer benefits for Londoners, including:

- Cheaper international phone calls, including cheaper mobile phone roaming charges within the EU
- Transparent and inclusive air ticket pricing and compensation rights for delayed flights
- Making it easier for Londoners to buy holiday homes in EU countries
- Pet passports to facilitate travel around the EU
- Stricter food labelling requirements to encourage healthier eating
- Shopping without frontiers, driving down prices while guaranteeing consumer rights in respect of faulty goods etc.

Benefits to London's economy, including:

- Reinforcing the City's position as a gateway to European markets, boosting the financial and professional services industries and making London the European HQ of choice for many multi-nationals
- Inflow of well-qualified, highly motivated workers at all levels of the workforce- from French bankers to Polish plumbers. A recent TUC study found that immigration has

brought net benefits to the UK economy, even after taking account of the resources and public services used by immigrants

Other benefits, including:

- Crime-fighting co-operation through Europol and the European Arrest Warrant, whilst at the same time standing up for civil liberties and human rights (including the human rights of Londoners detained at Guantanamo Bay). One of the 21/7 bombers was arrested in Italy thanks to European cooperation
- Benefits for London's workers including statutory minimum holiday requirements and provisions for paid maternity/ paternity leave and parental leave
- Free medical benefits for Londoners travelling within the EU
- Erasmus programmes to facilitate study abroad and cultural exchanges for London's students
- Making the manufacture and use of chemical safer for workers and for the environment through the REACH system, which also restricts chemical testing on animals
- Better football for sports fans- freeing up football transfers within the EU has brought some of the continent's best players (including Thierry Henry) to London

A few examples of EU- funded projects making a difference to Londoners' lives

Camden: "Enhanced Lifeskills Programme" providing vulnerable and socially excluded 16-19 year olds from central London Boroughs with access to accredited ICT training, life-skills and advice in a supportive community-based environment.

Wandsworth: "Learning for the Elderly" outreach programme to provide community learning activities such as reading to children and obtaining ICT qualifications such as the European Computer Driving Licence.

Newham: "East London Childcare Institute" founded to close the gap in quality child-care provision which resulted in low levels of women returning to work. The Institute is part of the Newham Women's Training and Education Centre and works in close partnership with the Council's Early Years Unit and local SureStart.

Wood Green & Finchley: "JHP Young Mums to Be" project supporting teenage mums in overcoming barriers to education and employment and equipping them with essential life skills to help them achieve their potential.

Stockwell: "Trees for Cities" supporting communities-based tree planting initiatives in deprived urban areas to foster community spirit, improve the quality of the environment and raise awareness of environmental issues through educational workshops.