



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Email from small business owner, 5 June 2014

I am a small business owner who runs a hair salon in [REDACTED] with three permanent staff. I do not export any products to the EU or any other countries, but do have to deal with VAT and other EU laws.

When I have concerns I nearly always either engage with my local councillors or my local MP. I have never contacted an MEP or anyone within the EU – everything that concerns me can, or at the very least should be, addressed by local or national level. I don't understand why the EU thinks it should have a role in regulating a business like mine when national politicians are elected to do that job.

I have long been concerned that the EU is supplanting the national governments, and have also been concerned that the UK's voice in the EU seems to be going down. Having read Business for Britain's research I see that the UK's voice in all of the EU's bodies has declined dramatically since the UK joined in 1973. I find it very concerning that the politicians I actually engage with have less power because of the EU's expansion. Anything that means that the UK has fewer votes is something to be avoided.

I hope that this addresses some of your points. I am sure that some businesses will benefit from having access to new markets, but I imagine that they will be the large multi-corporates. Certainly the businesses in my local area will not benefit, they are street shops who don't export at all.