

DEBATE 8 - THE ISLE OF MAN AND EUROPE - TO JOIN OR NOT TO JOIN



Miles Walker, M.H.K.

- The increased role of the House of Keys in the Island's Government as various powers were transferred to Tynwald. The Lieutenant Governor ceased to hold the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1961. There have also been changes in the Legislative Council.
- The role played by the House of Keys in Island government has been and will be increasingly challenged by Europe.
- The Isle of Man is not part of the U.K. and therefore not part of the European Union.
- There are many strands to the issue of joining Europe, for example,

tax harmonisation

a single European currency

introduction and implementation of European legislation

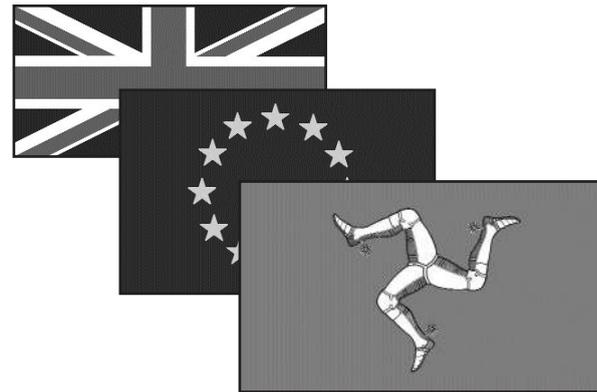


In 1973, when the U.K. joined the European 'Common Market', Tynwald took the option, as a Crown

Dependency, of signing Protocol 3, annexed to the United Kingdom Treaty of Accession, which enabled the Island, as one of the small dependencies of a European Community country, to stay out of the 'Market', but to retain the right of free trade with their 'mother country'.

Some of the main articles which apply are that rules on Customs matters apply to the Island in the same way as to the U.K., as do rules in relation to trade in agricultural products. Manx people with all four grandparents of Manx stock do not have the right to reside or work in the European Community (Union), although they have this right in the U.K.. Other decisions by Europe which aim at tax harmonisation affect the Island through its existing agreements with the U.K., such as the requirement to follow V.A.T. rules. There are also some European matters which the Island may volunteer to adopt, particularly with regard to public health.

In the twentieth century the Island's Government has become gradually more independent of the United Kingdom, with a reduction in the influence of the Lieutenant Governor, and an altered balance of power between the elected House of Keys and the Legislative Council, whose composition was amended in 1969 to eight members elected by the Keys together with the First Deemster, the Attorney-General and the Lord Bishop. In 1986 Ministerial Government was



introduced with Mr. Miles Walker elected by Tynwald as its first Chief Minister.

The Isle of Man has to decide whether its survival depends on this continuing movement towards independence and the preservation of differences, such as in tax legislation, or whether it should become a full member in its own right of the European Union, which in many ways aims to remove differences in order to achieve more equality between its member states.

- The Speaker calls on Sir Miles Walker, M.H.K. to outline the relationship of the Isle of Man with the U.K. and Europe.
- Vote on the motion that '*an application should be made for the Isle of Man's full and independent membership of the European Union*'.
- Voting results
- Speaker's conclusion



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Key Points



Background Info



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