



University Leads Survey into What MPs Really Think about Europe

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[摘要] 8 Feb 2007. The University of Birmingham has found that over two thirds of political movers and shakers endorse EU integration. Its survey also found that politicians consider globalisation to be a positive thing for Britain.

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The University has carried out a review to assess opinion formers' attitudes towards EU integration and globalisation.

In the first survey of its kind, researchers from the University sent every UK and Irish MP and 500 civil servants the questionnaire. Politicians were asked their opinions on a range of political issues surrounding the controversy over EU integration and the Policy makers, the ESRC-

funded study found, are not sceptical about globalisation, but do feel that it is something they feel unable to control. They believe that increased globalisation would lead to greater public spending, particularly in terms of investing in skills training.

Dr Nicola Smith, Lecturer in Political Science at the University, who worked on the study, said: "Rather than associating globalisation with rampant neo-

-liberalism, policy-makers instead appear to view globalisation as leaving some space for continued state intervention."

Participants were asked to provide their party allegiance, their gender, age and seniority, although they were not asked to give their names.

On the thorny question of Europe, 65% of MPs are very positive on integration, yet there is a significant split on party lines with 85% of Labour MPs supporting it compared to just 15% of Conservatives.

Colin Hay, Professor of Political Analysis at the University, said: "This broad support for European integration is interesting, indicating the growing size of the gulf between privately held views and party political rhetoric on Europe".

Perhaps not surprisingly, it is higher-ranking politicians who show the more positive attitudes on both globalisation and EU integration.

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