

**Lord (Norman) Lamont** was appointed UK government Trade Envoy for Iran in January 2016 immediately after the lifting of many of the international economic and financial sanctions on Iran. He warned of a danger that the much-heralded agreement that has led to the thaw in Iran's relations with the international community could "go completely wrong". He told the AEJ that that might happen because, while Iran had fulfilled its part of the deal by getting rid of a large number of uranium-enriching centrifuges and disabling its plutonium reactor, many US sanctions still remain in force. Crucially, he pointed out that these stand in the way of Iran's access to dollar financing of its prospective trade with the West. And UK and other western banks fear they might themselves be targeted by US regulatory authorities with heavy sanctions if they assist Iran with international transactions. Iran remains on the US State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Speaking on 15 April, the first day of the official campaigns in the run-up to the 23 June UK referendum on membership of the European Union, Lord Lamont acknowledged that he had never before advocated that Britain should leave the EU, despite his own Euroscepticism and what he called a "dialogue of the deaf" when, as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the early 1990s, he took part in intensive talks with European leaders about their plans for creating the euro currency. Explaining why he now supports the "Vote Leave" campaign, he said he believed that the Eurozone would need more fiscal centralisation to survive and Britain could become the last and only EU member state outside the eurozone. He thought that the euro crisis would recur and that "it will end in disaster".

He expressed confidence that the UK would be able to negotiate a favourable trading relationship with the EU after leaving, but also ventured that "it is possible that we may have a second referendum".