

Peer highlights fear tactics used in 1975 referendum on 40th anniversary

Don't be influenced by the "lies and fear" tactics used in 1975 and being used again

The independent Labour Peer, Lord Stoddart of Swindon has commemorated the 40th anniversary of the original referendum on British membership of the Common Market with some strongly worded comments on the tactics used in 1975 and suggested that similar tactics are already being used to frighten voters in the forthcoming referendum.

Lord Stoddart, who has campaigned against membership of the Common Market/EU since the 1960s, said: "It is forty years since the original referendum on Common Market membership but the memories are still fresh. The British people were coerced into remaining in what was, in truth, a budding new country called 'Europe'. Lies and fear were the weapons used 40 years ago and we should not be fooled again. We were even told in a Government leaflet that the threat of a single currency had been removed! Never in the history of British politics have so many lies been told for so little purpose.

"The very same sort of siren voices we listened to then are, even now, already at work attempting to frighten voters into thinking that Britain would be badly damaged by leaving. The truth is that we would thrive outside of the backward, corporatist and failing organisation that is now called the European Union. It is the only Continent suffering from a continuous decline in trade.

"We need to free ourselves from its suffocating red tape, regain control of our own borders and take back the right to negotiate our own trade agreements across the world and in the process save ourselves £20 billion gross (£13.5 billion net), per annum. This would leave us free to invest in the NHS, British agriculture and many other things this country badly needs.

"In the interests of reclaiming our democracy and to ensure a

decent economic future for our children and grandchildren, we must throw off the yoke of Brussels and vote to leave the EU in the next referendum. To do anything else is to wave the white flag and surrender our country.”