

## **TORY REFORM GROUP: IT'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID**

Like most of the British people, the Tory Reform Group has watched the weekend's developments on Europe with a mixture of astonishment and dismay.

With unemployment, inflation and low growth figures threatening the lives and jobs of people up and down the country, this moment of dire financial crisis is not the time to re-open a debate on Britain's membership of the European Union.

All of us agree that the EU needs reform but whatever the strongly held view of some, this is simply the wrong time for such a debate.

David Cameron has moved the Conservative Party into the centre ground of British politics - he has made us electable again. This debate is self-indulgent and wrong. The Conservative Party has historically put the national interest above Party interest. It did so to form the Coalition. It must do so again. It is time to remember that we are a Party of Government now and must behave like it.

### **ENDS**

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About the TRG**

The Tory Reform Group is one of the largest groupings within the Conservative Party. The home of One Nation Conservatism, it works to promote the values of One Nation Conservatism. That is, a modern, progressive Conservatism that strives for economic efficiency and social justice; a Conservatism that supports equality, diversity and civil liberties. Composed of Parliamentarians, Councillors, Conservative members and voters from across the country, the TRG is the voice of progressive Conservatism.

The TRG President is the Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP, Vice-Presidents include Damian Green MP and Alistair Burt MP and Patrons include The Rt Hon Sir John Major CH KG, Lord Hurd of Westwell CH CBE, Lord Heseltine CH and Sir George Young MP. In June 2009, David Cameron wrote that "the TRG is central to where the Conservative Party needs to be." For more information visit [www.trg.org.uk](http://www.trg.org.uk).