

*PLEASE NOTE "THE ANDREW MARR SHOW" MUST BE  
CREDITED IF ANY PART OF THIS TRANSCRIPT IS USED*

# **THE ANDREW MARR SHOW**

## **INTERVIEW:**

**NIGEL FARAGE, MEP**

**LEADER, UKIP**

**NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> 2015**

**ANDREW MARR:**

Now, as we heard in the papers, a lot about Europe and Britain's fast rising populations this week. Whoever ends up leading the campaign for Britain to leave the EU, no-one has a longer track record on this than UKIP's leader Nigel Farage. Welcome Mr Farage.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Good morning.

**ANDREW MARR:**

It's been a week really when lots of people who are pro staying in the EU – and I suppose the prime minister has made his most pro-EU comments for a long time when he was speaking in Norway about Iceland ... Iceland about Norway, beg your pardon – it's been a week when we've been looking therefore at the options for Britain outside the European Union. Can I raise, first of all, what the prime minister was saying? He said look Norway spends more per head on the EU than we do and more people migrate into Norway proportionally than come here and, therefore, life outside is not quite so sunny.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Well the fact we're discussing this shows you that the renegotiation isn't going anywhere, so rather than us attacking him for his lack of demands he's tried to move the debate on actually in a sense to the end game. I mean, look, I find it very odd in one way that we're told by British politicians that we're not big enough to survive on our own in the world and when you see examples of little countries that are surviving on their own, in fact are much richer than we are, we hear the prime minister being disparaging about them, which I find odd. Norway sells 75 per cent of its overseas goods to the European marketplace. It trades with the European marketplace at a premium. It has opted to be a member of the European Economic Area, which is in a sense an anteroom for European Union, which means free movement of people and which means they do pay some money – although most of it actually voluntarily. But, but those are ...

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* So we wouldn't want their model?

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

No but those arrangements suit Norway. We are a country of 65 million people. We are now the biggest trading market in the world for the Eurozone. They sell us 50 billion pounds worth of goods every year more than we sell them. If Norway, Iceland and Switzerland can get deals that suit them, we can do something far, far better than that.

**ANDREW MARR:**

Nonetheless a lot of people who might say I'd quite like to get out of the EU - we could control our borders again, our parliament can be properly sovereign again – are worried about the economic consequences of this. And they're worried partly because they haven't yet heard from people like you a detailed account of the kind of relationship of a post-EU Britain with the EU. What would it feel like? What kind of ...

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Yeah.

**ANDREW MARR:**

... how would we neg... what would we be negotiating?

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

What we'd be doing is getting out of political union with Europe and rejoining the world. You know at the moment - it's incredible really - we're the fifth or sixth biggest economy in the world, depending on what measure you use, and we're actually banned from making our own trade deals with any other part of the world. I want us to have a simple free trade agreement with the European Union not to be a member of a political club, not to be subject to the decision of its courts ...

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* Would you ...

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

*(over)* ... and to be free. Business ...

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* Would you want access to the single market?

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

I wouldn't ... I would want access to the single market - just as China does and every other country in the world does - but I don't want to be a member of the single market and here's why. Only 15 per cent of the British economy is exporting goods to the European Union, yet the regulations of that market affect 100 per cent of the British economy. Now I think freed from political union, we'll go on buying/selling goods with each other, that's fine, but we'll be free to make our own trade deals and to look at the mass of European law which falls on our small and medium sized businesses and to say do you know what, with a bit of lightening up actually economically we'd be far better off outside it than in.

**ANDREW MARR:**

And yet countries like Norway, and Switzerland you mentioned as well, have to pay a

pretty hefty price into EU coffers for the privilege of being able to trade there.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Well actually Norway voluntarily pays most of this money. And it doesn't go to Brussels. It goes directly to the newer accession countries, so that is a completely different arrangement ...

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* Different deals.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

... and frankly Cameron put that pretty falsely to people the other day. But look, then again I suppose in one way ...

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* What about Switzerland?

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

... in one way Norway can afford to give people money. It's rich, it's successful.

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* It's got all the oil, yeah.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Well it's got fish.

**ANDREW MARR:**

It's got fish and oil.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Look at Scotland, look at the east coast of England. We've given away a tremendous resource worth billions of pounds every year. Norway chooses its own deal; we will choose our own deal. We're in a much stronger negotiating position than Norway ever has been.

**ANDREW MARR:**

Now you said earlier on that we could then trade with the rest of the world ...

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Yeah.

**ANDREW MARR:**

... but Michael Froman, the US trade representative, was very, very clear this week. He said we're not interested in free trade agreement with a separate country. We do a free trade deal with the EU and if Britain left the EU we would not have a free trade deal with Britain and, therefore, British goods will be paying a tariff going into the US.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Well he's clearly been paid to say that, hasn't he? I mean this is the big political club gathering around the prime minister who clearly is in desperate trouble with this referendum. Look this is laughable. You know America's got a free trade deal with Oman, America's got a free trade deal with Australia. Are you seriously telling me that their oldest and closest global ally, with whom they do enormous amounts of business and with whom ... and with whom big commercial companies would say don't talk such nonsense. It's an attempt ...

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* Well he says ...

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

*(over)* ... it's an attempt to scaremonger by a paid official and I don't take it seriously.

**ANDREW MARR:**

It sounds quite scary to me. I mean what he says is: "I think it's absolutely clear that Britain has a greater voice at the trade table being part of the EU, being part of a larger economic entity.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Well...

**ANDREW MARR:**

We are not particularly in the market for FTAs ...

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Yeah, yeah.

**ANDREW MARR:**

... with individual countries. We're building platforms that other countries can join. We have no FTA with the UK, so they would be subject to the same tariffs and other trade related measures as China, Brazil or India."

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Yeah, well it's early in the morning so I won't tell you what I really think about what he's said.

**ANDREW MARR:**

Oh go on!

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Look Britain has more influence in the world as part of the EU in terms of trade? We don't even have a seat at the World Trade Organisation. We've been asked before to leave the room. El Salvador's in the room. They've got a voice and Britain hasn't. We will have far more influence globally on trade by being an independent country with our own seat at the WTO, but - more important than that - with the ability to make bilateral trade deals. Switzerland has more free trade deals globally than we do and she's negotiated it for herself.

**ANDREW MARR:**

So who's paying him to say this kind of stuff, Nigel?

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Oh the State Department or some... I mean look we, we know ...

**ANDREW MARR:**

*(over)* You think this is the big guys ganging up on the anti-EU campaign?

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

It's the big guys politically ganging up. But what is interesting is in the commercial world this is not happening; that actually the big bosses like from Nissan are saying we will go on making cars in Sunderland regardless whether we're in political union or not.

**ANDREW MARR:**

Standard & Poor say that if we left we'd lose our triple A rating and might downgrade as well.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

*(over)* Oh right. Is this the same Standard & Poor that didn't tell us about the 2008 crash, that misread the biggest economic collapse of modern times?

**ANDREW MARR:**

Yeah.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Sorry, I don't think their credibility's very high at the moment.

**ANDREW MARR:**

I guess the bigger point is that all these big economic voices or many of these big economic voices are as it were all now speaking from the same hymn book, and we know from the Scottish referendum that these what you might call - "Project Fear" they called it up there - does have an effect.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

*(over)* These are politic... these are political voices.

**ANDREW MARR:**

Yeah.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

You know what you're hearing from the trade envoy is a political voice, not an economic voice. What we're hearing economically from big global trading companies is Britain will continue to trade, buy and sell goods and services back and forth between Britain and Europe regardless whether we're members of the political union or not. But – and here's our key point – freed from that, we have bigger, better global opportunities.

**ANDREW MARR:**

Standard and Poor's also said that it would be worse for us because Scotland would leave ... if the UK voted to leave, Scotland would then vote to leave the UK. Do you think that's a serious threat?

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

So they've gone from economic forecasters who got the 2008 collapse wrong now to political forecasters. I think we should ignore them on that too.

**ANDREW MARR:**

Alright. Let's move to another big story of the week, which was the projected, eye-watering rises in the UK population – another 10 million people in a generation. What effect would that have on Britain?

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Well I've been saying this now for a decade – that actually a population rising as rapidly as it is is quite impossible for our primary school system to cope with, impossible for our health services to cope with. I mean we already have to build a new house every seven minutes in this country just to cope with current migration levels. And – and it's interesting that's Theresa May's on today because she's picked up this theme very strongly – it has led to a lack of cohesion and division within our societies. You know some will argue that if 10 million more people come our GDP will rise. Well actually some things are more important than money and the shape and

cohesion and happiness of this country matters far more. If another 10 million people increase population in Britain in the next 25 years our quality of life will go down.

**ANDREW MARR:**

And is there any way in your view, any way at all that we can retain control over the number of people coming in while we're inside the EU?

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

No absolutely not, absol... There is no way we can do that. You know we may get a deal on migrant benefits. What we will not get is a deal on an open door. And don't forget just two weeks ago the EU have decided – quite surprisingly – to speed up the accession deal with Turkey. That means another 75 million more people will have total free rights to move to Britain or elsewhere.

**ANDREW MARR:**

You talk very eloquently on all of this. You'll have seen from one newspaper earlier in the week that Theresa May is the popular choice to lead this campaign. She's the person, it's said, who could bring over dissident Tories, UKIP, undecideds and so forth, very popular in the country. How do you react to that?

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Well I don't think she ... She can't bring UKIP over because the figures on that were pretty overwhelming. Look I've been campaigning on this for years. I was very pleased that poll said that I could bring people into this campaign from the Labour Party, from undecideds, Conservatives, etcetera. The point about Theresa May is this: she's the longest serving Home Secretary of modern times. She has presided over the most disastrous immigration figures. If she ... if that person was to say look I've been here, I've been at the sharp end, we cannot do this as EU members, we need a better way, of course the public would come behind it – and, you know what, so would I too.

**ANDREW MARR**

So you'd welcome ...

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

*(over)* Well I'd be absolutely delighted of course.

**ANDREW MARR:**

We've got lots more to talk about, including the Oldham by-election which is coming up, Nigel Farage, but for now thank you very much indeed.

**NIGEL FARAGE:**

Thank you.

**ANDREW MARR:**

Thank you.

**INTERVIEW ENDS**