

Margaret Thatcher's Quotations on Europe

« I believe we should continue to have a partnership of national states each retaining the right to protect its vital interests, but developing more effectively than at present the habit of working together ». - [Conservative Party Campaign Guide, 1977](#).

« We believe in a free Europe, not a standardised Europe. Diminish that variety within the member states, and you impoverish the whole community. We insist that the institutions of the European Community are managed so that they increase the liberty of the individual throughout the Continent. These institutions must not be permitted to dwindle into bureaucracy. Whenever they fail to enlarge freedom the institutions should be criticised and the balance restored. » - [July 1979](#).



« My first guiding principle is this: willing and active cooperation between independent sovereign states... Europe will be stronger precisely because it is as France as France, Spain as Spain, Britain as Britain, each with its own customs, traditions and identity. It would be folly to try to fit them into some sort of identikit European personality. » - [Speech to the College of Europe, Bruges, 20 September 1988](#).

« The lesson of this century is that Europe will only be peaceful if the Americans are on this continent. » - [18 April 1993](#).

« In my lifetime all our problems have come from mainland Europe and all the solutions have come from the English-speaking nations across the world. » - [Speech to the Scottish Tories, 1999](#).

« To surrender the pound, to surrender our power of self-government, would betray all that past generations down the ages lived and died to defend. » - [22 May 2001](#).

Winston Churchill on Europe

“We have our own dream and our own task. We are with Europe, but not of it. We are linked but not combined. We are interested and associated but not absorbed. If Britain must choose between Europe and the open sea, she must always choose the open sea.” ([Speech in the House of Commons, 1953](#))