

THE SUN: LE BREX-OUI-T

Emmanuel Macron says France would ‘probably’ have followed Britain out of the EU if they held a referendum

Brexit supporters insisted his stunning comments proved Britain made the right choice in choosing to leave the EU in 2016

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FRANCE could have voted to quit Europe in an EU referendum, President Emmanuel Macron has admitted. Brexit supporters yesterday insisted his stunning comments proved Britain made the right choice in deciding to leave.



French President Emmanuel Macron says France would ‘probably’ have followed Britain out of the EU.

Mr Macron blamed previous UK governments for alienating middle and lower class voters worried about the rise in unrestricted immigration and free markets.

He said then-PM David Cameron took a huge risk by asking “yes or no on a very complicated subject”.

And he warned Prime Minister Theresa May she could not cherry-pick the benefits of EU membership.

Mr Macron spoke to the BBC’s Andrew Marr during his visit to Britain last week.

In the interview, aired yesterday, he said: “I am not the one to judge the decision of your people.

But, my interpretation is that a lot of the losers of globalisation suddenly decided it was no more for them.”

Challenged whether France might have voted the same way, he said: “Yeah, probably. Probably in a similar context.

But we have a very different context in France. I think it’s a mistake when you just ask yes or no, when you ask people how to improve the situation and how to explain how to improve it.

All your people saying the Hungarian or Polish workers are much, much more favoured than I am.

It was exactly the same debate we had in France 10 to 15 years ago against some directives that a lot of your governments pushed at the time, saying guys, you are not free market.

I do believe in a free market. But we need regulation, which we lost in recent years in Europe.”

Mr Macron also said ministers must be prepared to make concessions over trade in order to get a Brexit deal.

He said: “If you respect the precondition to get access to the single market, it’s feasible.

But there is no cherry picking in the single market. Otherwise that’s a dismantling of the single market.“

"And for me it’s one of the pillars of the European Union — and something you loved in the past.”

Eurosceptic Tory Iain Duncan Smith said Mr Macron’s comments were an “admission the European project was going in the wrong direction”.

He told the Sun: “He has admitted Britain made the right decision and they are now trying to frustrate Brexit to stop others from doing the same.”