Arguments for Voting 'No' in the Referendum

About Veolia Environnement

- Operates in 77 different countries, in every continent around the world.
- More than 317,034 employees .
- Customers in four complementary segments: water, environmental, energy & transport.
- Veolia Environnement recorded revenue of €34.8 billion in 2010.
- **Veolia Environnement Foundation** - non-profit, community projects contributing to sustainable development, with special focus on outreach, workforce development and environmental conservation. Just a few actions include:
  - Veolia Water in Bangladesh – a social business project in action
  - Veolia Environmental Services in Fukushima – treating contaminated waters
  - Educational Showcase in Hong Kong – development of a sludge-treatment plant.
  - Solar Power in Nepal – solar panels installed in Nepalese schools
  - Tree Nurseries in Mozambique – fighting forest overexploitation
- **Diversity and Equal Opportunity –** Major focus of Veolia Environnement with their "**Diversity & Equal Opportunity 2008-2011 Concerted Action Plan"** through 3 aims:
  1. Equal Treatment - ensuring non-discriminatory access to employment
  2. Day-to-day management of diversity **–** providing staff with tools to help select hiring criteria. A system to process employees' discrimination complaints has also been set in place.
  3. Minimum social standards - defining its own labour standards consistent with its values.

Where has this referendum come from?

The wider Boycotts, Divestments & Sanctions (BDS) movement

- Similar motions targeting Veolia Environnement have been put forward at other universities and county councils. The motion failed to pass at the LSE and Edinburgh University, as well as the Edinburgh County Council mainly due to the 2006 Public Contracts Regulations Act which makes it **illegal** for councils to consider contracts based on their political or ethical connections.
- BDS campaigns for the One State Solution which would see the destruction of the State of Israel as the only Jewish state, according to Omar Barghouti founder of BDS.
- Although this motion is not explicitly anti-Semitic, the wider BDS movement is, targeting Jewish Israelis rather than Arab Israelis.
- It is the moderates on both sides of the conflict that are the biggest victims of BDS.
- BDS ended the historic cooperation agreement between Israeli & Palestinian Trade Unions, which the General Secretary of the Palestinian Trade Union said "the agreement removed key obstacles to future cooperation and the full respect of the rights of Palestinian workers."
- BDS forced termination of the "Joint Hebrew University – Al-Quds University Academic Cooperation"

What you should do now

- Vote **against** the motion from Friday 21st to Monday 24th of October.
- Note that CUSU does not have a foreign policy. Foreign affairs are matters that fall outside of its remit and CUSU can't represent its members with such a diverse student demography and opinion.
- If you are interested in the topic of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, look out for campaigns promoting peace, co-operation and dialogue – **building bridges not boycotts!**