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Brexit Means Exit!

What does Brexit mean? Brexit means Exit! Brexit means leaving the European Union or it means nothing at all.

It certainly does not mean being half in and half out of the EU: it does not mean leaving the EU in name but not in reality.

What has actually happened in the fifteen months since the Referendum?

For the first seven months, nothing at all. In January, this year Mrs May gave a speech consisting mostly of waffle, but at least confirming that we would leave the Single Market and the Customs Union.

In March, the Government finally triggered Article 50. Since then they have published 14 position papers on various policy areas. Most of them aspirational in nature and not very specific.

On 22nd September Mrs May made her speech in Florence laying out her plan for what she describes as our '**New Relationship with the European Union**'.

The first half of the speech was inconsequential niceties about Europe. As many still do, Mrs May still seems to confuse the political construction of the European Union with the continent of Europe.

Halfway through her speech Mrs May got on to some of the specifics of what her proposed new relationship with the EU might look like.

There were three main elements to her speech: The **Economic Partnership**, the **Security Relationship**, and the **Implementation** of the final withdrawal agreement.

Let's consider the main points.

Regarding the **Economic Partnership** Mrs May again stated that we will be leaving the Single Market and Customs Union. So far so good, but from on there on her proposals were more vague.

She ruled out membership of the **European Economic Area**, which is good, but she also ruled out a traditional free trade agreement. She says she wants a more "creative solution", but does not explain what that might look like. So, we are none the wiser.

Regarding the proposed **Security Relationship** this was quite ominous in nature. Mrs May wants a new Treaty between the UK and the EU which will not only enshrine our

existing involvement with the EU's security and defence policy but also, as Mrs May puts it, to "*go beyond the existing arrangements the EU has in this area*".

Mrs May's new treaty proposes a 'bold new strategic arrangement for security, law enforcement, and criminal justice co-operation'.

Think what this means: it means Britain will be committed to the EU's Foreign, Security and Defence policy; it means the continuing absorption of Britain's armed forces into the EU's own armed forces.

It also means that we will be committed to being part of the EU's own developing police and criminal justice system.

It means keeping all the EU's legal instruments, such as the European Arrest Warrant and the European Investigation Order, to name just two of many.

It means we will continue to be part **Europol**, the EU's emerging police force, and the other EU legal institutions.

Soon the EU will have its own **Public Prosecutor**; and the UK's opt-out from that is essentially worthless.

The Prosecutor will be able to exert their authority by means of the EU's existing legal instruments through national authorities.

That was confirmed to me in a committee meeting earlier this week by a spokesman for the Commission.

These legal institutions and legal instruments have undermined our traditional freedoms and liberties under English law. And Mrs May intends we keep them all even after we leave the EU.

Regarding the **Implementation** of the Withdrawal Agreement it appears that Mrs May proposes the following.

Nothing is going to change up to when we leave the EU on 29th March 2019. After that we will no longer be members of the **European Council**, the **Council of Ministers**, and we will no longer have **Members of the European Parliament**.

All well and good. But not much else seems to change.

After the 29th March 2019, there will follow a period of Implementation, or transition, which might be two years, or perhaps longer.

Up to March 2019 we will continue to pay our contributions to the EU budget, which after the rebate is about **£14 to £15 billion** per annum.

It also seems likely that the EU will expect us to pay billions more during the implementation period, we don't know, and Mrs May did not deny it.

Another subject Mrs May touched upon was that of **open borders** and **immigration** from the EU. This was of course one of the most important issues in the Referendum campaign.

Mrs May proposes **no** controls at all up to March 2019, or during her further two-year implementation period.

But never mind because she does propose a system of registering migrants so that we know who they are, before she works out what controls to put in place.

So, in summary what can we say Mrs May told us on 22nd September?

- She wants an imaginative trade deal with the EU, but can't tell us what it might consist of.
- She intends to bind us to the EU's foreign policy and military ambitions.
- She intends to bind us to the EU's police and criminal justice system.
- She proposes no controls on EU migration until at least mid-2021, and cannot tell us what controls there might be thereafter.
- She also tells us that we are going to be subject to the rulings of the **Court of Justice of the European Union**, to a greater or lesser degree after we leave.

Essentially nothing much will happen for five years after the Referendum, and a great deal will stay the same.

Theresa May's handling of Brexit so far has been a complete and utter shambles. And she is showing herself to be **Theresa the Appeaser!**

And what is the EU saying in response? Well they of course don't want us to leave: they need our financial contributions, and for us to share in their liabilities.

The EU has no incentive whatsoever to agree a mutually beneficial Withdrawal Agreement. They have every incentive to make our exit as difficult as possible and to delay it as long as possible.

Mr Barnier their chief negotiator, has said we have to pay them **€100** million for the privilege of leaving.

Mr Verhofstadt, the **European Parliament's representative**, says many things, including that any European citizen who ever set foot in the UK, and their children, should have access to our benefits and public housing systems, our education and health services, and anything else he can think of, for life.

Mr Tusk the **President of the Council**, talks to our Government as though they were naughty and ungrateful school children. He tells them we 'cannot have our cake and

eat it', and when Mrs May makes concessions he says they are not enough and he wants yet more concessions.

And **Mr Jean-Claude Juncker the President of the Commission**, tells us we will regret our decision to leave the EU, and then reveals his plans for full economic, financial, political and military integration.

Its full steam ahead towards a United States of Europe, and if we had voted to Remain it would be our fate to be part of it.

So where is our Government and Parliament going with all this?

Mrs May was a Remainer, she is now entrusted with a task she does really believe in. A majority of members of both Houses of Parliament don't want us to leave.

I believe that they intend to try and engineer one of two outcomes:

Either they want to arrive a Withdrawal Agreement whereby we leave the EU in name but not in reality: with some kind of association status that would allow us to re-join in a few years down the line.

Or they hope to delay the leaving process long enough to eventually be able to disregard the decision of the Referendum altogether.

The great danger is that leaving will be delayed until the eve of the next General Election.

Mrs May (if she survives) may say either 'vote for me and my 'we don't really leave' Withdrawal Agreement or you get Jeremy Corbyn and his red in tooth and claw Marxists'. What a choice that would be.

And if Labour wins they could claim a new mandate from the people, and ignore the Referendum result altogether.

We cannot know exactly what will happen but Brexit is in danger of being betrayed.

So that's all the bad news. The good news is that there is a way of quickly and decisively leaving the European Union if our Government have the will and the courage to take it.

It is described in detail in my **EU Exit Plan**, which you can download from my website. But let me summarise it now.

- Parliament should immediately repeal the European Communities Act (1972) as a first step. We will then have left the European Union under our law.
- All EU-derived law is already incorporated into UK law, and it would remain temporarily in place under the Repeal Bill.

- Our Government and Parliament can then set about repealing or amending EU law in accordance with its own priorities and timescales.
- The two big issues to be addressed first are trade, and the status of EU and UK citizens.
- Regarding trade we should offer the EU two simple choices.

A trade agreement with continued tariff-free trade on the current terms, but where the UK has the freedom to negotiate its own trade agreements outside of the EU.

Or trade on World Trade Organisation terms.

Let the EU make the choice, but give them a short time to do so.

- Regarding citizens' rights, we should offer a reciprocal arrangement. But impose our own border controls and immigration policy quickly.

It may be necessary to go over the head of the EU and offer that unilaterally to the other 27-member states, because although the EU can make an agreement, it cannot enforce it in its member states.

- Regarding security and defence issues, we should immediately withdraw from the EU's security and defence policy, and all our military involvements with the EU. We have **NATO** for our mutual defence needs.
- We should withdraw from **Europol** and all the EU's legal institutions and legal instruments. We have **Interpol** for international police co-operation, and we can fall back on pre-existing international co-operation agreements in police and criminal justice matters.

Regarding the many thousands of pieces of EU legislation in place, some we may wish to repeal, some we may wish to amend, and some we may wish to keep in place because they are purely technical or allow us to interact with the EU.

One thing we haven't touched on yet is the so-called divorce bill. David Davis should clear this up immediately and tell the EU exactly what the figure is. And it should be a big fat zero!

I am not suggesting the leaving process will be easy or simple, but unless our Government seizes the initiative and takes control of the situation we cannot expect or hope that the EU will deliver Brexit for us.

Unless we leave by the bold and decisive means I have described, then we are unlikely to leave at all.

Mrs May, or her successor, may well find that the intransigence of the EU forces her into taking the course of action I describe. So why not do it sooner rather than later.

UKIP's central founding policy was to bring about Britain's exit from the European Union.

UKIP's electoral threat forced David Cameron to promise and hold the Referendum.

UKIP's Leader, Nigel Farage, and our donors, activists and members, delivered the Referendum victory on 23rd June 2016.

It was UKIP what won it!

But our exit from the EU is little closer than in was on 24th June 2016.

Brexit must not be betrayed!

If we want Brexit to happen then we have to rebuild UKIP's electoral threat.

The next stage our historical struggle is just beginning.

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