

Dear Chris and Gavin

Have we not reached this point?

"Mr Speaker.

Business and the wider public need to plan for our future outside the EU.
We need certainty not ongoing confusion running into February and even March.

The UK government has been consistent and clear that we are leaving the European Union.
That means leaving the Single Market and the Customs Union.
It is not helpful for the EU to suggest otherwise.
We were clear during the Referendum that we would like to leave with a Deal, but that we would leave without one if necessary.
We were equally clear in our 2017 manifesto that we would leave the Customs Union..

Parliament overwhelmingly rejected the deal the government proposed with the EU.
The EU has made clear that there can be no changes to that deal.
Sadly there is no prospect of a broad withdrawal agreement between the UK and EU.

So Mr Speaker, today I announce that the UK government is abandoning those negotiations.
Instead we will immediately seek to negotiate with individual EU countries the basic agreements necessary to allow trade in goods and services to continue without difficulty.

That means we will ensure that we:

Keep the planes flying.

Keep the ships sailing

Keep the trains running - through the Channel Tunnel

Keep the lorries flowing - across the Channel

Keep goods and services flowing

We know France and other countries want this.

Meanwhile we will seek to engage with the EU to talk about the £39B and the FTA for goods and services once we have left.

As time is short, I will also raise with the EU the possibility of a 6 week extension to Article 50.
We can be ready to go leave on 29 March, but a 6 week extension will facilitate this.
If the EU agrees, that will allow this additional time to ensure that we can leave with all the necessary arrangements in place.

I will report back in due course on these matters."

REMINDER - WHY HER DEAL IS SO BAD

The EU are determined that we get no "competitive advantage",

1 TRANSITION PERIOD

Subservient membership - they make the rules, we have to accept them.

Tolerable only if we have a proper FTA in goods AND services ready for 1-1-21.

Now obvious this will never happen under this deal.

2 BACKSTOP

Totally unacceptable - creates customs border from GB to NI.

No exit mechanism or time limit is the point. We simply must never enter this.

3 FUTURE RELATIONSHIP FRAMEWORK

No clear path to exiting the Customs Union.

Instead we are legally prevented from leaving the CU unless the EU agree.

The EU make clear they do not intend to let us leave the CU.

4 MONEY

The £39B is important, but only a very small part of UK GDP over the time involved.

Far more important is what happens to our economy.

The whole point of Brexit was to go our own way free of EU interference.

HER DEAL keeps us permanently under THEIR thumb.

The EU have now made clear they want us to abandon Brexit, or if not, then stay in the Single Market and Customs Union - Norway + CU.

That way we get no "competitive advantage", instead they make the rules and we are stuffed.

Peter Morgan

PJM, 0904, Fri 25-1-19