

# Stupidity or sabotage part 2

Following last week's debate on the Customs Union in the House of Lords, Thursday saw the Commons stage a debate, entitled "Customs and Borders". Dr Richard North followed it and the title of his blog post, "a showpiece of ignorance" is enough in and of itself to make the point that the level of understanding about the nature of a customs union in the lower chamber is, with a few exceptions, as appallingly low among MPs as among their Lordships. Dr North described the contribution of Yvette Cooper and others as "an exercise in futility." If we have needed any further evidence since the referendum of why we ought to leave the EU, it is our MPs' total cluelessness of the true nature of the beast.

He also suggest a reason why some MPs are clinging on to the fantasy that staying in the customs union would enable us to enjoy seamless trade with the EU. It only needs a plane trip to the Turkish/Bulgarian border crossing at Kapikule to watch Turkey's version of "Operation Stack" to expose the fallacy of their argument, so why cling to their illusions?

The most likely answer is that the remoaners have realised that their dream of a second referendum is a non-starter. There is no groundswell among the public to go through all that again. Desperate to stop us leaving the EU, their only hope is via Parliament.

Can they succeed? Unlikely but one must never underestimate the malice of convinced remoaners. They could easily be thwarted, however, if the bulk of MPs realised that a customs union (i) is not joined at the hip to the single market, (ii) would not solve the Irish border problem and (iii) would not lead to seamless trade with the rest of the EU. We can be thankful that the penny has dropped with a few MPs but they need to show a bit more evangelistic zeal among their colleagues.