



The CIBUK Clear Water Partnership Newsletter

Welcome!



From: [Daniel Hodson](#)
Deputy Chairman, CIBUK
On behalf of the CIBUK Clear Water Partnership

Week commencing 13 June 2022

Introduction

In this, our sixth newsletter, we continue to monitor the government's post-Brexit agenda in relation to three specific areas: politics, trade and tariffs and defence and security.



Summary

- In a tumultuous week which saw the Prime Minister's authority gravely weakened, we assess the political fall-out of last Monday's vote and its implications for a clean Brexit.
- Already siren voices are breaking through and raising questions which everyone thought had been settled years ago.
- Elsewhere we continue to scrutinise agricultural tariffs in the second of two reports by Catherine McBride and assess the impact they continue to have on the cost-of-living for millions of UK citizens.
- As we have said before the opportunities for assisting those most in need are in place: the government needs to expedite them.

- Finally, in a shocking exposé, we examine the EU's continued reliance on Russian imports since Putin started amassing his troops in December last year which total almost **£70bn** and which has helped fund Putin's war in Ukraine.
- More generally, the report provides an urgent wake-up call for Europe to develop hybrid supply chains as a hedge against extortion in a world of hostile providers. This is a subject we will return to in greater depth.

Not Again!

Circling vultures threaten Brexit Completion ***Senior figures advocate re-joining the Single Market***

With the Prime Minister's authority now hanging by a thread following the Tory Party's vote last Monday night, his flagship Brexit policy may be heading the same way as senior figures across the political spectrum openly question the wisdom of remaining outside the European Single Market.

Unholy Alliance

Among those setting the cat amongst the pigeons are the newly emboldened Labour leader Keir Starmer, and alarmingly, the government's own chair of the Defence Select Committee Tobias Ellwood.

Labour – to seek 'a better deal'

As we disclose in the exclusive report below, the Opposition leader has a track record of bending his principles to match events as they unfold:

"On LBC's Nick Ferrari Show, Starmer used the opportunity to say he would seek a better Brexit deal for the British people. **In other words he would have to initiate negotiations on the Brexit deal and our relationship with the EU.**"

"What I want to do, and what we would if we were in government is make Brexit work. Which is make sure that we've got a better deal that works, whether it's that for businesses because so many businesses are struggling with the extra bureaucracy. They just want to trade well with their European partners and of course across the world."

- The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP, LBC, 06 June 2022

Tory Chairman of the Defence Committee Tobias Ellwood is even more blatant:

“If joining the single market (with conditions) results in strengthening our economy, easing the cost of living crisis, settling the Irish problem at a stroke and promoting our European credentials as we take an ever greater lead in Ukraine, would it not be churlish to not face this reality?”

No turning back...

Even Tory Peer Daniel (Lord) Hannan, who advocated a Swiss-style accommodation during the Referendum has recognised that the opportunity has now gone.

“Having now unloaded all our furniture and begun our new life, the worst of all outcomes would be to pack the removal lorry again and return to the house next to our old one.”

(Daily Telegraph – 4th June 2020).

Let us be clear:

The Single Market is not the solution

As we point out in the report:

- There will be no rebate
- We will be expected to join the Euro
- We will lose all controls for which we gained opt-outs.
- Control of our borders will be impossible
- The Common Fisheries Policy (for example) would be imposed once again.
- Nor would it solve the Northern Ireland Protocol, as that involves customs issues and that would require joining the Customs Union too.

Moreover, as Catherine McBride highlights in her free trade article below, there are plenty of opportunities the UK government can already seize if only it had the will to do so!

The full report can be found here:

<https://cibuk.org/brexit-completion-threat-sir-keir-starmer/>

Keeping tariffs on our friends, but removing them from our critics! Why?!

By Catherine McBride for Brexit Watch

In our follow-up coverage on the Cost of Living crisis, we are delighted to include the second of Catherine McBride's two articles on the glaring anomalies in global agricultural tariffs.

Anomalies & Distortions

Her focus here is on the UK's on-going tariffs with New Zealand which will remain in force in some cases for the next **EIGHT YEARS**.

With the exceptions of kiwi fruit, honey and wine, the UK's trade deal with New Zealand will see tariffs maintained on many other agricultural products of far more use to UK households.

Even more bizarrely "any product that the UK doesn't buy, or New Zealand doesn't sell, will see those tariffs removed immediately."

Affected Produce

Apples and Pears

"For example, in product code 2009 – *Fruit Juices*, there are 102 different types of fruit juices listed at 8-digit tariff code level. The UK has removed its tariffs on all of them except: seven apple juice tariffs and four mixtures of apple and pear juice whose tariffs will only be lowered over 8 years, while tariffs on six types of pear juices and two types of cherry juices will be lowered over 4 years.

There are no prizes for guessing which of the 102 types of fruit juices in this product code are New Zealand's largest exports."

Why would we only lower our tariffs of up to 30% + £17/100kg on apple juice over 8 years? Who is this helping? Not UK consumers and not even the UK apple industry."

Who benefits? The EU

The UK imports more than 200,000 tonnes of apple juice in the two tariff- groups above. The UK's main suppliers are Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and Ireland.

Pumpkins, squash and gourds and courgettes

The 12% tariff on the 45,000 tons of courgettes the UK imports each year is only being lowered over four years.

Onions, shallots, garlic and leeks

The UK imports 360,000 tonnes of onions and shallots each year. Tariffs will only be lowered over **eight years**.

Who benefits? The EU

The only beneficiaries will be Spanish polytunnel farmers and Dutch greenhouse operators.

Dairy Produce

The UK is a huge importer of dairy products - \$4bn worth each year. Its largest suppliers are Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Belgium. The UK consumer will have to wait four years for the dairy tariff of £1.53 per kilo to be removed from New Zealand produce. The UK imports nearly half a million tons of cheese each year. Tariffs on New Zealand cheese, currently £1.85 per kilo, will be phased out over 6 years.

Who benefits? The EU

EU cheese producers – Belgium, France, Ireland and the Netherlands.

Damning Conclusion

As the government continually reminds us, we already are able to take advantage of our new-won freedoms. So what is stopping us?

As the report concludes:

“The cost-of-living crisis is here and now. The time to remove tariffs is here and now.”

The full report can be read here: <https://cibuk.org/cost-of-living-crisis-tariffs/>

World exclusive: EU increases its funding of Putin's war machine by 27%

By Facts4EU.Org on behalf of the CIBUK Clear Water Partnership

Astonishing though it is to report, the European Union has actually been spending

MORE on Russian imports since the start of the war in Ukraine than it was before.

The data, from the EU Commission's official statistics agency, is unambiguous and alarming:

EU Monthly Purchases from Russian Federation

- Dec 2021 : £15.7 bn
- Jan 2022 : £16.2 bn
- Feb 2022 : £17.5 bn
- Mar 2022 : £19.6 bn (a **27% increase since December**)
- **TOTAL : £69.0 bn** (€82.2 bn euros)

£69 billion more to fund Putin's killing machine, courtesy of the EU

"Despite the continual stream of announcements of 'economic sanctions' from the EU Commission and EU Council, (they have just announced their sixth 'package'), it is astonishing to find that **the EU has actually been increasing its spending with Russia**. On top of this, parts of the latest EU sanctions package still have **the end of 2022** as their start date."

By contrast, the UK cuts spending with the Russian Federation by 63%

Freed from any pan-European obligations, the UK has been swift to cut its reliance on Russian imports since the crisis erupted:

Value of Russian Imports to UK

The fall in the value of Russian imports since the invasion of Ukraine has been rapid and dramatic:

- Dec 2021: £1.5bn
- Jan 2022 : £1.8 bn
- Feb 2022 : £1.8 bn
- Mar 2022 : £0.5 bn **63% decrease since December**)
- **TOTAL : £5.6 bn**

Meanwhile the United Kingdom continues to add to its military support of Ukraine

- On 1st June, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace announced the despatch of M270 launchers to Ukraine
- The M270 is equipped with a launch system mounted on tracks and can fire a variety of 227mm missiles, including high-precision and short-range ballistic missiles of the ATACMS army tactical missile system.
- It is operated by 26 Regiment Royal Artillery from Larkhill, Wiltshire and 101 Regiment RA (Reserves) of Gateshead, Tyne & Wear.

While the UK's prompt and dramatic response to the threats posed by Putin's Russia stands in marked contrast to the EU's sluggish response, the broader geo-political danger for both Europe and the UK remains: over-reliance on hostile states for its global supply chains. We shall return to the matter in the weeks to come.

The full article can be read here:

<https://cibuk.org/eu-increases-funding-putin-russia-war/>

About CIBUK: The Campaign for an Independent Britain ([CIBUK](https://cibuk.org)) is a non-party political campaigning organisation of people from all walks of life. It is the UK's longest-running membership organisation for freedom, democracy and independence.

Founded in 1969, for over 50 years the CIBUK has made a significant contribution in campaigning on issues important to the majority of our population and in securing our exit from the European Union. Now it's time for the next chapter.