



The CIBUK Clear Water Partnership Newsletter

Welcome!



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Clear Water Partnership Newsletter

Week commencing 16 May 2022

In this, our second newsletter for the CIBUK Clear Water Partnership, we begin with coverage of the Northern Ireland Protocol through the eyes of Lord Frost and, in greater detail, the absurd implication of its terms for our fishing industry.

We also cover President Macron's latest overture on the future of the EU in which he revives the idea of a 'European Confederation' as opposed to the 'Federal Europe' we have all become accustomed to.

Finally, we conclude on an upbeat note, with the first of many articles on the continuing inward investment into Britain's manufacturing base from European and global investors.

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Be Brave over Brexit, Boris

Lord Frost has urged the Prime Minister to demonstrate the same courage over Northern Ireland as he has over Ukraine, by revoking the Protocol under Article 16.

Writing in Friday's Telegraph, the former Brexit minister describes the extent to which the EU has distorted and weaponised the original terms of the agreement for its own political ends.

Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the parlous state the UK fishing industry currently finds itself in.

Something fishy's going on

The absurdity of the NI Protocol, if taken to its logical conclusion, is hard to overstate.

Quite simply, any trawler registered and based in Northern Ireland would be treated as a boat from an EU 'third country' once it leaves its port.

According to the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP), the only option for avoiding very onerous EU controls would be for the trawler to land its catch at a mainland British port, fill out compulsory customs forms before carrying it back across the Irish Sea to its port of origin!

Grace period under threat

The only saving grace is the grace period itself – unilaterally implemented by the UK government on behalf of its fishing industry to prevent such absurdities from coming to pass.

Extended indefinitely, it could yet be challenged by the EU's courts in Luxembourg.

Hard sea border

The development of a hard sea border however – under the very Protocol which was designed to remove hard borders – is a paradox which can no longer be ignored.

Key flaws underpinning the NIP:

- A threat to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement: it has no mandate in Northern Ireland
- Distorting economic/trading patterns
- Impacting local and UK-wide business decisions

The implications of the current agreement therefore extend way beyond the fishing industry and may prove existential if the UK's unilateral grace period is challenged by the EU.

If agreement cannot be reached, revocation may be the only answer.

The full article is on the CIBUK website here: <https://cibuk.org/fishy-eu/>

Beware French Presidents bearing gifts

“Emmanuel Macron has made a tantalising constitutional offer to Brexit Britain, even if it is couched in vague language and has no official backing from the European Union's institutions” according to Ambrose Evans-Pritchard in an article for the Telegraph.

In a remarkable and unexpected intervention, the French President has spoken openly of his vision of a European Confederation along the lines originally outlined by Francois Mitterand, rather than the monolithic superstate we had all been led to believe.

“Macron proposes a constellation of democratic and liberal states that wish to trade and cooperate on friendly terms without having to accept the full EU package, with its ever more powerful executive in Brussels, and with a supreme court in Luxembourg acquiring hegemonic jurisdiction.”

Floating the idea in a key-note speech to the EU parliament earlier this week, it nonetheless raises as many questions as it answers and is shot through with contradictions:

Formidable Barriers

- The EU itself is divided:the EU Council’s President Charles Michel and the Council Secretariat support it but not the Commission officials
- The price for EU rapprochement over the NIP might be Boris Johnson’s political scalp
- Renewed commitment to freedom of movement
- Supreme court in Luxembourg acquiring ‘hegemonic jurisdiction’
- Such a confederation already exists:it is called the Council of Europe which the EU has sought to emasculate over decades

“President Macron seems to be proposing the very relationship with Europe that middle Britain has long sought, whether moderate Remainers or moderate Brexiteers - and the

line between them is an artifice of post-Referendum polemics.”

With all due respect to the author, CIBUK begs to disagree

With the UK and the EU at a critical juncture over the NIP, now is not the time to back this half-baked venture.

The full article can be read here: [Emmanuel Macron's 'Confederation' may be the perfect home for Brexit Britain \(telegraph.co.uk\)](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/ukpol/eu-referendum/2016/06/23/Emmanuel-Macrons-Confederation-may-be-the-perfect-home-for-Brexit-Britain-telegraph.co.uk)

Entente Commerciale – Airbus strengthens Brexit-Britain's manufacturing fabric – 'despite Brexit'

Finally, we draw your attention to **Brexit Britain's burgeoning manufacturing recovery**, with news of the latest inward investment from Airbus (below), a company that made the headlines for all the wrong reasons in the run-up to the Referendum: a bell-weather company we were told, awaiting instruction for take-off, never to return to these shores.

Notwithstanding ongoing political rows at the top, Anglo-French commercial relations continue to develop apace

The French-controlled aerospace corporation has announced a **£100m** investment at its Broughton manufacturing plant in Flintshire, with the creation of up to **500 jobs**.

The irony of Broughton voting to leave the EU in 2016 will escape no one. This latest news on top of its investment plans across the rest of the UK makes a mockery of those who predicted Airbus' rapid flight from the UK following the Referendum result.

The raw data is stark:

- Airbus employs more than **6,000** workers at its Broughton facility and over **3,000** at Filton, Bristol

- Investment by Airbus in its Broughton plant over the last fifteen years has totalled more than **£2bn**
- The factory in Broughton makes wings, including those of the Airbus A380 – the world's largest passenger plane
- The wings are flown over to France where the aircraft are assembled
- The factory at Filton site makes wings for the Airbus A400M, a military transport plane
- The Airbus A350-1000 just ordered by Qantas is powered by the latest generation Trent XWB engines from Rolls-Royce – safeguarding the jobs of British workers
- An Airbus spokesperson confirmed that it plans to make **75 A320 planes a month in 2025, an increase of around 50%**

If anyone were in any doubt as to Airbus' commitment to Britain, John Harrison, the group's UK Chairman, gave the following endorsement:

"We are steadfast in our commitment to the UK, and will continue to invest in our workforce, in the UK supply chain, research and development, and in the technologies that will play a vital role in limiting man-made carbon emissions, providing sustainable aviation that will benefit the entire planet.

"As our business looks towards recovery and growth following the pandemic, we continue to view Airbus' strong and enduring relationship with the United Kingdom as a vital element of Airbus' ongoing success and we are committed to continuing to deepen our ties over the years and decades to come."

We will continue to update our readers on inward investment into the UK in subsequent newsletters.

The full article is on the CIBUK site here: <https://cibuk.org/airbus-uk-investment/>

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.