

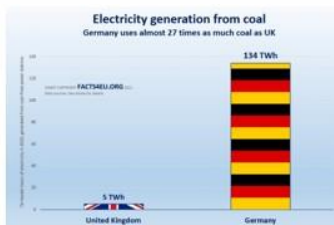
**Welcome!**



**From: Ben Philips** Communications Director  
and Editor of the CIBUK Clear Water  
Partnership Newsletter

**Week commencing 27 June 2022**

A diverse range of articles this week covering the European energy crisis, some good news on Britain's much-maligned immigration policy and in between a summary account of last week's Brexit debate hosted by Intelligence Squared from one of its participants, Professor Robert Tombs.



## Summary

- A great deal of justifiable criticism has been levelled at UK energy policy in recent years particularly in the light of the current international crisis.
- In comparison with the abysmal choices now facing Germany however, the UK's problems pale into insignificance.
- We lead on the extraordinary story now facing the EU's 'greenest' economy as it contemplates the energy options now open to it following Putin's invasion of Ukraine.
- In our second article Professor Robert Tombs provides a synopsis on the debate he took part in last week: '*Were we right to Brexit?*'
- He forensically demolishes the case of his opponents in area after area with statistical data to back up his arguments.
- We also provide a strong rebuttal to similar claims made in a recent report by the Resolution Foundation for City AM.
- Finally, some welcome news on the government's new points-based immigration system, which appears to be making it harder for businesses to access foreign cheap labour but is encouraging more highly skilled foreign workers to come to the UK, to fill the shortage of jobs in IT, engineering and finance.

# 'Let's burn more coal,' says (Green) German Economy Minister

## *Germany to fire up 150 coal plants as Russian crisis heats up*

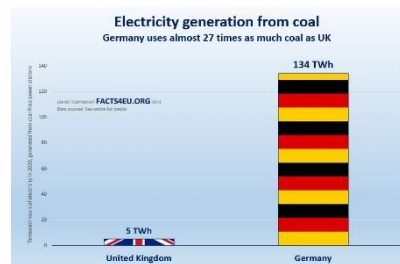
In an extraordinary twist of irony, the EU's leading green economy is now faced with resorting to the oldest and dirtiest methods of energy generation in order to make good on the anticipated shortfall this coming winter.

### ***Exposing the Myth***

Contrary to popular belief, Germany was already Europe's heaviest polluter, burning coal at a rate **27 times higher** than that of the UK.

### **Electricity generation from coal**

- UK : 5 TWh
- Germany : 134 TWh



[ Notes: TWh = "Terrawatt hours". Sources : OWID | BP Statistical Review of World Energy | Shift Data Project | Ember ]

### ***German Admission***

Germany's over-reliance on Russian gas has been a ticking time-bomb as even vice-chancellor Robert Habeck has now acknowledged:

*"To reduce gas consumption, less gas must be used to generate electricity. **Coal-fired power plants will have to be used more instead.**"*

- Statement from Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, 20 June 2022

### ***Germany's energy policy under Merkel – the world warned her but 'Mutti knew best'***

Germany's energy policy over the past ten years makes the UK look like a model of consistency.

The former Chancellor's impulsive decision to close all their nuclear power was mirrored by a headlong dash for gas and rush into renewables leaving the country a hostage to fortune.

### ***Compounding the Error***

"The Bundestag (German parliament) is now in the process of passing a bill to allow the burning of more coal for power generation, using 'reserve' power plants that were scheduled to go offline by 2030.

Not only that, but plants that were closed will come back online. These plants generally used lignite from East German mines. The bill is due to pass into law by 08 July.

Yesterday the head of the German Association of Energy and Water Industries told German state broadcaster ARD that reserve power plants burning German lignite can be brought online:

*"in a relatively short time span."*

- Kerstin Andreae, German Association of Energy and Water Industries, 20 June 2022

The full article can be found here: <https://cibuk.org/german-coal-energy-policy/>

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## What Remainers are saying now. And getting their facts wrong.

by Professor Robert Tombs for Briefings for Britain

We are very pleased to enclose Robert Tombs' recent article as a follow-up to some of the issues raised in last week's Intelligence Squared debate in which he took part entitled:

### ***'Were we right to Brexit?'***

Arguing for the motion alongside him was Daniel Hannan; opposing the motion was former Conservative MP and Attorney-General Dominic Grieve and rising Labour star Stella Creasy.

### **General Comments**

The allegations made by the Remainer camp – and reiterated by [City AM](#) in a recent article to which we refer below – are well rehearsed: namely that:

#### ***The City of London had 'lost 7,000 jobs'***

As Professor Tombs points out this was a tiny proportion of the predicted exodus and balanced by nearly 5,500 new jobs since Brexit.

Any planned moves by financial services firms to the EU have since stabilised over the past 12 months. Indeed the large international banks have increased their staffing as reports from [Ernst & Young](#) and the [Financial Times](#) make clear.

#### ***'Britain had become politically isolated'***

"Both Mr Grieve and Ms Creasy argued that we would have more 'influence' if we were 'inside the room' with the 'other 27' EU members. Influence to do what was unclear, for there was no suggestion that the EU had been effective or united in its response to Russian aggression." Indeed, Britain's swift and unequivocal response to Russian aggression in Ukraine stands in marked contrast to the other 27.

#### ***'Economic growth is lower due to Brexit'***

On the contrary. As professor Tombs points out:

‘GDP growth has been **higher in Britain** than in the Eurozone since we left: in 2021 by 7.4% to 5.3%; and it is predicted by the IMF to be higher in 2022 (3.7% to 2.8%).’

Furthermore, ‘The [IMF](#) forecasts that UK growth this year will be 3.7%, compared with the advanced economies average of 3.3%.’

### ***Trade has collapsed due to Brexit.’***

There has been a decline in export of North Sea Oil partly out of choice and partly because we are producing less.

Other exports however have not fallen and Eurostar freight volumes have increased by 5%.

Financial services exports have remained stable, and have **risen** worldwide in the last three months of 2021 from £13.6 billion to £14.8 billion.

### ***‘The cost of living has risen due to Brexit.’***

Again the assertion, re-iterated in [other sources](#), is quite untrue:

Food prices (April 2021-April 2022) rose 6.5% in the UK, and 9.2% in the Eurozone. Since 2021, they have indeed risen: from March 2021 to March 2022 they rose 13%. But in the Eurozone, import prices have risen by nearly twice as much over the same period—by 25%.

*[Sources: ONS and Eurostat]*

### ***Fishing***

“Output of our fishing industry is expected to decline by 30 per cent and some workers will face “painful adjustments”, according to a recent LSE/Resolution Foundation [report](#).

**But as Professor Tombs points out:**

*“Our fishing exports to the EU—around £100 million per month—are little changed from 2014, long before Brexit. Other food exports are slightly up, and beverages exports in April 2022 (worth £257 million) were 10.5% higher than at the start of 2020.*

*[Scottish salmon exports](#) — widely predicted by Remainers to be doomed by Brexit—are booming: up by a nearly a third last year to the EU, and by 36% to global markets, confirming salmon’s place as the UK’s biggest single food export.”*

*[Sources: ONS and Daily Business Group]*

### ***Brexit has made Britain less open and less competitive***

The central allegation in the Resolution Foundation’s [report](#) could not be further from the truth. Confirmation that Britain hopes to have concluded [membership](#) negotiations with the Trans-Pacific Partnership by the end of 2022 were made by the Minister of Trade Penny Mordaunt. Impending deals with [India](#) and [Mexico](#) also underly the UK’s commitment to open and competitive trade around the world in flat contradiction to the allegations made in the article for [City AM](#).

## CONCLUSION

By every measurable criterion the case for re-joining remains wholly unconvincing. But as Robert Tombs has acknowledged in his concluding remarks, it will not deter those who are determined to do so:

‘One final observation: Dominic Grieve said that ‘ultimately we could rejoin the EU’, though this was ‘not for tomorrow’. Rejoiners by definition take this view, even if it means reigniting the conflicts of the last six years.’

The full article can be read here: <https://cibuk.org/remainers-versus-brexit-facts/>

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## UK set for ‘brain gain’ as ‘Global Britain’ immigration rules pay off

– by Tom Rees for the Telegraph

*The UK is the most attractive country for job hunters among Europe’s major economies*

In a welcome respite to the on-going migrant crisis, the government can point to some good news on its points-based immigration policy.

According to a report from on-line job website **Indeed** the UK is the most attractive country for job hunters among Europe’s major economies.

*“The new points-based system makes it tougher for businesses to access cheap labour from Europe but represents a liberalisation for workers in the rest of the world.*

*Pawel Adrjan, head of Europe research at Indeed, said the findings suggest the Government’s new immigration rules, meant to encourage more highly skilled foreign workers to come to the UK, could be paying off.*

*The new points-based system makes it tougher for businesses to access cheap labour from Europe but represents a liberalisation for workers in the rest of the world.”*

*“Our analysis suggests that non-European jobseekers are likely to be more highly skilled and therefore interested in higher paying jobs, compared to lower skilled roles European workers had previously taken,” Mr Adrjan said.*

Many sectors are struggling to fill vacancies following the return-to-work post-Covid with many former employees simply disappearing from the employment statistics.

The full article can be read here:

[UK set for ‘brain gain’ as ‘Global Britain’ immigration rules pay off \(telegraph.co.uk\)](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/ukimmigration/2020/07/20/uk-set-for-brain-gain-as-global-britain-immigration-rules-pay-off/)

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**About CIBUK:** The Campaign for an Independent Britain ([CIBUK](#)) 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.