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“Alert and informed - your CIB maintains a watching brief”

CIBUK Newsletter, 4th March, 2023

Dear Subscribers

We devote this week’s newsletter to the political fall-out from the Prime Minister’s key-note speech following the Windsor Framework announcement on Monday.

Initial reaction in Parliament and the media was enthusiastic not to say euphoric even among some members of the ERG. Unsurprisingly, the DUP’s reaction is much more guarded as they and the rest of Parliament digest the implications buried in the small-print.

As we go to publication, lawyers are crawling all over the text. We too have conducted our own forensic analysis based on the Prime Minister’s announcement which we lay out in an in-depth report below. As the media circus moves on, a more considered consensus will emerge in the ensuing days and we will, as ever, keep track on developments.

Elsewhere we continue to remain vigilant in our defence of free speech which has claimed a prominent victim since we last went to publication.

We also maintain a watching brief on events overseas and contrast the UK’s robust and implacable response to Putin’s invasion of Ukraine with the [EU’s vacillation](#) owing to its long-standing dependence on Russian oil and gas. Finally, as we pass the one-year anniversary of Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, we take a US perspective on current events and ask what the strategic response of the West should be.



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'Spotlight of Scrutiny'

We pay tribute to the CIBUK team in bringing the facts behind the Windsor announcement so swiftly to our readers.

In a [detailed and forensic report](#) we highlight some of the glaring anomalies which still persist, including crucially the continued jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in important matters of arbitration between the EU and the UK. Indeed according to the EU Commission document *"There is no change to the role of the Court of Justice of the European Union. The Court of Justice remains the sole and ultimate arbiter of EU law."*

In our [affiliated press release yesterday](#), Sir John Redwood voiced his concern on this very topic.

"We do need to examine the EU view of this Agreement and take legal advice on how it might operate. I have asked how the EU will decide which laws to impose on Northern Ireland and what influence if any the UK would have on that."

Reaction to the announcement has met with vocal opposition from some quarters, notably from the TUV, though the official line from the DUP remains muted. We will as ever maintain a watching brief.

Defending Free Speech

Opponents of free speech also continue to stalk the land only this time they have inadvertently killed one of their own. Hoping to drive a wedge between Westminster and Holyrood, Nicola Sturgeon has been hoist by her own petard over claims that violent trans-gender criminals are women. Her own supporters are not even buying that one.

On the same subject, we are delighted to endorse the work of an Affiliate author Michael Wood who draws attention to the dangers we all now face in a [timely article on the subject](#) which we share with our readers. Freedom of expression goes to the heart of our daily lives and cannot be surrendered or compromised no matter what the provocation.

Vigilance Abroad

As ever we continue to monitor events abroad as well as at home. Though it has slipped off the media radar, the war in Ukraine grinds ever on and vigilance remains our watchword.

There have been siren voices calling for Ukraine to reach a 'negotiated settlement' with Russia, though how one can negotiate a settlement with an enemy committed to your destruction is anyone's guess.

In marked contrast to the UK's robust line with Vladimir Putin, the European Union's response has been woeful. Economic integration with Russia over many years has left the EU hopelessly compromised as [the article from our Affiliate and research-based facts engine BrexitFact4U.org](#) illustrates.

Any idea that it can act as a credible stand-alone military force separate from NATO is laughable.

In relation to the war itself, we take a US perspective on the West's wider strategic aims and objectives. [In an affiliate article](#), veteran soldier and diplomat Adrian Hill assesses the views of a former US Ambassador to Russia and former US Defence Secretary on possible next steps.

We provide links to articles on other topics we have covered over the past week which we list below:

- [The case for Freeports in a post-Brexit Britain](#)
- [“Who is in charge of economic policy?”](#)
- [Good example of how BBC's pro-EU, globalist, Rejoinder 'journalism' is now beyond a joke](#)
- [Is the EU rapidly going bust? Bankruptcies soar to highest level on record](#)
- [“The EU's Protocol was designed to thwart Brexit and split the United Kingdom”](#)
- [A True, Tried and Tested Horizon](#)

Yours faithfully

Ben Philips

Communications Director, CIBUK.org

Email: ben.philips@cibuk.org

The Campaign for an Independent Britain

<https://cibuk.org/>

4 Old Park Lane, Mayfair, London W1K 1QW

+44 (0)20 7788 7790

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