V. ROBILLARD

NEWS IN BRIEF 5
November 9th – 22nd 2024

THE ECONOMIST

The COP 29 UN climate conference got under way in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The delegates were taken aback by the opening speech from Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan's authoritarian leader, who lambasted the "political hypocrisy" and "fake news" of the West. Fossil fuels are "a gift of the God", waxed Mr Aliyev, and countries like his should not be blamed for selling them on the market. Mr Aliyev's answer to greens who had threatened to boycott the conference was "Welcome to Azerbaijan."

BBC NEWS

Donald Trump has named Chris Wright as his pick to lead the US Energy Department. He is expected to fulfil the president-elect's promise to increase fossil fuel production - an aim summed by the campaign slogan "drill, baby, drill". Wright is the founder and CEO of Liberty Energy, which serves companies extracting oil and gas from shale fields in a process known as "fracking". Wright is a climate change sceptic who previously said he does not care where energy comes from, "as long as it is secure, reliable, affordable and betters human lives".

SKY NEWS

Could the use of long-range US missiles be a game changer for Ukraine?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKrKg9Y2gXI&ab_channel=SkyNews

COP 29 – The 29th Conference of the Parties on ∅ Climate Change
the UN = **the United Nations** : l'ONU ▲ *noter que "the UN" est singulier (The UN has decided to impose sanctions)*
to get under way : commencer
to be taken a'back = to be shocked or surprised
to lam'bast = to criticize harshly
hy'pocrisy = /hɪˈpɒkrəsɪ/
'fossil 'fuels : combustibles fossiles
to wax = to talk about something in a very enthusiastic way
countries [ʌ] **like his** : les pays comme le sien
to blame sb for doing sth : reprocher à qn de faire qch
greens = environmentalists
to 'threaten [e] : menacer

his pick = the person that he has selected
'Energy De'partment : ministère de l'Energie
to ful'fil (*US*: ful'fill) **a 'promise** [ɪ] : tenir une promesse
to drill : forer
CEO /ˌsi: i:ˈəʊ/ = **Chief E'xecutive 'Officer** : directeur général
shale /ʃeɪl/ = schiste
shale fields : gisements de schiste
shale gas : gaz de schiste
'fracking : fracturation hydraulique
a climate change sceptic (*US*: skeptic) /'skeptɪk/ : un climatosceptique
re'liable /rəˈlaɪəbəl/ = fiable, digne de confiance
to 'better = to im'prove

to be a game changer : changer la donne
0:10 – **to turn the tide** : faire basculer la situation
0:14 – **to pro'vide sb with sth** : fournir qch à qn
0:20 – **its use** [s] : son utilisation
0:26 – **186 miles away** : à 300 kilomètres (1 mile ≈1,6 km)
0:32 – **a pound** [aʊ] : une livre (453,6 grams)
1:01 – **'airfield** : terrain d'aviation
1:02 – **ammu'nition 'warehouse** [eə] : dépôt de munitions et/ou d'armes
1:06 – **on the face of it** : au premier abord
1:06 – **it's a big 'military edge** : c'est un avantage militaire important
1:23 – **it pushed them to change their mind**: cela les a amenés à changer d'avis
1:29 – **to re'pel** : repousser
1:42 – **to 'follow suit** /su:t/: faire de même
1:57 – **it crosses some of Putin's red lines** : cela franchit certaines des lignes rouges fixées par Poutine.

V. ROBILLARD

Bresignation: British people are ready to turn a page on the EU referendum vote

Adapted from *The Conversation*, November 19th, 2024

Much is made of the alleged state of Bregret – the idea that even those who voted for Brexit now regret their decision. It is true that a majority (54%) now think Britain was wrong to vote to leave the EU. According to a YouGov poll, 62% of people think Brexit has been more of a failure than a success. We even know that 18% of leave voters would now vote remain if they could have another go at the 2016 referendum.

But conjuring up the past is a logical impossibility. A "rejoin" option would not be the same as the "remain" option. The European Union would have understandable hesitations about readmitting the UK without greater commitments than in the past – and might, for example, expect the UK to join the euro.

When studying attitudes towards rejoining the EU, it quickly becomes apparent that voters see this clearly. The feeling of having made one's bed and now having to lie in it is quite widespread.

When polled about a potential referendum on rejoining the EU, only 48% of the UK public solidly supported it.

Both leavers and remainers are in an impossible bind. They recognise that the process of leaving the EU was very far from the pipe dream sold by the Leave campaign but neither can do anything about it.

For leavers, the idea that Brexit was a mistake triggers discomfort. They are in what behavioural scientists call a state of cognitive dissonance. When we cannot change a past action, we often decide to change how we see and interpret new evidence about that action in order to avoid the cognitive inconsistency and the psychological discomfort of being wrong about it. For leavers, this means joining the 47% who think that Brexit is not done, or the nearly 30% who think it could have been a success if the UK had better politicians and negotiators.

To overcome this state of "bresignation" and truly trigger a reset in UK-EU relations, the UK government first needs to gather information on how the current arrangement - the Trade and Cooperation Agreement - is going, and to communicate this evidence in a unifying way.

Public opinion is still very much in favour of retaining control over UK regulations and trade deals. But there is significant support for a closer relationship with the EU and for the removal of most – if not all – trade barriers on goods and services. There is, therefore, scope to sell regulatory alignment by focusing on its flexible, conditional nature and on the perks of easing trade with the world's largest trading block.

People are also less fussed about conditional freedom of movement than the government thinks. They favour flexible immigration quotas to dynamically deal with sectoral shortages, such as in the NHS, or for high-skilled talent.

A reset is in the realms of possibility, therefore. But the UK government first needs to break us free from the state of bresignation.

---

much is made of … : on parle beaucoup de   **'Brexit** /'breksɪt/ = the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union following a referendum held in June 2016.

leave voters = leavers [i:] = people who supported Brexit   **to vote remain** = to vote against Brexit

to have another go at sth : avoir une nouvelle chance / essayer une nouvelle fois

one has made one's bed and must lie in it = one must accept the consequences of one's actions

re'mainers = people who voted against Brexit

they are in an im'possible bind [aɪ] : ils sont dans une situation inextricable

a pipe [aɪ] **dream** = an una'ttainable dream

neither /'naɪðə, 'niːðə/ = not the one nor the other of two people or things

'evidence : des preuves ▲ *noter que "evidence" est indénombrable et singulier*

incon'sistency: incohérence   **to over'come sth** : surmonter qch

most – if not all – trade 'barriers : la plupart, voire la totalité, des barrières commerciales

scope [əʊ] = possi'bility (*other contexts* : envergure, étendue)   **perk** /pɜːk/ = ad'vantage

to be fussed about sth [ʌ] = to be worried about sth

quotas = /'kwəʊtəz/   **'shortage** /'ʃɔːtɪdʒ/ : pénurie

it's in the realms [e] **of possi'bility** : c'est dans le domaine du possible