

THE INDEPENDENT DAVID MADDOX

# Starmers Brexit reset deal 'turns page' on relations with EU

L'accord de réinitialisation du Brexit de Keir Starmer « ouvre une nouvelle page » sur les relations avec l'UE

Cinq ans après le Brexit, le Royaume-Uni et l'Union européenne amorcent un renouveau dans leurs relations. L'accord récemment conclu marque la plus grande progression bilatérale depuis celui de 2020. Compte tenu de la situation en Ukraine, les avancées les plus concrètes concernent la défense, mais plusieurs points restent flous et créent encore des tensions.

**S**ir Keir Starmer "turned a page" on Britain's relations with the EU as his landmark Brexit reset deal ushered in a "new era" of cooperation and friendship. A clearly jubilant prime minister said the deal would be a "win-win" for both sides and showed Britain is "back on the world stage". European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen described it as a "historic moment" as she appeared alongside the PM at a press conference in London, just hours after frantic negotiations concluded to get the deal over the line. "We are turning a page," she said. "We are opening a new chapter in our unique relationship."

2. The agreement, which officials claim will boost the UK economy by £9bn by 2040, appears to be a major coup for the Labour leader, with "the pragmatic and positive" elements of removing red tape and border checks lauded by some. However, the PM faced accusations of "surrender" on fishing, alongside a failure to get agreements on defence and youth mobility.

3. The deal represents the first serious attempt to fix the harms caused by Brexit after Boris Johnson's flawed deal in late 2019, with which Rishi Sunak tinkered in the Windsor



European Council President Antonio Costa, from left, Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen with members of the Royal Navy following the UK-EU Summit on May 19, 2025. (Stefan Rousseau/Pool Photo via AP)

Framework in 2023. Heralding his latest deal after six months of intense discussions, the prime minister insisted that it is "time to put the stale old arguments behind us" and called on the EU and critics in the UK "to look forward, not back".

4. While the government had acknowledged privately that the agreement would anger both Rejoinders and Brexiteers, it appears to be another triumph for Sir Keir's diplomacy in his first 10 months of government. The deal helps

Sir Keir put the UK as a trade hub at the heart of a tumultuous international scene, allowing the country to have strong trading relations with all its main allies in what one senior minister described as "a complex jigsaw where all the pieces hate one another".

5. "It's time to look forward," the PM said. "To move on from the stale old debates and political fights to find common sense, practical solutions which get the best for the British people." Referring throughout the press conference to "Dear Keir", Ms von der Leyen was keen to praise the prime minister for his

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1. landmark ici, historique / to usher in introduire / side parti / stage scène / alongside aux côtés de / PM = Prime Minister / frantic frénétique / to get, got, got sth over the line faire aboutir qqch.

2. agreement accord / to claim affirmer / bn = billion milliard / coup tour de force, exploit / Labour (du) parti travailliste / to remove supprimer / red tape paperasserie, formalités administratives / border frontière / check contrôle / to laud louer, applaudir / to surrender capituler, se soumettre / alongside ici, ainsi que / failure échec / youth jeunesse.

3. attempt tentative / to fix ici, réparer / harm dégâts, dommages / flawed plein de failles / late ici, fin / to tinker bricoler, remanier /

Windsor Framework cadre de Windsor (accord entre l'UE et le RU pour réduire les procédures de douanes entre la Grande Bretagne et l'Irlande du Nord ainsi que la réglementation de l'Union européenne qui s'applique en Irlande du nord) / to herald présenter, annoncer / stale éculé / forward ici, vers l'avenir.

4. to acknowledge reconnaître admettre /

trade ici commercial / hub plaque tournante / to allow permettre / main principal / jigsaw puzzle.

5. to refer faire référence à / throughout tout au long de / to be keen to tenir absolument à / to praise faire l'éloge de /



>>> “leadership” and paint it as a personal victory for Sir Keir. It was a story of “natural partners standing side by side on the global stage”, she said.

6. According to the government, the package helps make food cheaper, slashes red tape, opens up access to the EU market and adds nearly £9bn to the UK economy by 2040. Sir Keir insisted that the agreement is “good for jobs, good for bills, and good for our borders”.

7. Like the deal with Donald Trump, the door is now open to agree on further deals with the EU; a capped youth mobility scheme, similar to the ones with Australia and New Zealand, is at the top of the list. Additionally, the UK still has to negotiate its way into the EU’s €150bn defence procurement scheme, although a “pathway” to this has been agreed.

**For better or for worse**

8. The UK will also enter talks about access to EU facial images data for the first time, on top of the existing arrangements for DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data. This will enhance the ability to catch dangerous criminals and ensure they face justice more quickly.

9. As part of the deal, a new border checks agreement will make it easier for food and drink to be imported and exported by reducing the red tape that placed burdens on businesses and led to lengthy lorry queues at the border.

**to stand, stood, stood** se tenir / **global** international.

6. **according to** selon, d'après / **to slash** réduire considérablement, supprimer / **bill** facture.

7. **further** d'autres, davantage de / **capped** plafonné / **scheme** programme / **procurement** acquisition / **pathway** voie.

8. **talks** négociations / **data** données, informations / **DNA** ADN / **fingerprint** empreinte / **to enhance** accroître, renforcer / **to ensure** s'assurer, garantir.

9. **burden** charge, responsabilité / **business** entreprise, commerce / **to lead, led, led** mener / **lengthy** long / **lorry** camion.



**jigsaw**

a **jigsaw** ou **jigsaw puzzle** (s 4) un puzzle, ainsi nommé car les pièces sont découpées dans une planche de bois ou de carton à l'aide d'un outil appelé 'a **jigsaw**' (scie sauteuse).



Anti-Brexit activists gather in Parliament Square calling on the government to rejoin the EU, following the recent UK-EU summit. (© Vuk Valcic/ZUMA Press Wire)

10. However, the cost is a 12-year extension on EU access to British fishing waters, which will anger Brexiteers and the fishing industry. To offset this, a £360m scheme has been unveiled to help fishing communities take advantage of regaining market access to the EU. The Scottish Fishermen’s Federation described the deal as “a horror show”, while Scotland’s first minister, John Swinney, said the Westminster government had “surrendered” the industry to Brussels.

11. Taking a more optimistic view, the trade expert Marco Forgone, director general of the Chartered Institute for Exports and International Trade, said the deal was “positive and pragmatic”.

12. Kate Nicholls, chief executive of UK Hospitality, which represents pubs, clubs and hotels, said: “The new agreement with the EU to remove trade barriers is positive news for hospitality businesses and will help to further increase access to high-quality, affordable food and drink for business and consumers alike.”

13. The EU is Britain’s largest trading partner. After the 21 per cent drop in exports and 7 per cent drop in imports seen since Brexit, the UK will also be able to sell various products, such as burgers and sausages, back into the EU again, supporting these vital British industries.

10. **to offset, set, set** compenser / **to unveil** révéler, dévoiler, annoncer.

12. **chief executive** président directeur général / **hospitality** le milieu de la restauration / **to increase** accroître, renforcer / **affordable** abordable / **alike** tout autant.

13. **drop** baisse.

**UK-EU deal key elements**

- British tourists will be allowed to use fast-track e-gates at European airports
- A 12-year extension of an agreement for EU trawlers to access UK waters until 2038
- The scrapping of some routine checks on plant and animal products, meaning British burgers and sausages will be allowed into the EU again
- A new defence agreement, although UK defence firms will still have to wait for access to the €150bn EU defence procurement scheme
- An open-ended agreement to slash red tape on food and drink exports and imports between the UK and the EU
- Dog and cat owners will be able to rejoin the EU pet passport scheme
- Still no confirmed youth mobility scheme: The two sides have agreed to cooperate on a “youth experience scheme”, the details of which have yet to be confirmed.

**fast-track** rapide / **e-gate** système automatisé de contrôle aux frontières / **trawler** chalutier / **firm** entreprise, société / **open-ended** à durée indéterminée / **...have yet to...** ...n'ont pas encore...

14. But Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch and Reform UK leader Nigel Farage made it clear that they would scrap the deal if they were to win power at the next election. Ms Badenoch warned that the agreement makes the UK “a rule taker”. ●

14. **to scrap** annuler / **to warn** avertir, prévenir / **rule taker** ici, un pays qui subit les règles (jeu de mots avec **rule maker** : qui définit les règles et **rule breaker** : qui transgresse les règles).