

Note: Compare the shrieking and shouting about supposed Russian interference with UK politics by Remain politicians with dead silence at the interference of the likes of Soros. RH

Leaked dossier reveals details of a £6m campaign backed by foreign billionaire George Soros to keep Britain in the EU

- **Best for Britain is backed by billionaire George Soros and plans to stop Brexit**
- **The pro-Remain group plans to spend £5.6m on the campaign to thwart it**
- **Involves advertising and social media blitz and getting MPs to vote down deal**
- **Papers uncovered by the Daily Mail claim to show extent of group's plans**

By [John Stevens Deputy Political Editor For The Daily Mail](#)

PUBLISHED: 00:24, 24 May 2018 | **UPDATED:** 15:26, 24 May 2018

The Daily Mail newspaper has today claimed there is a £5.6million plan to thwart [Brexit](#).

Leaked papers apparently show that a pro-Remain group has launched a six-month plan to stop Britain leaving the EU.

Backed by billionaire financier George Soros, Best for Britain aims to spend nearly £6million on the campaign, according to the documents.

They allegedly reveal that the group will contradict whatever final agreement [Theresa May](#) strikes with Brussels – arguing it is 'not what we voted for'. Best for Britain wants to persuade MPs to vote down the Prime Minister's deal in October.

The Daily Mail newspaper has today claimed there is a £5.6million to stop Brexit. Backed by billionaire George Soros (pictured) the paper claims Best for Britain wants to thwart Government plans

The plans include using trade unions to change Labour's stance on Brexit.

It will also see an advertising blitz, social media, a speaking tour by leading Labour Remainers and local campaigning.

Best for Britain has amassed a £2.4million already but is asking wealthy donors for £3.2million more, saying: 'We have less than six months to stop Brexit.'

The 26-page plan reveals that:

- Best for Britain will claim leaving the EU will put national security at risk;
 - Remain activists will blame Brexit for funding cuts at local councils;
- They will also claim Leave voters were rejecting Westminster and not Brussels.

Pro-Remain group Best for Britain is planning to thwart Brexit with a £5.6million campaign, the Daily Mail claims a leaked dossier reveals

It is understood that Best for Britain started sending the documents to potential donors over the past few days.

Former Cabinet minister Owen Paterson said they reveal how far some Remainers would go to overturn the result of the referendum of June 2016.

'The cynical plan to manipulate the British voter and stop Brexit has now been laid bare,' added the Conservative MP.

'Leave voters up and down the country will be disgusted that George Soros thinks he can spend his fortune to determine the direction of our great country. Most Remain voters too just want us to get on with it.

'My colleagues in Parliament, whether they were for Leave or Remain, must denounce this brazen attempt to undermine our democracy.'

Best for Britain was launched last April ahead of the snap general election. It was fronted by Gina Miller (pictured), who took the Government to court over Brexit.

'Those MPs who are seeking to dilute or delay Brexit must now admit that their meaningful vote is really just their plan to stop Brexit – as this document sets out unambiguously.'

Richard Tice, of the pro-Brexit group Leave Means Leave, said: 'George Soros, the billionaire who does not live in the UK, will stop at nothing with his elitist friends to stop Brexit, deceitfully masking their plans as a people's vote.'

'Shamefully, they want to deny the poorest in our society from benefiting the most from Brexit.'

Best for Britain was launched last April ahead of the snap general election.

It was fronted by Gina Miller, who took the Government to court over Brexit, but she quit the day after the General Election in June last year and has since spoken about becoming uncomfortable with the group's tactics.

It emerged in February that Best for Britain had accepted a £400,000 donation from Mr Soros, the Hungarian-born financier who bet against sterling on Black Wednesday in 1992 – earning him one billion dollars.

He then promised £100,000 more, matching a crowd funding push, and later gave another £300,000.

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Board members include Lord Malloch-Brown, who was a foreign minister under Gordon Brown, and chief executive Eloise Todd, who worked in Brussels for Bono's charity ONE. When the campaign was founded, its backers claimed they respected the result of the EU referendum.

But it has been putting up billboards around the country calling for a second vote and the document says its strategic goals include: 'stop Brexit' and 'win a people's vote to stay and lead in Europe'.

It sets out a three-pronged strategy to persuade 'soft' Leave voters to change their minds, mobilise hardline Remainers into action, and shift the Labour Party into an anti-Brexit stance.

Best for Britain says it will 'attach our case to the big non-Brexit issues that have emotional resonance – we need to break out from the Brexit bubble'.

Using social media, it wants 'reach out to where people are engaged – physically but mostly digitally'.

It also pledges to 'cut through by being bold and embracing the disruptive'.

Former Cabinet minister Owen Paterson (pictured) said a document reveals how far some Remainers would go to overturn the result of the referendum of June 2016. In the next few weeks Best for Britain will start arguing the Brexit referendum was not a rejection of the EU: 'This was a vote against London as much as Brussels.'

Over the summer, its message will focus on how Brexit is 'putting the UK's unity and security at risk'.

In October – when it is expected that the outline of the Prime Minister's deal with Brussels will be known – the document reveals that the group has already decided to argue: 'Now we can finally see the real facts, this is not what we voted for.'

Best for Britain activists are instructed to 'survey local issues and concerns and link these to impact of Brexit'.

They started with grassroots events for constituency Labour parties earlier this month, with plans to start work on 'mobilising the unions' in the next fortnight.

In July, the group is planning to lobby the policy conference of Unite, the country's largest trade union.

In August, it is organising a 'Labour Against Brexit' speaking tour that will see senior figures make the case for remaining in the EU.



In September it will have a presence at both the TUC and Labour Party annual conferences.

When MPs return to Parliament after party conference season, it is planning to bring hundreds of activists to London to confront them. The document says: 'We've raised £2.4million, we need another £3.2million.'

'Our activity is essentially scalable – how many we reach is directly proportional to what we can spend.'

A Best for Britain spokesman said: 'We have never hidden our agenda. Our aim as an organisation is to stop Brexit democratically.'

'We want to connect people across the country to their MPs, particularly in the Labour Party, so they directly hear from their membership and their voters, the vast majority of whom want to make sure we have a real debate on Brexit before our options are taken off the table.'

'Brexit is taking longer than people expected, costing more, and stopping us from creating a better Britain that works for everyone.'

But former Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith said: 'This dossier is yet another example of the complacent Establishment trying to stitch up the people.'

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5764591/Best-Britain-backed-George-Soros-plans-stop-Brexit.html#ixzz5GR4f5hnl>

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Note: This is a slightly different version I obtained through <https://www.pressreader.com/uk/daily-mail/20180524/281479277079485>

Plot To Subvert

Brexit Exposed

Daily Mail 24 May

2018EXCLUSIVE By John Stevens Deputy Political Editor

A PLOT to thwart Brexit can be exposed by the Daily Mail today.

Leaked papers show that a pro- Remain group has launched a six-month plan to stop Britain leaving the EU.

Backed by billionaire financier George Soros, Best for Britain aims to spend £5.6million on the campaign. The documents reveal that the group will rubbish whatever final agreement Theresa May strikes with Brussels – arguing it is ‘not what we voted for’.

Best for Britain wants to persuade MPs to vote down the Prime Minister’s deal in October. This would throw Brexit into chaos. The sabotage operation includes using trade unions to change Labour’s stance on Brexit.

It will also involve an advertising blitz, social media, a speaking tour by leading Labour Remainers and local campaigning.

Best for Britain has amassed a £2.4million war chest but is asking wealthy donors for £3.2million

more, saying: ‘We have less than six months to stop Brexit.’ The 26-page plan reveals that: Best for Britain will claim leaving the EU will put national security at risk;

Remain activists will blame Brexit for funding cuts at local councils;

They will also claim Leave voters were rejecting Westminster and not Brussels.

It is understood that Best for Britain started sending the document to potential donors over the past few days.

Former Cabinet minister Owen Paterson said the document revealed how far some Remainers would go to overturn the result of the referendum of June 2016.

‘The cynical plan to manipulate the British voter and stop Brexit has now been laid bare,’ added the Conservative MP.

‘Leave voters up and down the country will be disgusted that George Soros thinks he can spend his fortune to determine the direction of our great country. Most Remain voters too just want us to get on with it.

‘My colleagues in Parliament, whether they were for Leave or Remain, must denounce this brazen attempt to undermine our democracy.

‘Those MPs who are seeking to dilute or delay Brexit must now admit that their meaningful vote is really just their plan to stop Brexit – as this document sets out unambiguously.’

Richard Tice, of the pro-Brexit group Leave Means Leave, said: ‘George Soros, the billionaire who does not live in the UK, will stop at nothing with his elitist friends to stop Brexit,

‘A cynical plan to manipulate voters’

deceitfully masking their plans as a people’s vote. Shamefully, they want to deny the poorest in our society from benefiting the most from Brexit.’

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by Gina Miller, who took the Government to court over Brexit, but she quit earlier this year after becoming uncomfortable with the group's hardline tactics.

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It sets out a three-pronged strategy to persuade 'soft' Leave voters to change their minds, mobilise hardline Remainers into action, and shift the Labour Party into an anti-Brexit stance.

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A Best for Britain spokesman said: 'We have never hidden our agenda. Our aim as an organisation is to stop Brexit democratically.'

'We want to connect people across the country to their MPs, particularly in the Labour Party, so they directly hear from their membership and their voters, the vast majority of whom want to make sure we have a real debate on Brexit before our options are taken off the table.'

'Brexit is taking longer than people expected, costing more, and stopping us from creating a better Britain that works for everyone.'

But former Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith said: 'This dossier is yet another example of the complacent Establishment trying to stitch up the people.'

MPs were warned yesterday that post-Brexit customs red tape could cost businesses up to £20billion a year. Jon Thompson, chief executive of HM Revenue & Customs, said the streamlined plan – which uses technology to keep border checks to a minimum – would cost at least £17billion annually and take up to three years to bring in.

The 'Max Fac' option – for maximum facilitation – is favoured by Brexiteers, who

dismissed the HMRC figures as ludicrous.

7 Cummings Truth Bullets For Brexiter Tory MPs

Every Brexiter MP and Cabinet minister should be thinking hard about Vote Leave chief Dominic Cummings' [assessment](#) of how Brexit is going this morning. *Here are the seven key truth bullets...* Number 10 has botched the Article 50 process and made no serious preparations to leave the EU:

“The government’s nominal policy, which it put in its manifesto and has repeated many times, is to leave the Single Market and Customs Union and the jurisdiction of the ECJ. This requires preparing to be a ‘third country’ for the purposes of EU law. It requires building all the infrastructure and facilities that are normal around the world to manage trade. This process should have started BEFORE triggering A50 but the government has irretrievably botched this. Having botched it, it could have partially recovered its blunder by starting to do it afterwards. No such action has been taken. Whitehall’s real preparations are for the continuation of EU law and the jurisdiction of the ECJ. The expectation is that MPs will end up accepting the terrible agreement as voting it down would be to invite chaos. In short, the state has made no preparations to leave and plans to make no preparations to leave even after leaving.”

The government’s promises on Ireland have made the negotiation impossible:

“The Government promised in the December agreement to do a number of things that are logically, legally and practically incompatible including leaving the Single Market and Customs Union, avoiding ‘friction’ and changing nothing around the Irish border (as defined by the EU), and having no border in the Irish Sea.”

None of the customs options on the table cut it:

“All this contributes to current delusional arguments over supposed ‘models’ (hybrid/max fac etc) that even on their own terms cannot solve the problem of multiple incompatible promises. ‘Compromise proposals’ such as that from Boles which assume the existence of ‘third country’ planning are just more delusions.”

Brexiter Tories have chickened out of forcing May to pursue a proper Brexit:

“Euroscptics are full of shit and threats they don’t deliver, they say in No10, and on this at least they have a point.”

The way things are going, Brexit is not going to mean Brexit:

*“The Government effectively has no credible policy and the whole world knows it... It now thinks its survival requires surrender, it thinks that admitting this risks its survival, it thinks that the MPs can be bullshi*tted by clever drafting from officials, and that once Leave MPs and donors — you guys — are ordering your champagne in the autumn for your parties on 30 March 2019 you will balk at bringing down the Government when you finally have to face that you’ve been conned.”*

That is only going to help Corbyn become PM:

“Ask yourselves: what happens when the country sees you’ve simultaneously a) handed over tens of billions for fuck all’ as they’ll say in focus groups (which

the UK had no liability to pay), b) failed to do anything about unskilled immigration, c) persecuted the high skilled immigrants, such as scientists, who the public wants you to be MORE welcoming to, and d) failed to deliver on the nation's Number One priority — funding for the NHS which is about to have a very high profile anniversary? And what happens if May staggers to 30 March 2019 and, as Barwell is floating with some of you, they then dig in to fight the 2022 campaign?... If you go into the 2022 campaign after five years of this and the contest is Tory promises versus Corbyn promises, you will be maximising the odds of Corbyn as PM.”

Brexiteers have only themselves to blame:

“Yes it's true that May, Hammond, Heywood and Robbins are Remain and have screwed it up but you're deluded if you think you'll be able to blame the debacle just on them. Whitehall is better at the blame game than you are, officials are completely dominant in this government, ministers have chosen to put Heywood/Robbins in charge, and YOU will get most of the blame from the public. The sooner you internalise these facts and face reality, the better for the country and you.”

Tory Brexiteers have come to the conclusion that they should just lump it, accept the way things are going and plod on to a middling Brexit. *MPs won't like it, but Cummings is right...*

<https://order-order.com/2018/05/24/7-cummings-truth-bullets-for-brexiter-tory-mps/>

Note: What has happened to "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed"?

Telegraph

MPs will have to agree to pay £39bn Brexit bill before they have seen UK/EU trade deal, admits minister

Anti-Brexit campaigners protest outside Parliament CREDIT: JACK TAYLOR/GETTY IMAGES EUROPE

[Jack Maidment](#), political correspondent

23 MAY 2018 • 2:16PM

M

Ps will have to agree to pay the £39billion Brexit bill before they have seen a formal draft of Britain's new trade deal with the European Union, ministers have admitted.

The Government has long maintained payment of the divorce settlement will be linked to agreeing to new trading arrangements with the bloc.

But Suella Braverman, a Brexit minister, admitted there are currently no cast iron conditions in the withdrawal agreement which explicitly link the two issues.

She suggested the Government could come up with a set of conditions which would need to be met before payments are made but she refused to guarantee that they would be brought forward.

She said ensuring the payment of the bill is linked to striking a satisfactory trade deal would be reliant on “good faith” between the two parties.

Meanwhile, if trade talks stalled after MPs have agreed to pay the divorce settlement the UK could seek a “renegotiation” to escape payments.

Her comments are likely to spark concerns that MPs could agree to hand over tens of billions of pounds to Brussels without having any guarantees about what the UK will get in return.

MPs are expected to be asked to vote on the terms of the UK’s withdrawal agreement, including the divorce settlement, in October and if agreed it would become legally binding.

As a result, MPs have repeatedly sought assurances over whether the Government will set out in clear terms in the withdrawal agreement that payment of the bill will be conditional on trade talks succeeding.

Mrs Braverman told the Brexit Select Committee the financial settlement and future partnership framework are linked and “are part of a package” as she admitted MPs will vote on the bill before there is a legal treaty on the future trade deal.

But she was unable to say for certain whether the Government intended to explicitly link the two issues with specific conditions in the withdrawal agreement.

She said: “The withdrawal agreement text has been nearly finalised and agreed. That contains issues relating to the financial settlement.

“As drafted it doesn’t contain aspects that you talk about on conditionality.

“However, we must remember that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed and so that principle, stated in the joint report, does apply to this whole package of our departure.”

Mrs Braverman did not commit to inserting conditions but stressed the UK and EU had “agreed a duty of good faith” which “obliges both parties to cooperate in a way which means that we are working constructively towards a future framework which is mutually beneficial and which meets our objectives”.

David Davis, the Brexit Secretary, has previously hinted that conditions could be added to the withdrawal agreement.

When asked if the Government intended to insert such conditions into the withdrawal agreement making it clear the payment of the bill will be linked to a trade deal, Mrs Braverman said: “I can’t preempt what’s going to be in the final content of the entire agreement - that may well be in there but it may well not be as well.”

Mrs Braverman also suggested if trade talks stalled after MPs had agreed to pay the Brexit bill the UK could seek to renege on payments at a later date.

She said: “If a future framework isn’t agreed before the requisite time there is the very clear possibility that a renegotiation takes place and these payments would not be ~~cut~~ cut through the chatter

cut through the chatter

cut through the chatter

Today's fresh developments on Britain’s European and global future.

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24 May 2018 [Theresa May to propose a second transition period until 2023](#)

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The Times reports that Prime Minister Theresa May is preparing to propose a second transition period until 2023 covering customs and regulatory alignment in order to avoid a hard border in Ireland. This would mean the UK continuing to apply EU external tariffs, the Union Customs Code and the same regulatory requirements for industrial goods during this time. This will extend transitional arrangements for two more years, after the end of the first interim period in December 2020.

Elsewhere, Conservative chief whip Julian Smith yesterday announced that the EU (Withdrawal) Bill, which was heavily amended in the House of Lords, will be brought next month for MPs to vote on the amendments. These include amendments to make a post-Brexit UK-EU customs union and single market membership formal negotiating objectives of the UK. May had been expected to delay the votes in the Commons.

Separately, Bloomberg reports that May will force her cabinet to decide in June which customs proposal the UK should pursue. The cabinet is currently examining plans for maximum facilitation and a customs partnership.

Source: The

Times, Bloomberg

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ore than 70 areas have seen the proportion of foreign-born migrants rise by up to a quarter over the past decade, a new analysis has found.

The Office for National Statistics found that over the past decade 77 areas have seen the proportion of residents born outside the UK rise by more than six percentage points.

Two-thirds of the areas which have seen the biggest rises voted Leave in the EU referendum. In Boston, Lincolnshire, where three-quarters of people voted for Brexit, 29 per cent of residents were born outside the UK, compared to 3 per cent in 2007.

In Harlow, Essex, the proportion of non-UK nationals has rose from 4 per cent to 21 per cent, while in Barking and Dagenham it increased from 24 per cent to 38 per cent. In parts of London more than half of residents were born outside the UK. In East Staffordshire the proportion has risen by 13 percentage points, while in Northampton and Southampton the figure was 12 points.

It came as new figures showed that Romanian has become the second most common non-British nationality in the UK, overtaking Ireland

The number of Romanian nationals living in the UK in 2017 was estimated to be 411,000 - a jump of 25 per cent on the previous year, and the largest increase for any country.

Polish remains the most common non-British nationality, with an estimated one million in the UK. Romania has overtaken the Republic of Ireland and India to move from fourth to second place in the list.

Some 350,000 Irish nationals lived in the UK in 2017, while there were 346,000 Indians.

The figures, from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), show the total number of non-British nationals living in the UK in 2017 was 6.2 million, up four per cent on 2016's total of six million.

This is a smaller rise than that recorded between 2015 and 2016, when the number rose by 8 per cent.

Nicola White of the ONS migration statistics division said: "Non-UK born and non-British populations continued to increase in 2017, as more people continued to come to the UK to live than move to live abroad for a year or more.

"Poland-born residents and Polish nationals were the most common populations from outside the UK. However, the largest increases in population were seen from those born in Romania and those with Romanian nationality."

The figures show that 3.8 million (61 per cent) of the 6.2 million non-British nationals living in the UK in 2017 held EU nationality.

This is roughly the same proportion as 2016 (60 per cent). London had the largest proportion of non-British nationals in 2017, with the highest numbers in the local authorities of Newham (38 per cent), Westminster (36 per cent) and Brent (34 per cent).

The ONS data is based on a survey of households and does not cover most people living in communal establishments, some NHS accommodation, or students living in halls of residence who have non-UK resident parents.

Separate figures show the number of people living in the UK who were not born in this country - which is different to non-British nationals - increased from 9.2 million in 2016 to 9.4 million in 2017, up 3 per cent.

Telegraph

Britain to follow EU data rules in full after Brexit in bid to save trade ties

[49](#)

Protestors outside the European Commission in Brussels, as Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg met with leading MEPs to explain the data breach at the company. CREDIT: FRANCOIS LENOIR/REUTERS

[James Crisp](#), brussels correspondent

23 MAY 2018 • 10:17AM

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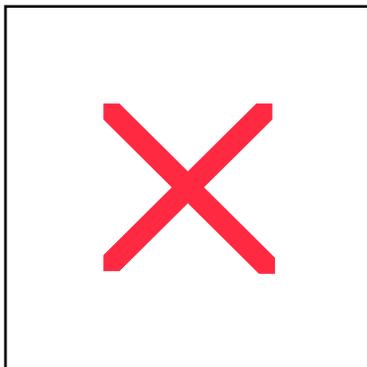
Britain will mirror the European Union's data protection rules in British law in full, UK negotiators have said in a bid to convince Brussels to preserve intelligence-sharing and the lucrative free flow of data after Brexit.

Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, has warned that data transfers will be subject to strict rules for selected non-EU countries, such as the Faroe Islands, New Zealand and Israel.

Britain wants to sign a bespoke data protection treaty, which would, to an extent, replicate the pre-Brexit status quo and argues it would be the foundation on which the future UK-EU relationship could be negotiated.

All trade is increasingly reliant on data flows, one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy, according to British presentation slides obtained by The Telegraph.

— ADVERTISEMENT —



A bespoke agreement is vital to preserve EU data exports to Britain worth about £32 billion and to underpin intelligence sharing on crime and counter-terrorism after Brexit, the slides said.

British officials told their European counterparts that the government would enshrine the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which is due to come into force on Friday, and Law Enforcement Directive in full in a 2018 Act.

The GDPR will be the biggest change to data protection laws in 20 years and could mean fines on companies for future breaches of up to £17.5 million or 4 per cent of global turnover, depending on which is higher.

EU countries can choose to only put minimum standards demanded by the GDPR into national law but Britain will adopt the strictest possible interpretation of the bill.

However, Brussels is likely to argue that protection is weakened without EU monitoring and enforcement through institution such as the European Court of Justice.

The UK has asked for the Information Commissioners' Office (ICO), its respected data protection regulator, to stay on the European Data Protection Board after Brexit where it could feed into EU policymaking.

That is likely to be anathema to the European Commission which has insisted that Britain must lose all representation and decision-making influence in the EU after Brexit.

The ICO hit UK organisations with a record £4.2m in data protection fines last year, up nearly a million pounds from the previous year. That figure is expected to rise as GDPR removes the ICO's £500,000 cap on fines.

As the investigating regulator for the Cambridge Analytica data breach, the ICO is working closely with the European Commission on the Facebook scandal.

British officials have also asked for UK businesses and customers to be represented in the EU's "One Stop Shop" for resolving data protection disputes. This would avoid UK and EU businesses enduring costly parallel data protection disputes in Britain and the EU at the same time.

In a March 1 speech, Mr Barnier told European business leaders that UK-EU data flows would only be allowed if Britain provided adequate safeguards on data protection. As an EU member, the UK is considered to have those safeguards but will lose that status after Brexit.

Mr Barnier ruled out the kind of regulatory cooperation Britain has suggested. Whether British data protection standards were good enough would be "an autonomous EU decision", meaning Brussels' alone, he said.

Data protection is viewed as a "fundamental right" by Brussels, which has used its trade negotiations to export similar standards to countries such as Canada.

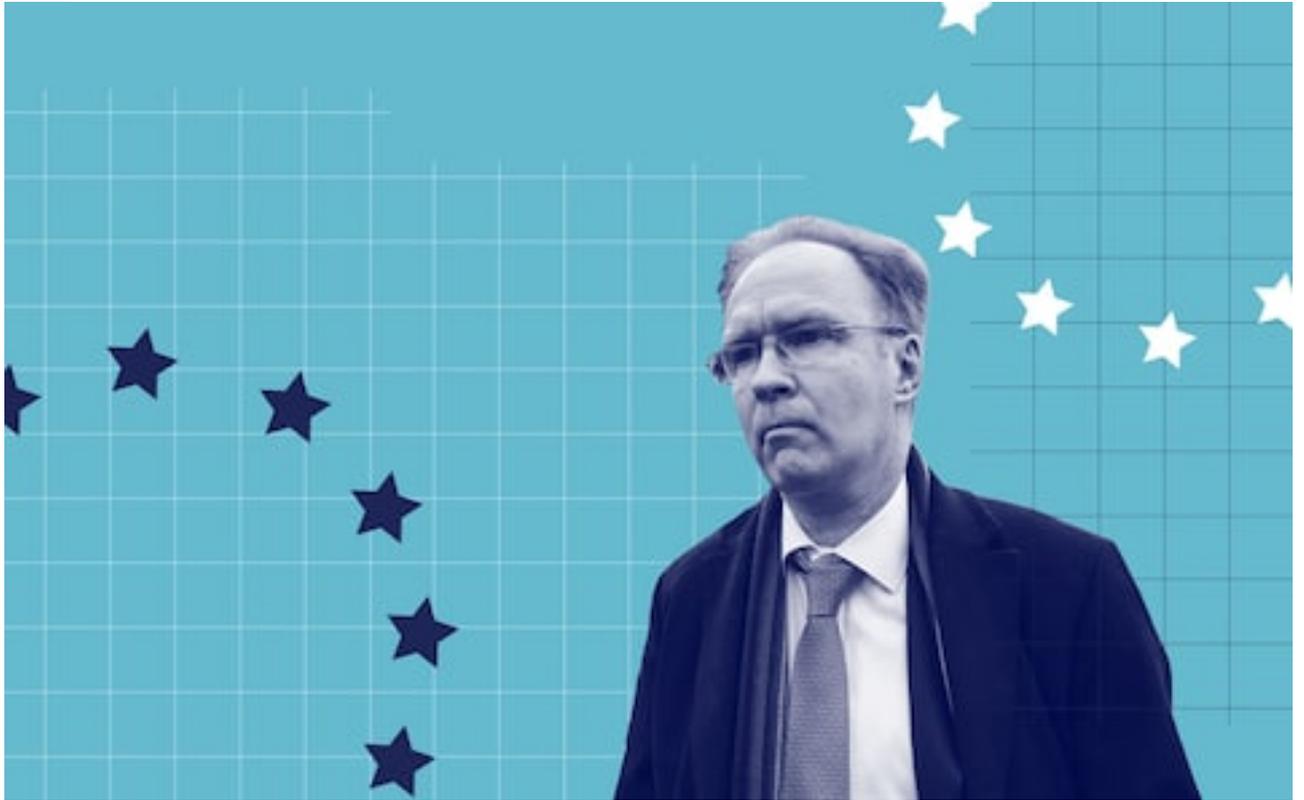
Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on Tuesday night escaped largely unscathed after a shambolic grilling by peacocking MEPs in a European Parliament hearing into the data breach at the social media giant.

Telegraph

Brexiters' dreams of a golden age are buccaneering blather, says UK's former top

EU diplomat

1197



Sir Ivan Rogers: the former EU ambassador has accused Theresa May of an "act of folly" in setting red lines on leaving the customs union and single market

Peter Foster, europe editor

23 MAY 2018 • 6:32PM

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Brexiters' dream of a second Elizabethan age of trade after Britain leaves the EU is nothing more than "buccaneering blather", Britain's former top EU diplomat Sir Ivan Rogers warned on Wednesday.

In a lengthy and excoriating critique of the entire debate around Brexit, the former top EU adviser to both David Cameron and Theresa May warned that the entire debate around Britain's future was based on "extraordinary misconceptions" of what was actually available.

He also accused Mrs May of an "act of folly" in setting red lines on the customs union and single market membership that ruled out a host of options for Britain. Taking aim at the fallacies pedaled by both Brexiters and Remainers, Sir Ivan warned that the government was in danger of "miss-selling the British people" over the real Brexit options they face.

He called for a debate based on a clear-eyed evaluation of pros and cons, "not on

fantasies, or incoherent and muddled thinking”.

“No trade policy with third countries, however successfully aggressive, will deliver very quick results, or ones, which on any serious analysis will transform the UK’s productivity performance and economic prospects.

“More than 65 per cent of all UK exports are, after all, to the EU, or to countries with whom we already have a preferential deal via EU membership,” he said.

Sir Ivan, who resigned as EU ambassador in January 2017 with a scathing farewell note challenging his colleagues to speak “truth to power”, poured cold water on both of the government’s customs options in a lecture at the University of Glasgow. He said that Brexiteers were wrong to believe the so-called “maximum facilitation” option based on technology and trusted trader schemes could ever create an invisible border in Northern Ireland.

“The so-called maximum facilitation model will never be accepted by the [EU] 27 side of the table. Not now. Not in five years. Not in 105 years,” he said. “You can have the most facilitated border in the world, but it’s still a facilitated border.”

As for the other option - a Customs Partnership in which the UK collected tariffs on the EU’s behalf for goods heading into the bloc - Sir Ivan said he remain “sceptical” that the EU would ever accept an idea that was greeted with “derision” when he first presented it to EU capitals.

Instead, Sir Ivan - who when in office warned Mrs May that she would be “screwed” if she triggered Article 50 before having a clear plan action - said the UK would need to accept high alignment with Europe to avoid putting a goods border in the Irish Sea.

Sketching out an endgame for Brexit, Sir Ivan said that the question would come down to whether the EU would accept Britain being a member of a customs union, high alignment and quasi-membership of the single market - including financial payments and European Court of Justice oversight - without demanding it accept free movement of people.

“The EU faces the decision as to whether this is an unacceptable option sundering indivisible freedoms and offering something too close to membership advantages to a non member. Or whether it’s rather a good deal for the EU with a major strategic partner,” he said.

Sir Ivan was unsure whether the EU would consider this acceptable, but was crystal clear that many of Britain’s ‘cake and eat it’ demands would never be accepted and were based on a fundamental failure to appreciate Europe’s own political interests.

“Do not feign surprise or outrage when this autonomous legal order, which is not a State, federal or confederal, but a unique supranational construction in nature, duly operates in precisely the way any expert can tell you it will - and has to,” he said.

Given the hard choices presented by the EU’s legal order, he said Mrs May had erred in ruling out flexible relationships with the bloc provided for by the Norway, Swiss or deep Association Agreements, enjoyed by Ukraine and others.

“Ruling out these options before truly understanding what either meant, or whether variants on them might be viable, was, in my view, simply an act of folly,” he said.

Special derision was heaped on Brexiteers for making threats to walk away that carried no credibility, their desire to take a leading role in the WTO and their antiquated, tariff-focussed approach to trade in an era when reducing non-tariff barriers was the key.

“To talk blithely about a world leading role for the UK in the WTO just at the time the US ... is deliberately hobbling the WTO, is one of the bigger ironies – and solipsisms - of the current UK debate,” he said.

He noted that retaining the right to cut agricultural tariffs would be important to doing trade deals, but warned that these would create winners and losers, with the losses falling on those less able to adapt to the global economy.

“If we are seeking aggressively to open third country markets for UK services via making offers on other issues, the losers from this will be in very different constituencies from the gainers.

“Inevitably, it seems to me that it will be what David Goodhart calls the Anywhere classes who stand to gain, and the somewhere classes who are likeliest to lose. Have we not just seen the lesson of that on free movement of people?

“So in a post-Brexit UK trade policy debate, we need to think hard, rigorously and honestly about this, and not produce buccaneering blather.”

Telegraph

Britain to demand money back after being frozen out of Galileo satellite project

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The Russian Soyuz VS01 rocket, carrying the first two satellites of Europe's Galileo navigation system CREDIT: BENOIT TESSIER/ REUTERS

[Peter Foster](#), europe editor

23 MAY 2018 • 7:33PM

B

Britain is poised to demand the EU repays up to a £1 billion if the bloc continues to force British companies out of the Galileo satellite navigation system, The Telegraph understands.

Whitehall sources said that the The Department for Exiting the Union will on Thursday publish an uncompromising paper on the Galileo project that will now raise the prospect of Britain recovering its investment in the project.

The row over Galileo has become a bitter flashpoint in the Brexit negotiations which reopened in Brussels this week after moves to shut British businesses out of the €10 billion (£8.8bn) project on legal grounds.

The UK paper is expected to contain strong language about the EU's failure to honour promises it made during Brexit bill agreement.

It is expected to argue that the EU has reneged on the December Joint Report which said that the UK was eligible to participate in EU programmes during the current budget cycle and that UK participants and projects will be "unaffected by the UK's withdrawal from the Union for the entire lifetime of such projects".

During those negotiations Britain agreed not to request repayment for its share of EU space assets - including over £1 billion of investment in Galileo - on the basis that the UK would be part of the system under a post-Brexit security partnership.

It noted that the UK share of space assets had not been part of the calculations and that "past contribution to the financing of space assets could be discussed in the context of possible future access to the services offered".

Now that UK participation appears to have been ruled out by European Commission lawyers, senior Whitehall sources said that the UK was now considering its options "including financial"

The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, was said to have been left "hopping mad" over the EU's attempts to squeeze Britain out of a programme that is heavily reliant on British technology.

A move to recover UK investment and revisit that part of the €45 billion financial settlement threatens to further sour Brexit negotiations.

Ministers have already taken steps to respond to the EU position, which cites legal justifications for excluding Britain because the current rules of Galileo - which the UK signed up to - exclude the participation of non-EU members.

Britain will be granted access to the Galileo's highly secure military applications, called the Public Regulated Service, on the same terms as the US - without access to the source codes or technology.

"This is the same basis as EU states currently access America's GPS system - they don't have the source codes for that. As a non-member, the UK will access Galileo on

the same terms,” said a senior EU source.

The British side does not accept EU arguments that, legally, it cannot get key elements of Galileo certified as ‘secure’ if it contains technology held by a non-member state, arguing that if the bloc wanted to be constructive, it could find a way. In retaliation, Greg Clark, the business secretary, has written to the EU to warn that removing UK encryption technology could delay the project by three years at a cost of around €1 billion. Plans have also been floated to build a rival system with Australia.

Mr Hammond is also reported to have tried to encourage UK companies not to accept invitations to transfer sensitive technology to EU companies, in a move The Financial Times said was designed to “sabotage” Galileo.

The row over Galileo came as Dominic Cummings, the former Michael Gove adviser and chief strategist of the Vote Leave campaign wrote an expletive-laden blog post condemning the “shambles” of Brexit.

He accused Downing Street of ‘botching’ the process by triggering Article 50 without first devising a plan, and warned a “revolution” could be needed to fix the problem. “Unless it changes fast, drastic action will be needed including the creation of new forces to reflect public contempt for both the main parties and desire for a political force that reflects public priorities. If revolution there is to be, better to undertake it than undergo it...”

Telegraph

Britain warns that freezing UK out of Galileo satellite could cost EU billions



An artist's impression of Galileo, a European civilian satellite-based navigation system. CREDIT:J.HUART/AP

[James Crisp](#), brussels correspondent

24 MAY 2018 • 7:50AM

B

British Brexit negotiators have warned Brussels that forcing Britain out of the Galileo satellite navigation system will delay the programme by up to three years and cost the European Union up to one billion euros.

UK officials also raised the prospect of reopening negotiations on the Brexit bill to recoup over £1 billion of investment in the project if the EU maintained its insistence on freezing British businesses out of the €10 billion (£8.8bn) project on legal grounds.

European Commission officials, who are leading Brexit negotiations on behalf of the EU, were informed in an explosive briefing note that Britain could and would develop its own satellite navigation programme if it continued to be excluded.

“An end to close UK participation will be to the detriment of Europe’s prosperity and security and could result in delays and additional costs to the programme,” the British note warns.

Britain accuses the commission of making statements that risk “being interpreted as a lack of trust in the United Kingdom” and accuses the EU of renegeing on promises made over the Brexit bill in the December joint agreement between London and Brussels.



The Russian Soyuz VS01 rocket, carrying the first two satellites of Europe's Galileo navigation system, blasts off from its launchpad

Britain has a “strong objection to its ongoing exclusion” from discussions on the development of Galileo after 2019, which it said discouraged British businesses from participating and prejudice future negotiation of the UK-EU security partnership after Brexit.

Continuing this exclusion risks “timing out” any future British investment in the project for contract and tendering reasons, the paper, which calls for “an urgent resolution” to “keep open the possibility of future UK participation in Galileo”, states.

The row over Galileo centres on the EU’s insistence that Britain must lose access to source codes or technology to the encrypted navigation system for government and military users after Brexit because it will no longer be a member of the bloc. It would instead be granted access to the highly secure military applications on the same terms as the US, without the codes.

The British side does not accept EU arguments that, legally, it cannot get key elements of Galileo certified as ‘secure’ if it contains technology held by a non-member state, arguing that if the bloc wanted to be constructive, it could find a way. In the note, Britain offers to pay towards the running of the programme but demands that British companies can compete for all contracts. The UK accepts that certain rights are reserved for EU members but insists on the need to independently assess the system so it can be relied on for security and defence.

“Excluding industrial participation by UK industry in security-related areas risks delays of up to three years and additional costs of up to €1 billion to the programme,” the note states.

It reads, “As a logical consequence of the exclusion and uncertainty surrounding future UK participation, the UK is exploring alternatives to fulfil its needs.

“The development of a domestic system is economically viable and made possible by the expertise of the UK space sector. However, it remains the UK’s immediate preference to collaborate in Galileo”.

Britain’s space sector has a £14 billion per year turnover, which represent 7 per cent of the global share, it adds.

“It will not be straightforward to effectively fulfil all Galileo security work elsewhere,” the note reads.

During negotiations over the €45 billion Brexit bill, Britain agreed not to request repayment for its share of EU space assets - including over £1 billion of investment in Galileo - on the basis that the UK would be part of the system under a post-Brexit security partnership.

Now that UK participation appears to have been ruled out by European Commission lawyers, senior Whitehall sources said that the UK was now considering its options “including financial” because British space assets were not part of the calculations.

It was reported today that Berlin was backing Brussels in freezing out Britain from Galileo despite the objections of countries such as France, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and the Baltic states.

French officials are unhappy with the European Commission and Germany turning the UK’s exclusion into a “ ‘pedagogical exercise’ showing the costs of leaving the EU, According to the The Times

EU-27 representatives were said to be unhappy that the commission, which leads Brexit negotiations on their behalf, failed to respond to a British letter asking for clarification over Galileo for two months.

Telegraph

Michael Gove blames 'short-sighted' Philip Hammond for Government's Brexit defeat in Lords

669



Michael Gove has accused Philip Hammond of damaging his attempt to get a green Brexit

[Steven Swinford](#), deputy political editor

22 MAY 2018 • 10:00PM

M

Michael Gove has accused Philip Hammond of being "short-sighted" over Brexit and helping to inflict a "damaging blow" to the Conservative Party's "environmental credentials".

In a letter to Cabinet colleagues, seen by the Telegraph, the Environment Secretary blames the Treasury for a defeat in the House of Lords last week which could force the Government to retain all EU environmental protections after Brexit.

It is understood that the Chancellor blocked plans to give a new post-Brexit environmental watchdog the power to fine the Government and local authorities if they fail to increase recycling and cut pollution.

Mr Hammond believes that the proposal risks saddling the country with more regulation which may undermine the country's competitiveness after Brexit.

However, Mr Gove - who has introduced a series of new green policies in recent

months - believes that the new environmental protections are necessary to ensure a "green Brexit".



Michael Gove, pictured at the Chelsea Flower Show, is keen for a tough UK watchdog on green issues

The Environment Secretary believes that the defeat over the post-Brexit environmental policy was the "entirely predictable and avoidable" result of the Chancellor's opposition to his plans for a new green watchdog.

Mr Gove says that the Treasury's opposition resulted in a "weak" consultation on the watchdog which fell short of the Prime Minister's pledge to strengthen and enhance environmental protections after Brexit.

However, a Treasury source said: "It is clearly wrong to blame the Treasury for this. Philip has worked closely with Michael to support the Government's environmental agenda, including on plans for a plastic waste tax."

Mr Hammond and other Cabinet ministers have argued against giving the green watchdog greater powers amid concerns it would lead to red tape that would damage the post-Brexit economy.



Philip Hammond's department has insisted it is working closely with Mr Gove. Mr Gove says in the letter: "As I explained at Cabinet on Tuesday, the short-sightedness of the Treasury has now led to an entirely predictable and avoidable defeat on the EU Withdrawal Bill and inflicted a damaging blow to the Government's environmental credentials."

The EU Withdrawal Bill will return to the Commons within weeks after the Lords inflicted 15 defeats on the Government, including on the environmental protections amendment.

Mr Gove says that the Government will have to make "significant concessions" to overturn the amendment, including as an "absolute minimum" giving the green watchdog the power to take the Government to court and issue fines.

He says that it is "critical that we now confront the reality of our position", adding that ministers "cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of recent weeks and have the Government's environmental credibility further undermined".

In the letter, sent to ministers on Thursday, Mr Gove says that he warned in Cabinet last week that the Government would face defeat in the Lords because of the "reality of the parliamentary arithmetic".

Mr Gove says in the letter: "Defra argued that if we were to deliver the Government's promises our proposals must at the very least replicate the status quo - specifically the enforcement powers of the European Commission and maintenance of the principles in legislation.

"More than that, we argued that the reality of the parliamentary arithmetic meant we would be defeated if we chose to publish a weak consultation. Defra's arguments were not accepted as a result of Treasury opposition."

Two Cabinet sources told the Telegraph that the Prime Minister rebuked Mr Gove

for his intervention during the meeting.

Ministers lost the vote the following day, when the Lords voted by a majority of 294 to 244 to ensure that the EU's environmental protections are retained.

The Government published a consultation on plans for a new green watchdog earlier this month which was described as "toothless" by environmental groups.

The consultation suggests that the new body may only have the authority to issue advisory notices, unlike the European Commission which can take legal action against governments for failing to observe environmental laws and ultimately impose fines.

The Environment Secretary's plans were watered down after a backlash from Mr Hammond and other Cabinet ministers. A senior Conservative source said: "No Conservative wants more red tape after Brexit."

The letter was passed to the Telegraph by a Whitehall source from outside Defra and the Treasury, who described the row as "extraordinary even by the Cabinet's standards".

Mr Gove's intervention is particularly sensitive as the Prime Minister has put plans for a green Brexit at the heart of her domestic agenda.

She personally launched the Government's 25-year environmental strategy, appearing alongside Mr Gove.

The Environment Secretary on Tuesday published a Clean Air Strategy, which included a crackdown on polluting wood-burning stoves.

He told BBC Radio 4: "We outside the EU are going to have higher environmental standards in every area."

Speaking at the launch of the Government's environmental strategy in January, Theresa May highlighted the powers of a future greenwatchdog.

She said: "And let me be very clear. Brexit will not mean a lowering of environmental standards.

"We will set out our plans for a new, world-leading independent statutory body to hold government to account and give the environment a voice."

Sent: Wed, May 23, 2018 11:48 am

Subject: Fwd: Brexit Reset, our new booklet, is now available

The latest pamphlet, **BREXIT RESET** has been sent to all MPs. The Campaign for an Independent Britain is also sending **BREXIT RESET** to the Lords and members of the devolved assemblies.

The pamphlet calls on the government to abandon the "vassal state" transitional arrangement proposed by the EU and suggests an available, working alternative which would save our fishing industry and leave behind three quarters of EU laws on March 29th 2019 - including those on defence and the European Arrest Warrant. It leaves the way open for the government to carry out its full programme when its negotiations are complete. The BREXIT RESET scheme can be legally terminated by simply giving a year's notice. Please urge Ministers, MPs and peers to look at it. Many of them are sorely in need of guidance as they seek to obey the mandate of the UK electorate.

Simon

Brexit Reset booklet V2 by John Petley

Pay particular attention to pages 26-34 "Military and Security Issues"

http://campaignforanindependentbritain.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Brexit_Resetv2.pdf

3. Ministerial statements about EU Defence Union What ministers have committed to:

13th December 2016: "Government supported much of the content of the Mogherini Security and Defence Implementation

Plan" <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmeuleg/71-xxii/7112.htm>

8 th June 2017: UK pushing companies towards EU deals that require long-term adherence to EU policy, CSDP,

EDA <https://twitter.com/VeteransBritain/status/905551231195779076>

22nd February 2017: Minister regards European Defence Action Plan as

"predominantly positive for member state capabilities and the UK defence

industry" <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmeuleg/71-xxiv/7114.htm> Minister expects UK adherence to EU defence directives to continue:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmeuleg/71-xxxiv/7114.htm>

7th September 2017: National Shipbuilding Strategy submits the UK to EU

rules <https://twitter.com/VeteransBritain/status/905439206473945090>

Brexit Reset, our new booklet, is now available

[View this email in your browser](#)

BREXIT



Dear members and supporters, .

Firstly, a big thank you to all those who have responded to our e-mail about General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which comes into force on 25th May. If anyone has not done so, but still wishes to receive emails from us, please [get in touch](#) to let us know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

On a different topic, our latest pamphlet, **BREXIT RESET** has been sent to all MPs. We are also sending **BREXIT RESET** to the Lords and members of the devolved assemblies.

The pamphlet calls on the government to abandon the "vassal state" transitional arrangement proposed by the EU and suggests an available, working alternative which would save our fishing industry and leave behind three quarters of EU laws on March 29th 2019 - including those on defence and the European Arrest Warrant. It leaves the way open for the government to carry out its full programme when its negotiations are complete. The BREXIT RESET scheme can be legally terminated by simply giving a year's notice. Please urge Ministers, MPs and peers to look at it. Many of them are sorely in need of guidance as they seek to obey the mandate of the UK electorate.

The booklet is being accompanied by [this letter](#) from our Chairman (See

also below).



TIME FOR A BREXIT “RESET”?

Dear (we personalised the letter to so that every MP was addressed by name)

The constitutional authority A.V. Dicey wrote that supreme political power rested with the electorate and supreme legal power with Parliament. Parliament has already voted to implement the people's express wish to leave the EU and has the onerous task of giving it legal effect. Over a year has elapsed since the government notified the EU of the UK's intention to leave. The period of Article 50 notice will expire on 29th March 2019, when the existing EU treaties will cease to apply.

The government recognised the need for an extra period of negotiation to achieve a mutually satisfactory new trading relationship. The EU's proposed agreement for this is so adverse that it has fairly been assessed as making the UK into a “vassal state”. There is just time for other existing European structures to be used which can offer adequate assurance to the EU for its requirements and interests while permitting a largely unimpeded continued flow of trade. At the same time, the *Brexit Reset* proposals remove the roughly three quarters of EU legislation which enforces the EU political project which the UK can leave behind on Brexit Day 29th March 2019.

The procedure in the current EU (Withdrawal) Bill of transferring EU legislation to the UK statute book would be gravely and permanently disastrous to our fishing fleet. The proposals in *Brexit Reset* overcome these problems with the added bonus of a vastly more environmentally friendly fisheries system. The *Brexit Reset* proposals also remove EU law during the transition on matters which are not market-related and end the drift towards EU integration and control of defence policy which has quietly taken place in the last eighteen months. Clearly, our armed forces must be capable of independent action as well as operating in concert with allies.

This booklet is a distillation of inputs and research by people and groups of all parties and none. We hope you find it helpful in the heavy and urgent task of implementing the people's decision to best effect.

Yours sincerely

Edward Spalton
Chairman

You can download a pdf of the booklet [here](#).

With best wishes,

The Campaign for an Independent Britain

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