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Ecosnap No. 3: Brexit: Two statements, five bullet points and two quotations 15 March 2019



BREXIT

Two statements, five bullet points and two quotations

Statement 1: From the 2016 Referendum onwards, I was dead against this national suicidal policy of leaving the EU in order to regain an imaginary control of our country. I am a British subject.

Statement 2: For all that is worth, also from the beginning, I stated in my professional activities, written, verbal, on TV, (CNBC, Bloomberg etc) and social media that I believed for purely structural/technical reasons that the UK would not leave the EU. I still stick firmly to that position: the UK will

eventually, not leave the EU. This belief has nothing to do with the perceived benefits or costs of the EU membership but was based on what had actually been happening in terms of the negotiations after the referendum

Bullet points

- The Parliament has twice rejected resoundingly the May/EU deal and will do so again. There is an acceptable deal from the point of view of the EU but not from UK's point of view.
- The Parliament has firmly affirmed that there will be no exit without a deal. The question never answered was *what deal* given that the only available one has been twice rejected. The EU has stated unequivocally that there will be no further offer and further discussion on the May/EU deal
- The Parliament has decided against a new referendum
- The Parliament has asked for an extension of the 29/3/2019 deadline. How long this will be will depend on the EU and not on UK and it looks like one year. What will the politicians do during this time period is not only unknown but also irrelevant. They cannot negotiate with the EU a "new" deal, they cannot say that UK will leave with no deal and they cannot ask the people what to do via a referendum.
- Assuming that the laws of logical consistency still apply to UK, the only "solution" is to do nothing and that is to remain in the EU. Now, there is nothing to stop the politicians to do a complete vaulte- face and renege on everything they claimed they were doing on behalf of the people who elected them.

Quotation 1 The art of renegeing

"Rabbi Zwi Chaim Yisroel, an Orthodox scholar.... while he was on his way to synagogue to celebrate the sacred Jewish holiday commemorating God's renegeing on every promise, a woman stopped him and asked the following question: "Rabbi, why are we not allowed to eat pork?"
"We are *not*?", the Rev said incredulously. "Uh-oh."
(Woody Allen, "Getting Even", Vintage Books, 1971, pp. 50-51)

Quotation 2 The art of not keeping a straight face

“The pantomime of the past few days sums it up to perfection. May scuttles at the last minute to Strasbourg to beg mercy from the European Commission’s president, who graciously allows the U.K. a second chance, as he called it, to accept the EU’s terms — while saying nothing has changed and after this there’ll be no more clarifications of clarifications, because his patience is quite at an end. May returns to the Commons, voice failing, to croak out the case for approving the same withdrawal agreement that members had rejected just weeks ago by a record-breaking majority. Watching this despicable spectacle, I thought of Oscar Wilde’s famous remark about the death of Little Nell in “The Old Curiosity Shop”: You’d need a heart of stone not to laugh.”

(Bloomberg: "May Prepares Britain's Next Great Brexit Mistake" Clive Crook, 2019-03-14 .Possibly the best piece on Brexit that I have read, and I have read a lot....)

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