

Plan A – Revise negotiated Withdrawal Agreement and Framework

Outline:

- Immediately **table legal text to amend the Withdrawal Agreement** to replace the backstop with an acceptable indefinite solution set out in *A Better Deal*, 12 Dec 2019 (<http://bit.ly/CompBetterDeal>)
- **Maintain our offer on the rights of EU citizens** in the UK, the **agreed financial settlement**, and the **proposed Implementation Period (IP)** until no later than Dec 2021, or sooner on conclusion of the Future Relationship (FR)
- Require that, at the end of the IP or sooner, the UK shall **negotiate fisheries access as an independent coastal state**, under UNCLOS

Advantages

- Rescues the Withdrawal Agreement
- Maximises leverage plus secure a transition period
- No backstop dangers: the new protocol is permanent, a “frontstop” and should be objectively acceptable to all.

Disadvantages

- Uncertainty continues until the FR is ratified
- Difficulty of persuading Eurosceptics to swallow:
 - £39bn payment
 - Saving the effect of the ECA during the IP
 - Additional EU citizens’ rights
 - Other WA problems (DSC, CCP vs WTO)

Plan B – Basic transition agreement

Outline

- Continue to offer **legal text for Plan A** and **bilateral cooperation** in areas of mutual interest, including security, in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation
- **Unilaterally guarantee EU citizens’ rights**
- **Uphold current standards**, pending a comprehensive FR
- Offer to pay our net contribution (c.£10bn pa) in exchange for **the Implementation Period** as negotiated, until no later than Dec 2021
- Require that, at the end of the IP or sooner, the UK shall **negotiate fisheries access as an independent coastal state**, under UNCLOS
- Work to agree **an interim GATT XXIV compliant trading arrangement**, pending a comprehensive FR
- **Revise our financial offer** to the minimum compatible with our public law international obligations and submit to arbitration

Advantages

- **Offers a standstill to 2021 to enable negotiations**
- **Preserves optionality**
- **Secures time**
- **Secures exit**

Disadvantages

- Risks EU conditions, legislation, extension
- No Withdrawal Agreement
- Eurosceptic concern about:
 - Structure of standstill, esp saving ECA effect
 - Money