



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 15 January, Immediate Release

A Better Deal and A Better Future

Senior Conservative MPs set out the statement the Government should make to guide the UK to a better future as we exit the EU

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Senior Conservative MPs are this evening setting out the alternative written ministerial statement that they believe the Prime Minister should make now that the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration have been rejected by the House of Commons.

A written ministerial statement is required to be made within 21 days under section 13 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act.

Statement signatories are as follows:

Rt Hon David Davis MP
Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP
Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Rt Hon David Jones MP
Rt Hon Lord Lilley
Rt Hon Esther McVey MP
Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP
Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Rt Hon Mark Francois MP
Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP
Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP
Sir Bernard Jenkin MP
Sir William Cash MP
Steve Baker MP
Mrs Suella Braverman MP
Charlie Elphicke MP
Marcus Fysh MP
Craig Mackinlay MP
Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
Michael Tomlinson MP
Anne Marie Trevelyan MP
Shailesh Vara MP

[A Better Deal and A Better Future](#) includes the following:

- A commitment to leave the European Union on schedule and as legislated on 29 March 2019;
- A proposal to work concurrently on two strands:
 1. To present the EU with a legal text of a new EU/UK trade agreement as offered by Donald Tusk on 7 March 2018
 2. To continue with all preparations to leave the EU on WTO terms on 29 March 2019.

- The new Free Trade Plus agreement text should include:
 1. Replacement of the backstop, with a fully worked out Irish border protocol based on an interim FTA and Customs and Trade Facilitation Agreement.
 2. A financial settlement linked to progress towards a trade agreement.
 3. Mutually beneficial cooperation in areas such as the fight against terrorism, research, flights, data exchange etc.
 4. Leaving the Common Fisheries policy and negotiating reciprocal access.

- WTO preparations to include:
 1. Spending a part of the £39bn saved to boost economic growth.
 2. Unilaterally guaranteeing EU citizens' rights to continue to live and work in the UK.
 3. Measures to reduce the cost of imported agri-food items.
 4. Improving domestic regulation to support competitive markets.
 5. Simultaneous discussions with US, India and China as well as rolling over EU FTAs.
 6. Seek to work multilaterally within the WTO on UK trading goals.

Steve Baker MP, Deputy Chairman, European Research Group said:

“The Commons rejection of the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration is a great opportunity to aim for a better deal that respects the referendum result and is focused on the UK’s trading priorities. We will offer the EU a better deal and we will be ready to trade on WTO terms with the EU if they decline.

“If we leave on WTO terms, we will no longer be faced with handing over £39bn for little in return, seeing our United Kingdom broken apart or being forced to follow EU laws with no say. This document sets out a firm plan to take up the EU’s March offer of a best-in-class trade agreement respecting UK priorities, the EU’s legal order and allowing the UK to develop a truly independent trade and domestic regulatory policy.

“We have the opportunity to set our own course in the world. This is the right plan to respect the referendum result and prosper.”

ENDS