

Hunt's autumn statement

Ewen Stewart

According to Ewen Stewart “We face the greatest crisis of our lives; Hunt's autumn statement makes it worse”.

He goes on “We face a crisis born out of serial material errors over many years and short-term fixes designed to kick the can down the road. The recent Autumn Statement compounds the error.

It not only raises taxes to an unprecedented peace time level but it fails utterly to address the fundamental problem of far too much Government, far too much regulation and a dreadful bang for the buck. Rather than spending cuts, spending will actually continue to increase in real terms!

Hunt smirks with pride as he says public spending will rise – 1% in real terms in each of the next five years – with the private sector paying the price. Moreso, Hunt stands there without a hint of irony and says ‘as Conservative we do not leave debt to the next generation.’

He is either very poorly advised, or somewhat forgetful, as he may recall Cameron inherited a National Debt of £821bn. It is £2,434bn today, a tripling in just 12 years. That's the Conservative legacy: massive debt, massive tax and shocking locked-down public service.

We live in an age of extraordinary innovation; medical, scientific and technological. We should be in clover. The fact we are not, is entirely the fault of our political establishment. The failure is economic, moral and cultural but from an economic perspective it is primarily four-fold, and you will note the ‘B word’ is entirely absent and irrelevant to the malaise.

Exhibit One: *The delusion of free money* – and the absolute failure of central banks to normalise monetary policy in the decade when they had the chance, post the Global Financial Crisis. This policy broke the link between tax and spend enabling Governments to spend with impunity forgetting that free money, and QE were unprecedented in the 300-year history of the Bank of England, with no Plan B to unwind.

Exhibit Two: *Net zero.* - The cancellation of carbon, the very basis for the industrial revolution, with a currently cost ineffective, unproven alternative which breaks every rule of economics. All previous revolutions were market driven. The car replaced the horse because it was better and ultimately more cost effective, *net zero* is based on virtue signalling without regard to cost or even certain reliability. No sane policy is based without knowing what the implications will be and no major technology transfer has ever happened before without a market-based proven alternative.

Exhibit Three: *Lockdown.* - £500bn wasted on furlough, bounce back loans, track and trace, and the like – extending the free money QE delusion, weakening the productive private sector and causing all sorts of negative side effects from rising mental health issues to lengthening hospital waiting lists, from 18% of school children still not turning up to school to shortages and economic inactivity. It has uprooted society and created serious long-term problems,

not least contributing to inflation.

Exhibit Four: *War in Ukraine* – arguably the only one that is not self-inflicted; with its tragic consequences and impact on energy prices but which exposed our poor gas reserves and unwillingness to commit to fracking.

Our establishment of politicians and technocrats have utterly failed us. They have failed to address the uncontrolled and grossly inefficient level of public spending, they have failed to incentivise the growth engine, the private sector, with further dispiriting tax rises, taking tax to the highest level since war-torn 1948. They have failed to provide any vision of hope.

The scale of the tax rises is staggering..... From a low of 28% of GDP in 1993, taxes will have increased to 37% of GDP by 2027, a 40% real terms rise. Is our education better, or health, or police force? Is the army and navy bigger? Are we less regulated and able to go about our business unhindered? In fact, what exactly is there to show for this staggering rise?

Frankly, this Government's actions are far more extreme than Jeremy Corbyn promised in 2019.

Tax as a proportion of GDP was 32.9% then, it will be 37% by 2027. A far higher increase than Corbyn ever proposed. Public spending was £884bn in 2019 but it will be £1,100bn next year and inflation was 1.5% in 2019. Some record.

This Government has no excuses. It had an 80-seat majority. Johnson blew

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it with economically illiterate decisions backed up by a central bank which was frankly incapable of seeing that monetary experimentation should at most have been an emergency measure, not a twelve-year jolly.

Inexcusable though, is the inability to control the growth of the state. The.... embedded public spending is. A 25% increase in public spending over lockdown of which 80% has stuck as the economy has opened up.

Despite this Hunt can find nothing to cut.

Spending will continue to rise in real terms each and every year and in some cases (NHS and education) materially.

And the bang for the buck is outlined below. Public sector productivity is lower than in 1998 despite all the technological advances there have been.

But this is just the start. The real ticking time bomb is the accumulated public debt.The cost of servicing all that Government debt barely changed between 1998 and 2020 as the cost of borrowing compressed and debt went up five-fold. What a wheeze.

Now though with inflation at 11.1% and gilts yielding 3% the cost of servicing that debt will likely go from £40bn to £105bn by next year, an increase of greater than the entire defence budget.

So as the economy moves into recession as the cost of debt escalates this Government tightens by £50bn, or 2% GDP. (As an example a five-year fixed rate mortgage cost 2.3% typically

a few months ago is now around 5.2% today –dwarfing the more-than-doubling of energy costs. The seeds are tragically sown for a major recession. Today's budget is counter-productive undermining confidence and rewarding failure. It will further undermine the public finances, risking yet more tax rises – and so it goes on.

No one is saying, given the mess they have created, a recovery strategy is easy. It is not. While unfunded tax cuts on a large scale are not credible what would have been credible would have been to pare back spending to pre-pandemic levels in real terms. Taking spending back to 2019 levels is hardly a big ask.

Given the technological age we live in, efficiency savings should be material. Spending should be falling as a proportion of GDP, not rising, and it could be with sensible controls and a re-assessment of what the state does. Are we really to believe spending is a one-way ratchet, only up? That is what this cravenly cowardly Conservative Party seems to believe.

But there is another way. Failed economies can recover and can recover very quickly. Look at the great success of Eastern Europe after the tragedy of 70 years of Marxism. Unleash the people and they will innovate, trade and prosper.

Despite appalling governance Britain still possess numerous world class assets, from financial services to business and professional services. From soft assets like sport, culture and media to logistics and distribution. From precision engineering to biotech

and pharmaceuticals and from whisky to elite education. The list goes on. All our excellence is in the private sector, precious little is anywhere near Government perhaps outside the regiments of the line (or what is left of them).

So, what to do? Besides cancelling HS2 and other similar vanity projects, which is an easy win, over £100bn of public spending normalisation should be the simple starter. This merely takes real spending back to the eve of lockdown. Hardly a big ask and something to build on.

This could have funded tax cuts focused on a genuine growth strategy. Reshape the state merely back to 2019 levels and instead of tax rising to 37% of GDP it could have fallen back to 33%. Again, this is very modest – simply the pre-lockdown level and far higher than under even Tony Blair.

That signal of intent would have single-handedly lifted the pall of depression over the land. It would have given hope and created a base to build on. It would have stimulated growth and lessened the pain of rising interest rates. Sure, the next eighteen months or so would still have been tough but recovery would have been swift. That really is the only option left to Britain. The approach of tax, spend and waste is the road to ruin.

Sooner or later there will be no option but to bite the bullet and change direction".

Source: www.brexit-watch.org

EU holding up funding to Hungary

The EU is yet again using funding as a way to control democracy in a member state, this time the country to suffer this type of blackmail is Hungary.

The EU Commission will continue to propose to suspend some of the EU funds to Hungary as officials think prime minister Viktor Orbán's government has failed to implement all

the previously agreed rule of law and anti-corruption measures, according to people familiar with the discussions.

The commission has made a formal decision and has concluded that Hungary did not make enough progress on the 17 measures it had agreed with the commission in September

The standoff between the EU and Hungary escalated on Tuesday 6th

December over the approximately €14bn in EU funding to Budapest, as prime minister Viktor Orbán's government vetoed the bloc's joint financial aid to Ukraine.

Economy ministers meeting in Brussels also postponed a decision on the bloc's adoption of the global minimum corporate tax which Hungary has also threatened to block.

Northern Ireland Protocol Bill

The following is from the Campaign for an Independent Britain web site and refers to a speech by Baroness Hoey in the Committee Stage in the House of Lords on 7th November 2022.

“On behalf of CIBUK.org we are pleased to promote the following speech by Baroness Hoeyin which she makes an impassioned constitutional plea on behalf of the people of Northern Ireland.

No one is better versed in the history and detail of Northern Ireland politics than the noble Baroness and we quote her extensively from her speech to the House of Lords in the article below.

Proposed amendment - Clause 22 is one of the most significant in the Bill and sets out the general scope and nature of the powers available to ministers.

Lady Hoey’s proposed amendment seeks to prevent a Minister of the Crown making provision by regulation which has the effect of repealing, subordinating or otherwise interfering with the United Kingdom’s foundational constitutional statutory framework.

In her own words *‘This amendment is very simple. It seeks to remedy an important gap at the heart of the Bill.’*

The amendment she seeks in Clause 22 is to insert the words. *‘but may not amend, repeal, or create an incompatibility with, the Act of Union (Ireland) 1800 or the Union with Ireland Act 1800.’*

Act of Union under threat - Fears that present arrangements could endanger the present constitutional status of Northern Ireland appear well founded. According to Lady Hoey

‘The Prime Minister before the previous Prime Minister, speaking in the House of Commons, claimed that the withdrawal Act was not intended to affect the Acts of Union, yet a few months later senior counsel, on behalf of the then Government, went to court in our protocol case in Belfast and argued exactly the opposite.’

Nor historically, she argues, has

subordinate legislation ever challenged the integrity of the Acts of Union:

‘There has been some commentary suggesting that the Acts of Union were somehow repealed or overridden by the Government of Ireland Act 1920 or later statutory provisions, but that is simply not so.’

The 1920 Act simply made provision for separate devolved arrangements in two parts of Ireland, each of which remained fully part of the United Kingdom and subject to the United Kingdom Parliament. There was and is nothing in the Acts of Union to prevent the creation of subordinate legislatures, provided that the King in Parliament remains sovereign.’

Protocol must yield to Act of Union - Where a conflict between the Protocol and the Act of Union arises, Baroness Hoey is emphatic about which needs to give way:

‘While this Bill may well conflict with international obligations under the protocol, any such obligations must yield because the protocol subjugates the fundamental constitutional foundation of the United Kingdom.’

Flaws in current Bill - If the Bill were to stand in its present form, she argues, the dangers are obvious:

‘The bill as it currently stands has a hole in it. it does not prevent a Minister of a Crown using the Henry VIII powers that we have heard so much about to replace the current arrangements with new arrangements that would again breach the Acts of Union.’

Logical absurdity - As things currently stand, a Minister of the Crown is prohibited from doing anything to facilitate or create a land border where it should be but remains free to do so within the UK itself thereby subjugating the Acts of Union.

‘That simply is an absurdity. I know that the Minister could not really give a reason why this had not gone in but I trust—being very naive, perhaps—that it was simply an oversight on the part of the drafters.’

‘Let us be clear: the restoration

means an end of EU law applying in Northern Ireland. If it continues to apply in Northern Ireland but not in the rest of the United Kingdom then the Acts of Union are breached.’

Brussels and Dublin - In her concluding remarks, Baroness Hoey exposed one final, glaring anomaly.

‘Last week, after a lot of procrastination, the Northern Ireland Office ruled out law-making powers over Northern Ireland for Dublin. It did so correctly, on the basis that this would breach the principle of consent.’

Can the Government therefore explain how they reconcile the plainly correct position that law-making powers being handed to Dublin would breach the principle of consent with their continued entirely illogical claim that handing law-making and judicial powers to Brussels does not?

What, tell me, is the difference between Brussels exercising law-making powers over Northern Ireland and Dublin doing the same? In truth, I do not think that there is any coherent answer to that.’

The noble Baroness’s concluding observations are clear and unambiguous:

Amending Clause 22 would provide some constitutional safeguard against the obvious loop-holes which currently exist.

There can be no power sharing in Northern Ireland unless Unionists are treated with the same respect as Nationalists.

Either those rights are respected or there will be no power sharing.

‘There can be no compromise on that fundamental issue.’

We are indeed grateful to Baroness Hoey for providing our readers with a powerful insight on the present impasse over the Northern Ireland Protocol.

The cibuk.org, will do our best to impress those in government to abide by the recommendations which she raises.”

Source: www.cibuk.org

UK seafood consumption

In a report issued earlier this year, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) commissioned an analysis of UK seafood consumption, and the huge volumes that are imported without reference to how it is caught or produced. Going beyond sustainability certification, WWF argued for a wholesale change in how seafood is regulated – a policy that, it is argued, would be of benefit to UK fishers, many of whom already meet much more stringent criteria than many foreign producers.

Clarus Chu, senior policy advisor (production) at WWF-UK and Hayley Swanlund, seafood sustainability officer at WWF-UK, explain more.

Before 1984, the UK was a net exporter of seafood, with large fleets travelling as far as the Grand Banks in Canada and the Barents Sea to catch our favourite fish. However, over the years, the UK has increasingly relied on seafood imports, primarily owing to the decline of local fish stocks such as cod, fishing ground access restrictions and an increase in demand. Nevertheless, the UK has remained one of the major fishing nations in Europe, supplying seafood to meet local and international demand.

We are now facing what WWF sees as a ‘triple challenge’: producing nutritious food for a growing population, while staying on track to keep global temperatures below the 1.5°C target, and reversing biodiversity loss. Sustainable seafood has a big role to play in meeting our nutrition, climate and nature targets. However not all seafood is equal in terms of meeting this triple challenge.

Worse, many UK fishers are competing in UK markets against imports that do not meet the same high standards, or help address this triple challenge. To date there has been no comprehensive analysis to understand the collective impact of the UK’s seafood consumption on global biodiversity loss, climate change, and its associated risks to nature and people.

Risky Seafood Business, the

detailed report released by WWF earlier this autumn on the UK seafood market, identified that huge volumes of seafood imported to the UK was subject to no scrutiny at all as to the environmental and social footprints of the fleets catching it.

WWF’s Risky Seafood Business report, produced earlier this year, analyses the UK’s footprint risks resulting from imported and domestically produced seafood. If UK fisheries are asked to meet high and exacting targets on conservation and emissions, then imported fish should be held to similar standards.

A total of 10 different ecological, climate and social indicators were used to assess 157 seafood supply chains across popular seafood groups including whitefish such as cod, salmon, and different pelagics. The footprint refers to the impacts of seafood extraction, production and consumption. It also includes related socioeconomic activities on nature and the functioning of natural systems, as well as the drivers and pressures that cause those risks and impacts such as overfishing, seabed habitat destruction and release of blue carbon.

Key findings of the report include:

In 2019, the UK ate 887,000t of seafood, equivalent to 5.2bn portions of fish and chips – and yet the average UK citizen is only eating half of the government-recommended two portions of fish a week.

81% of seafood consumed by volume is imported, but no environmental or social regulatory criteria exists for this, bar ensuring that wild-caught seafood is from a legal source.

70% of our domestic seafood production is exported overseas. The UK’s seafood production has a higher footprint than some of our neighbouring countries in the North East Atlantic such as Iceland and Norway, but lower than those of countries in Africa and Asia.

Species with the highest risks

overall include tuna, swordfish, warm-water prawns, squid and certain crab species. Species with the lowest footprint include UK rope-grown mussels and small pelagic fish such as herring.

The UK’s seafood demand directly impacts at least 253 endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species including sharks, birds and marine mammals.

To follow the UK government’s recommendation to consume two portions of fish a week, urgent and collective action must be taken to ensure that all our imported seafood comes from sustainable sources. This would be great news for many UK catchers and processors, who are currently competing with imports from some poorly regulated fisheries.

The recently published UK Food Strategy White Paper highlights the importance of a prosperous seafood sector in the UK. It can build food security in an unpredictable world, although we must lower the footprint of our own seafood production even further if it is to fit into the wider food system agenda.

We all have an important role to play in reducing the UK’s seafood consumption footprint and helping to drive positive changes at home and across the world. UK governments must lead the way in filling the current gaps in seafood production regulations and core environmental standards for both imported and domestic seafood.

UK businesses can also drive transformation of their seafood sourcing to address the triple challenge outlined by WWF and put UK fishers back on a level playing field. At the same time, consumers can help shift the dial by making responsible seafood choices, particularly opting for lower-footprint seafood like farmed mussels.

As a net importer, the UK’s seafood footprint has significant environmental and social impacts far beyond our shores. Although positive progress has been made in recent decades to improve the way seafood is produced,

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managed and sold in the UK, it is clear there is still much more to do, and the urgent actions recommended in the report must be taken.

Concerted and collaborative efforts from UK governments and businesses are required to shift the country's seafood production onto a sustainable footing for the long term and avoid exporting our environmental footprint to other countries, through the seafoods that we import for consumption in the UK.

UK rope-grown mussels: the unsung hero in seafood sustainability

The 2022 WWF Risky Seafood Business report analyses a total of 157 UK and overseas seafood supply chains from 40 countries. While it identifies species with high footprints like tuna and swordfish, it also points to an unsung seafood sustainability hero, UK rope-grown mussels, which

have the lowest environmental, climate and social footprint of all species in the report.

Rope-grown mussels are identified by the WWF report as one of most climate-friendly seafood choices.

Blue mussels *Mytilus edulis* are indigenous to our shores and can be found all around the coast of British Isles. They have been farmed in the UK for decades, supporting livelihoods in coastal communities. Free-swimming juvenile mussels attach to the longline ropes in mussel farms and filter-feed from the water column, requiring no feed inputs, chemicals or fertilisers. In fact, mussel farming has been shown to improve water quality at farm sites with the removal of excess nutrients and phytoplankton, and the UK employs a well-defined water classification scheme for mussel consumption.

Unlike wild-capture fisheries where vessels typically need to travel long distances, mussel farming requires

very little use of fossil fuels, and has little interaction with the seabed which could disturb trapped carbon in the sediment. A recent study published in Nature estimated that the greenhouse gas emissions of farming shellfish like mussels is only around 1.4kg of CO₂ per kg of meat produced, meaning that it has significantly lower climate change risks compared to land-based livestock protein and other sources of seafood.

One risk associated with mussel farming relates to interactions with species like the eider duck, which is protected in the UK. They feed on the spat found on rope-grown mussels, and mussel farmers are known to chase the birds away or use acoustic deterrents.

In the report, consumers are recommended to diversify their seafood choices and opt for low-footprint species like rope-grown mussels. WWF offers other tips on its website to help consumers to make responsible choices.

Source: [fishingnews.co.uk](https://www.fishingnews.co.uk)

UK house building

Housing has recently become one of the most controversial issues in British politics. The Government has recommitted to its target of building 300,000 homes per year. But it has also promised to do more to give local communities control over the planning process.

A new report by the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) examines the leading options for abolishing or weakening 'top-down targets', and their likely impact on the housing system. These range from reducing the power of the Planning Inspectorate to allowing local authorities to fix their own housing need.

The paper warns that three of the proposed policies in particular would do 'serious damage' to housebuilding and the housing sector – at precisely the time when the economic downturn and rising interest rates are already endangering the 300,000 homes per year target and the health of the sector. These were cutting housing targets on

greenfield sites in favour of brownfield sites; scrapping the 5-year land supply test; and giving councils the ability to assess their own housing needs.

Two other measures were found to have a more manageable impact, namely guaranteeing that approved local plans are treated as up to date for a specified period, and reducing the power of the Planning Inspectorate to throw out local plans that are close to meeting their targets.

The paper accepts that top-down targets have been much resented, and agrees that in the long term it is right that the Government should aim to deliver homes in more consensual ways. However, it warns that removing them without developing credible alternatives could lead to a 20% fall in housebuilding, with some estimates as high as 40%. A 20% slump could see as many as 800,000 job losses in construction and related sectors.

The report, co-authored by Alex

Morton and Samuel Hughes, the CPS's new Head of Housing, proposes a number of alternative options to help garner local support for developments:

- Street votes.
- More control over design and layout to local people.
- Supporting SME builders.
- Ensuring faster build-out on sites.
- Potentially limiting the required land supply to five or 10 years.

Samuel Hughes, CPS Head of Housing, said:

'Instead of scrapping top-down targets, the Government should look at ways in which it can mitigate their inflexibility, as well as addressing other unpopular features of the housebuilding system. Whatever happens, the structure of any new system needs to be put in place before the existing system is torn down, else we could see fewer homes, job losses and a blow to SMEs just when the country can least afford it.'

France in crisis

Rodney Atkinson

In the last 4 years the UK has handed over to France a £220.8 million reward for their complete failure to stop the illegal invasion of the UK by migrant mobs paying thousands of pounds to people smugglers to transport across the Channel those who have illegally entered France but who have not been expelled back to the many “safe third countries” they passed through on their way to France.

By accommodating those illegal migrants near the northern French coast France has aided and abetted (and indeed accompanied) illegal immigrants into the UK where the costs of taking them are now at least £1.3bn a year. At the same time France has rejected 3,500 migrants from Italy because Italy has blocked a ship with 230 migrants from docking.

Imagine if the UK demanded £220m from Ireland to (fail to) stop illegal immigrants in the UK from crossing to Ireland! So far from paying France £220m it is France which should be paying the UK hundreds of millions of pounds and those sums should be extracted from the confiscation and sale of French financial assets in the UK. (I note the UK has frozen Russian assets and threatens to spend them in Ukraine)

Italy's new Prime Minister Meloni has rightly attacked France's domination and impoverishment of 14 poor African countries through its profit (seigniorage) from issuing the CFA Franc as their currency. Meloni rightly says that in general the West restricts trade and exploits the economies of the countries from where migrants are forced to flee. The more protectionist and corporatist the West's economies are (and France is an extreme case) the more mass movements of people replace the free movement of goods and services.

But this migrant burden on the UK is just one symptom of the social and economic breakdown in France.

In August of 2022 France's balance

of payments deficit reached a record high of Euros 22,706m, there having been previous monthly record deficits in March and April.

A *Daily Telegraph* article noted “the lawless anarchy of the *banlieues* that surround the capital amounting to low level terrorism is mirrored in almost every other city. ...graffiti, vandalism and filth....”

Even the cause of and pathetic previous denial of this collapse, President Macron has had to admit “*if we look at Paris today ...at least half the crime comes from people who are foreigners either illegal immigrants or those waiting for a residence permit*” – language which he previously accused “extremists” of using. Youth unemployment at 20% fuels social unrest by both French and immigrant communities, with the latter far more isolated from the mainstream than their equivalents in the UK.

By the end of 2021, France's (total public and private) debt-to-GDP ratio had risen to 347.7%, according to data from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). Currently, France has higher overall debt than any other eurozone nation, including recognised basket cases like Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain!

France has a budget deficit of 6.5% of GDP and a national debt of 112% of GDP – only Spain, Greece and Montenegro are worse! (The UK has 97%)

Since December 2021 France's 10 year Government bond rate has risen from 0.05% to 2.79% a very big percentage increase, far steeper than the rise in the UK gilt rate which caused such chaos!

The rise in gas prices due to the EU and NATO's sanctions on Russia has caused France's largest glass manufacturer Duralux to suspend work for 5 months due to surging electricity bills, the CEO - “Our gas and electricity bills have increased from 3 to 13 million euros per year”

During the five months of closure, employees will continue to receive 95% of their salary. Thanks to the government's measures, 70% of this amount will be covered by the state – adding to the crisis level of the national debt while hardly helping the ever higher indebtedness of business.

Consumers have also been heavily subsidised. Natural gas prices were capped at autumn 2021 levels and energy price rises limited to 4 percent. Petrol prices have also been heavily subsidised and artificially reduced inflation to 6.5%.

France has always prided itself on its nuclear technology and nuclear power contributes 70% of France's electricity supply. But recently 32 of its 56 reactors were out of service for repair (corrosion problems) and maintenance. France is planning a 10% reduction in energy demand by 2024. As regards gas and electricity supply they will also be relying on taking both from interconnections with the UK! So either the UK could be short or British energy prices could be very high this winter.

So like that other pillar of the European Union and its industrial heartland, Germany, France is struggling to keep its industry going at all never mind making it profitable.

France has always been a statist economy, “dirigiste” in its philosophy and with controlling Government stakes in its major corporations. One of the keys to this system has always been the *Ecole Nationale d'Administration*, a postgraduate training ground for businessmen and State administrators founded by General DeGaulle in 1945 to give access to the highest levels of the civil service for those from all backgrounds. Now of course since December 2021 its Statist corporatist rigidity has led to its abolition (by Macron who was himself a graduate) in favour of the “Public Service Institute” with a mission to “introduce

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more diversity” – the very same reason given for the founding of the ENA in 1945!

The failure of this typical *de haut en bas* logic of the French State shows perhaps why France in general lacks the creativity and flexibility needed in the modern economy. The energy

market cannot adapt quick enough, Universities lack world status (France has only 1 university in the world top 500, the UK has 4 in the top ten!) and in a country where the population has risen much less in the last three years (220,000) than the UK (420,000) there are 3 million empty homes – so mismatched is supply and demand in this

“planned economy”.

58% of the French say they are “dissatisfied” with the state of their country and a third are “very angry”. A resurgence is feared of the massive “yellow vests” movement when the violent reaction of the Macron State led to the deaths of demonstrators....

Source: www.freenations.org

EU’s economic worries

Michael A. Clark

The prophetic significance of Britain leaving the EU was immense, especially now that we are witnessing the struggling euro which is nearing the point of collapse amid the possibility of a huge financial crisis. On 15th August 1971, Richard Nixon separated the price of gold from the US dollar - a crucial sign of the call in *Revelation 18:4* destined to separate Britain from the EU prior to the euro collapse.

In an article (published on line) in *The Daily Express*, by Paul Withes, dated 1st August 2022, the struggling euro currency was compared to the sinking of the *Titanic*. Under the dramatic title, “Euro is like the *Titanic!* EU blasted for ‘shooting itself in the foot’ as huge crisis looms”. Withes states:

“Europe is desperately battling the dangerous possibility of a huge shortage of gas heading into the freezing winter months as fears soar Vladimir Putin will completely cut off supplies into the continent. The EU has accused Russia of resorting to energy blackmail and claim the move is ‘politically motivated’, with gas supplies flowing through the huge Nord Stream 1 pipeline from Russia into Europe plummeting to just a fifth of its capacity... (and now sabotaged).

“EU critic and Frexitier Eric Noirez launched a furious attack against the EU and claimed the euro has become a ‘trap that is now closing in EU has on us’. The EU has inevitably shot itself in the foot - it reneged on its principles and its own rules aimed at maintaining economic stability for a frantic, suicidal headlong rush that has led today to the euro crisis we are

experiencing.

“Where common sense and pragmatism should have led to stopping the aberration that is the euro, the euro-fanatics preferred to persist in their error and to keep the euro alive at all costs. From a false good idea, the euro has become a trap that is now closing in on us. In reality, the question concerning the euro, is not whether this currency will explode or not. The euro will explode because the problems it poses are insoluble and because the crisis for which it is mainly responsible, as well as the divergences it creates between nations, will become too strong for it not to explode”.

In the *Book of Revelation* we see striking foreknowledge of world economic events which have been culminating since 1844. The struggle for Free Trade and the establishment of the World Market was won in 1846; before it had been illegal to buy and sell at different prices. Prices, where they existed, were standard prices. The haggling of the market place, where prices are fixed, was legalised.

It was then that England, after the *Bank Charter Act 1844*, set out on her attempt to govern the world by commerce and finance based on the Gold Standard; getting other nations into her debt and exacting a tribute payment from them.

Thus Britain adopted the policy of Babylon the Great, which is the world economic and social order governed by money. It is also called the World, Egypt, or The Street, where our Lord was bought and sold for thirty pieces of silver. It is the place where men’s souls are bartered for gain. The crime of the

whole world is, in fact as Ruskin said, that of Judas, not that we disbelieve Christ but that we continue to sell Him.

All this is no longer conspiracy as the evidence, ridiculed by the elite, is breaking surface and is now in the open. International Finance is now clearly evident in its desire to control every aspect of life. It links to organisations on global health, global technology and media dominance by a select few. Free speech and freedom of association are becoming strictly limited. Personal finance is becoming more difficult as financial transactions and credit worthiness are assessed by global organisations using global political standards. The cashless society through digital control is a threat not yet fully understood. The aim appears to be global government and the total destruction of national sovereignty.

It is true that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against the Powers of Darkness in the heavenly places. A century ago these evil spirit powers were manifest as Communism, Socialism and Fascism. now the covenant of nations and mankind in general are becoming enslaved. In 2022 there is an open attack on Western civilisation, our history, the White race, its family structure and worst of all the children at primary stage education, summed up the American word ‘Woke’ which has a stated Marxist agenda....

Source: Extract of an article ‘*The True Economic System*’ in **The Covenant Nations** Vol. 5 No. 12, 2022

UK officials still following EU attitudes

Catherine McBride

According to an article by McBride, entitled 'Brazil reveals UK officials still have the EU's attitude of mind'.

It would appear that everything is being blamed on Liz Truss. According to *The Independent* 'There is little prospect of a post-Brexit trade deal with Brazil in the near future because of strained relations between Britain's Conservative Government and the new administration of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.'

But read a bit further and we also learn the impasse has nothing to do with the two governments disliking each other, nor Liz Truss's negotiations with the previous Bolsonaro government, but everything to do with the UK's on-going mercantilist trade objectives.

The Brazilian's opinion of the UK was telling: 'They want access to the financial market, IT and education, yet there are barriers to the import of Brazilian meat products, especially beef.'

And then the Lula team precisely nailed the problem: The UK 'seem to have EU regulations in place, despite Brexit'.

And this is a problem for the whole of the UK – we voted to leave the EU over 6 years ago, then left the EU almost 3 years ago, the transition period finished almost 2 years ago – but very few rules, regulations or even public servant attitudes have changed.

The greatest benefits from trade come from being able to *import* things that are produced more efficiently in other countries. Yet 50 years stuck in the EU has made the UK trade negotiators very mercantilist – they only want to *export* goods and services.

The UK has relied on imported food

for 180 years.

Many foods that are commonplace in UK kitchens today cannot be grown here: oranges, bananas, rice, soy, coffee, tea, avocados, capsicums, almonds, peanuts, even pepper is imported.

Other foods we import because we cannot grow *enough* to feed our ever-expanding population. For example, milling wheat for bread, pork, beef, potatoes and carrots. This includes about 300,000 tonnes of beef each year – but imported exclusively from EU countries with no tariffs or quotas.

Then there's a third group, where we import foods when they are out of season in the UK – such as apples and lamb.

To be successful in trade, countries need either a very low-cost economy, a relatively weak currency, and a highly competitive market or if countries have a high-cost economy and a relatively strong currency, then they need to have high productivity and highly efficient industries. Farming is no different.

Unfortunately, UK beef producers have the worst of both worlds: they operate in a high-cost economy with a relatively strong currency, but have small inefficient farms and low productivity.

Brazilian beef producers are the opposite: they benefit from a low-cost economy and a relatively weaker currency, but have also adopted highly efficient farming methods. They also have the world's largest beef herd and massive grasslands, not in the Amazon as *The Independent* article tries to imply, but in the Central West, South East and South regions of the country.

Without a trade deal with Brazil, this not only makes it difficult for our financial service, IT, or educational businesses to export there, but also

maintains higher food costs to UK consumers at a time when food costs are high – and made higher by imported animal feed prices inflated by the war in Ukraine. Many of our present EU supplies will be hit by imported feed prices even more than the UK – the soaring price of Lurpak butter is a prime example. Danish dairy cows are fed soy.

Instead, we are happy to import into the UK soybeans from Brazil to feed our own chickens, pigs and dairy cattle – as well as buy meat and dairy products from the EU that are also fed soybeans imported from Brazil. The EU imports approximately 31 million tonnes of soy-based animal feed each year – 12.5% of global production.

As it takes multiple tonnes of feed to produce a tonne of meat, there would be far fewer food miles involved if we just imported meat directly from Brazil.

Unfortunately, even if the UK signed a deal with Brazil tomorrow, it is likely to be similar to those signed (*but not yet operational*) with Australia and New Zealand: it will be 15 years before the UK can import unlimited amounts of beef tariff-free from Australia or New Zealand. Like Brazil, both are highly efficient beef producers with a weaker currency.

And while some may be persuaded that protecting the UK's beef farmers is a price worth paying, this mercantilist protection also restricts other UK agricultural products being exported to Brazil. Products like whisky, stilton, cheddar and smoked salmon could sell well in Brazil with a preferential trade deal.

Note to UK Government: not all UK farmers are beef farmers."

Source: www.globalbritain.co.uk

Wealth counts in the EU even for jobs

IN true EU style wealth matters. The European Court of Auditors is only able to attract wealthy trainees because of the cost of living in Luxembourg.

The court pays trainees €1,500, plus travel expenses, per month. But Zacharias Kolias, the court's secretary general, says trainees have to put down

€10,000 deposits for housing in the city. "What is the end result?

The end result is that we are attracting the very wealthy."

LETTERS

Tel: 08456 120 175 email: info@junepress.com

MPs extra jobs

Dear Sir,

The recent fully justified complaints about a serving MP being paid by the UK tax payer while taking a break to be on a well-paid TV programme is an insult to the hard working MPs whose jobs is to represent their constituency electors.

Matt Hancock the MP in question cannot be serving two different employers at the same time. He should do the honourable thing at resign *immediately* from the House of Commons, failure to do so will tarnish all MPs not matter what party they represent.

His actions have done immeasurable damage to the trust the electorate confirms on MPs at the ballot box.

Marion Dally
Yorkshire

Funding for the RNLI

Dear Editor,

The citizens of the UK, especially in coastal areas have always given generously to the Royal Naval Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) to save lives at sea in emergency situations. We should not forget that the RNLI is a charitable institution that is paid for by the tax payer and not the government.

Having followed the taxi service the RNLI is now providing for illegal immigration to the UK, it is not surprising that many like me will no longer support the RNLI why they provide this service to illegal immigrants.

Having recently adjusted my will to remove a legacy for the RNLI, I am not surprised that many of my acquaintances are now doing the same thing.

The lifeboat service like the Royal

Navy are aiding and abetting the criminal groups that assist the illegal crossings of the English Channel.

Maybe they should also be fined or imprisoned for their crime of providing the means for illegal entry into the UK.

A very disillusioned long-term supporter of the RNLI.
PAULA STEVENSON
Cornwall

UKs homeless citizens

Dear Sirs,

We now hear that the UK government is spending nearly £7 million pounds a day on illegal immigrants. When they get here they are provided with free accommodation and meals while native UK citizens are sleeping rough on our streets throughout the UK. What kind of country are we living in that gives preference to illegal immigrants over UK citizens.

The time has come to get a grip of this situation regardless of the rulings of courts outside of the UK. If not civil unrest will surely break out and how the security services will be able to deal with this should be a constant worry to our elected politicians of all parties.

Peter Simons
London

EU remainers

Dear Editor,

I was totally shocked to hear politicians talking about joining a Swiss style union with the EU.

They clearly do not understand what the Swiss deal with the EU is all about - or do they! - The Swiss deal means that to trade with the EU they pay in a considerable financial payment every year and also have to abide by many of the EU rules and directives. The Swiss

agreement was originally meant as a stepping stone to full EU membership. The only reason that was not accomplished is due to the Swiss parliament having to allow a referendum on such an action. They tried and failed, whereas in the UK we would not be allowed such action.

Should a Conservative or any other UK government attempt to rejoin the EU Single Market by this or any other back-door action, we can assume that democracy has gone and we now live in a dictatorship.

REBECCA ROBERTS
Sussex

Conspiracy theories

Dear Sir,

Having just read the book "Global Conspiracy" that you supplied me, I was shocked by how little information is actually provided by the government over key issues that affect our lives.

Why I may not agree with all the conclusions of this book, we should be given more facts and figures about the most important issues of the day. Unfortunately it appears that our main print media and TV stations appear to be complicit in condoning whistle blowers and following the government line and agenda regardless of the facts.

This book looks seriously into many issues including Global Warming and the Covid worries that many had and still have about the possible side-effects of the Covid vaccine with well-documented cases that should not be hidden from the public.

The government expects the public to trust them on many issues, but how can we when they don't tell the truth, and more importantly actively hide the unpalatable facts.

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Monmouthshire

*eurofacts wishes its readers the compliments of the season.
Our next issue will be published on the 3rd February 2023*

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Gresham College
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Monday **16th January**, 1.00 pm

“Would it be Right to Make Vaccination Mandatory?”

Imogen Goold, *Visiting Professor of Medical Laws*

PUBLIC MEETING
Venue - not confirmed

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www.gresham.ac.uk

Gresham College
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Raghavendra Rau, *Mercers’ School Memorial Professor of Business*

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Myles Allen, *Frank Jackson Foundation Professor of the Environment*

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Thursday **2nd February**, 6.00 pm

“Do We Need Barristers?”

Leslie Thomas, *Gresham Professor of Law*

PUBLIC MEETING
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DIARY OF EVENTS

UK Parliament 20th December
Christmas recess starts

2023

Sweden takes over 1st January
EU Council Presidency

UK Parliament 9th January
Christmas recess ends

Spain takes over 1st July
EU Council Presidency

2024

Belgium takes over 1st January
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