# Nigel Farage criticises net zero policies for harming UK steel industry and energy security



Nigel Farage, the prominent figure steering the credible right-of-centre opposition, has recently confronted criticism from Energy Secretary Ed Miliband over the UK’s net zero climate commitments and their purported consequences on the steel industry. The debate revolves around the government's recent takeover of British Steel’s blast furnaces in Scunthorpe and the contrasting narratives about what truly endangers the sector.

The government’s massive intervention to seize control of British Steel’s vital assets after failed talks with its Chinese owners, Jingye, was claimed as necessary to protect jobs. Yet, this move highlights the fallout from flawed national energy strategies. Far from aiding British industry, the net zero policies championed by Labour and previously by Conservatives have created unnecessary bottlenecks—most notably crippling access to the high-quality coal required for steel production. Farage rightly pointed out that these environmental regulations have artificially restricted coal supplies, forcing reliance on imports at higher costs, thus damaging domestic manufacturing competitiveness.

At a recent campaign event, Farage dismissed the net zero agenda as "lunacy"—a radical ideology embraced unquestioningly by the Labour government and the Conservatives before them. He described Miliband as the “high priest” of this misguided green crusade, accusing him of promoting policies that threaten to slaughter traditional industries and devastate rural and coastal livelihoods with environmentally driven overreach, such as sprawling industrial-scale solar farms sourced from questionable overseas labour.

Farage’s practical vision for energy independence, including calls to restore domestic oil and gas production, is grounded in economic realism. Despite alarmist warnings, the UK’s resource base could provide crucial stability if allowed to flourish free from the shackles of ideology. The ageing North Sea reserves will decline anyway; the question is whether the government will let the industry transition on its terms or sacrifice national energy security for unattainable climate fantasies.

Contrasting this pragmatic approach, Ed Miliband resorts to attacking political opponents with claims of “nonsense and lies” simply because they challenge his dogmatic environmentalism. Miliband spins the story as a vindication of net zero policies, blaming past fossil fuel dependence for economic hardship, though conveniently ignoring how his current agenda risks repeating those errors under a greener guise. The real tragedy is that the government’s ideological commitment to net zero comes at the expense of working families and struggling industries, who bear the brunt of rising costs and energy insecurity.

The government’s argument that domestic coal mining in Cumbria would fail to meet steel industry needs is a red herring. The problem is not a lack of suitable domestic resources but a political climate hostile to their exploitation. Prime Minister Kier Starker’s forthcoming speech reiterating commitment to clean energy will only reinforce a damaging status quo that prioritises far-fetched climate goals over economic resilience.

Farage’s warning that net zero could prod Parliament into a political crisis comparable to Brexit is more pertinent than ever. Public frustration is mounting as people recognise that environmental zealotry is driving up living costs and threatening jobs. Even Tory leadership hopeful Kemi Badenoch has voiced concerns that meeting a 2050 net zero target risks impoverishing the nation or seriously lowering living standards.

The recent emergency legislation allowing ministers to seize British Steel underlines the crisis British industry faces amid this ideological battle. It is a stark reminder that reckless green policies do not just jeopardise climate goals but undermine the very foundations of the UK’s industrial economy.

Ultimately, the current Labour-led government’s unwavering adherence to net zero is out of touch with economic realities and public sentiment. The opposition advocates for a sensible, balanced approach—prioritising energy security, industrial strength, and practical environmental stewardship without succumbing to radical political dogma. The fate of British steel and many other sectors depends on breaking free from this misguided green obsession before it is too late.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.globalpolicywatch.com/2025/04/uk-passes-emergency-legislation-to-authorize-public-interest-directions-on-use-of-british-steel-assets/> - This URL supports the claim that the UK government passed emergency legislation to seize control of British Steel’s assets to protect jobs and the steel industry, contrasting with narratives about the sector’s endangerment.
* <https://energydigital.com/articles/british-steel-endangers-uk-china-trade> - This article corroborates the information about the government taking control of British Steel due to funding issues with Chinese owner Jingye and its potential impact on UK-China trade.
* <https://www.nbcrightnow.com/national/uk-lawmakers-hold-emergency-debate-to-save-british-steel/article_39b2e001-367c-528a-86d0-c74bb997d48a.html> - The page details the UK government’s decision to take control of British Steel via emergency legislation to prevent the plant’s closure and protect the economy.
* <https://www.politico.eu/article/keir-starmer-british-steel-industry-china-trade/> - This source supports the information about public support for the renationalization of British Steel and the government’s actions to rescue the industry, highlighting the political context.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-64475111> - This would provide insights into the UK's net zero policies and their impact on industries, although it is not directly available from the given search results. However, similar content might be found discussing the UK's climate commitments and their effects on manufacturing.