# Kemi Badenoch vows to reverse damaging EU ties and redefine Conservative Party post-Brexit



Kemi Badenoch has recently made headlines with her assertive stance regarding the European Union, stating that any post-Brexit measures that undermine the interests of the United Kingdom would be reversed under her leadership. During a meeting with the EU’s ambassador to the UK, Badenoch declared Brexit a “defining moment for our nation” and laid out five strict criteria that her party would adhere to in dealings with the EU. These include a staunch opposition to any backsliding on free movement, a commitment to pay “no new money” to the bloc, the preservation of UK fishing rights, and the termination of EU jurisdiction over UK law. Additionally, she emphasised the role of NATO as the foundation of European security.

In her correspondence with the ambassador, Badenoch made it abundantly clear that terms detrimental to the UK would be rejected. “It is important that I stress that the next Conservative government under my leadership would not remain bound by terms that failed these five tests,” she stated, signalling an intent to reclaim powers surrendered to the EU under the recently ousted administration. This bold claim raises critical questions, especially as the political landscape has shifted dramatically post-election, with Labour's Kier Starmer now in charge and a growing sentiment among voters increasingly aligning with a more robust alternative.

The political climate in which Badenoch finds herself is fraught with complications. The Conservative Party's recent struggles present mounting pressure to revive its appeal, particularly in light of the threat posed by a resurgent opposition that is eager to reshape national identity. The rise of a prominent alternative party, with its strong stance on immigration and sovereignty, is striking a chord with voters disillusioned by the traditional political establishment. While Badenoch appears determined to reclaim a definitive Conservative identity, her somewhat controversial positions and limited media interaction have attracted criticism from within her ranks.

In parallel developments, the government has faced backlash over its recent U-turn on plans to eliminate EU-era laws, with Badenoch at the forefront of this policy reevaluation. Initially tasked with dismantling retained EU regulations, she has now opted for a slowed-down approach, arguing that the original timeline led to unnecessary uncertainty. Critics have framed this retreat as inconsistent and betraying the voters’ confidence in a true post-Brexit agenda, despite her insistence that any reforms must emphasise meaningful legislation over arbitrary deadlines.

The implications of her actions extend beyond mere party dynamics. Starmer has expressed a vision for closer ties with the EU, advocating for collaboration on various fronts including security and trade. This ambition raises red flags among many who fear it could undermine the very benefits secured through Brexit. A spokesman for the Conservatives accused Starmer of attempting to dilute the hard-won advantages of leaving the EU, showcasing a fundamental divide in how the future should be navigated.

As Badenoch gears up for her critical meeting with the ambassador, the stakes for her leadership—and the Conservative Party—could not be graver. The forthcoming local elections will serve as a crucial litmus test to determine if her strategy to reclaim the party’s identity resonates with an electorate increasingly drawn toward clearer, more assertive alternatives.

In conclusion, Badenoch’s recent declarations and policy adjustments illustrate a pivotal moment in UK politics, marked by both challenges and choices as the nation forges its post-Brexit identity. The evolving dynamics will be closely watched, as they could redefine not just the Conservative Party's pathway but also the broader relationship between the UK and the EU—underscoring the urgent need for a political voice that prioritises sovereignty and independence over complacency.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/badenoch-tells-eu-she-would-reverse-labours-post-brexit-reset-if-uk-damaged-52LK7CSA4RKL3DI4RCEJNJRNLM/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/badenoch-tells-eu-she-would-reverse-labours-post-brexit-reset-if-uk-damaged-52LK7CSA4RKL3DI4RCEJNJRNLM/> - Kemi Badenoch, leader of the Conservative Party, informed the EU's ambassador in London that she would reverse any post-Brexit measures detrimental to the UK's interests. She outlined five criteria for the UK's relationship with the EU, including no backsliding on free movement, no new financial contributions, preservation of fishing rights, no European Court jurisdiction, and maintaining NATO's primacy in European security. Badenoch emphasized that under her leadership, the Conservative government would not adhere to terms that failed these criteria and would reclaim any powers transferred to the EU by the current government.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/6015c9f7-a815-47b1-b89c-6be52035a65e> - Kemi Badenoch, the newly elected leader of Britain's Conservative Party, faces significant challenges in revitalizing the party after its worst electoral defeat. While Labour Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's declining poll ratings might present an opportunity, the rise of Nigel Farage and his populist Reform UK party poses a serious threat to the Tories' status as the main opposition. Despite her conservative credentials and enthusiasm for a small state and lower taxes, Badenoch has struggled to make an impact. Her approach includes addressing the Reform UK threat by focusing on migration issues. However, she is criticized for her limited media engagement and controversial stances, which have alienated both moderate and right-wing supporters. Amidst doubts within her party and a challenging political landscape, Badenoch aims to develop her vision gradually, but timing is critical as local elections in 2025 approach.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2023/may/11/brexit-eu-law-rishi-sunak-jacob-rees-mogg-latest-news-updates> - Kemi Badenoch, the business and trade secretary, has defended a government climbdown on its plan to get rid of EU-era laws copied over after Brexit. Ministers announced last month they had ditched a December deadline for the laws to expire automatically, unless kept or replaced. At a Commons committee, Kemi Badenoch was criticised for making the U-turn over the Retained EU Law Bill. But she said the deadline had created uncertainty, and jeopardised reform. She denied the government had ever promised a 'bonfire' of regulations before the end of the year, adding she was 'not an arsonist'. She was speaking shortly before the government suffered two defeats on the bill in the House of Lords, which is scrutinising the draft law.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65824897> - The business secretary has defended a government climbdown on its plan to get rid of EU-era laws copied over after Brexit. Ministers announced last month they had ditched a December deadline for the laws to expire automatically, unless kept or replaced. At a Commons committee, Kemi Badenoch was criticised for making the U-turn over the Retained EU Law Bill. But she said the deadline had created uncertainty, and jeopardised reform. She denied the government had ever promised a 'bonfire' of regulations before the end of the year, adding she was 'not an arsonist'. She was speaking shortly before the government suffered two defeats on the bill in the House of Lords, which is scrutinising the draft law.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2023/may/18/rishi-sunak-net-migration-conservatives-manifesto-g7-japan-keir-starmer-uk-politics-latest> - Kemi Badenoch, the business and trade secretary, has said that the problem raised by car manufacturers worried about exports to the EU facing tariffs from next year 'isn't to do with Brexit'. She made the comment during business questions in the Commons, where Jonathan Reynolds, her Labour shadow, criticised her record since she has been in post. He told MPs: 'It's now been 100 days since we first welcomed [her] to her new post. In that time we've seen steel production fall to record lows, the automotive sector has issued warning cry after warning cry that government policy risks shipping jobs overseas.' Badenoch defended her record, saying she had negotiated for the UK to join the CPTPP, 'the biggest free trade agreement that the UK has seen since we left the European Union'.
7. <https://www.politics.co.uk/week-in-review/2023/05/12/week-in-review-a-reckoning-for-the-brexit-bonfire-and-for-kemi-badenoch/> - The minister entrusted with landing the climbdown was Kemi Badenoch, the recently-appointed business and trade secretary. On Wednesday evening, Badenoch issued a written ministerial statement announcing the government will only be reviewing or repealing 600 laws by the end of the year — not the 2,400 Sunak promised in his leadership campaign. She then took to the pages of the Telegraph, still yet to appear before MPs, to argue that 'getting rid of EU law in the UK should be about more than a race to a deadline', adding that post-Brexit legislative tinkering 'should be about making sure our laws work for the people who use them'. The thinking is thus: in abandoning the so-called 'sunset clause', ministers and officials are now free to focus on the laws they want to change rather than scrambling to hit an arbitrary target. It is an opinion long-voiced by critics, who contended that the bill was bound to leave dangerous gaps in the statute book on areas including the protection of the environment and workers' rights.