# Starmer’s EU agreements ignite fears Brexit is unraveling under Labour



The political landscape in the UK is increasingly overshadowed by the controversial decisions of the newly elected Labour government under Sir Keir Starmer, particularly concerning the legacy of Brexit. Starmer’s recent moves have ignited passionate debates about sovereignty, trade, and our relationship with the European Union. Observers note that his approach seems like a capitulation to Brussels, leaving many who championed Brexit feeling deeply disillusioned. His agreement with the EU not only compromises key issues such as migration and fishing rights but has raised alarms that Brexit is effectively being undone.

Starmer has dismissively dubbed the Brexit discourse “tired” and “stale,” an assertion many see as an affront to the millions who supported leaving the EU. Critics are quick to point out that this attitude reflects a troubling disconnect from the electorate. His shift to re-engage with the EU is viewed as a betrayal of the very principles that motivated Brexit supporters, and with his history of advocating for a second referendum, there's a palpable sense of elitism that is fueling dissatisfaction among the public.

Amidst this backdrop, Starmer unveiled a controversial three-part agreement aimed at economic ties, security collaboration, and energy integration with the EU. This is viewed by many as a significant step backward, particularly with the twelve-year extension of EU fishing rights in UK waters, which some are labeling as a capitulation to foreign interests at the expense of our fishing industry. While Labour touts potential economic benefits of £9 billion annually by 2040, skeptics are quick to assert that this will barely dent the long-term GDP impacts of Brexit, projected to result in a 4% reduction.

Starmer's newfound partnership with the EU suggests a complete shift in the UK's stance, reflecting a more compliant approach at a time when geopolitical tensions, especially from Russia, are rising. Although the renewed agreements focus on enhancing trade and security, they also align the UK more closely with European defense initiatives, including potential participation in a €150 billion arms fund, which could alienate those committed to national sovereignty.

Furthermore, Starmer’s proposals regarding a readmission agreement with the EU for asylum seekers arriving via small boats have been met with widespread skepticism. Many argue these policies could exacerbate the very immigration issues that incited the Brexit vote. Starmer insists that his framework does not hint at a return to free movement, yet the line between his stance and the previous government's policies remains frustratingly vague.

As Starmer maneuvers through this intricate political landscape, the stakes are incredibly high for the Labour Party, especially with a significant portion of the electorate feeling sidelined by its apparent elitist approach to Brexit. The ramifications of his agreements extend beyond mere economics; they tap into deep-rooted issues of national identity and autonomy.

The reset of the UK’s relationship with the EU is fraught with opposition and uncertainty. As political discussions evolve, one pressing question remains: will this new Labour-led chapter redefine sovereignty for the UK, or will it provoke further unrest among citizens whose concerns continue to go unaddressed?

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2057907/keir-starmers-fixation-eu> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/7e7f481e-92dd-4d95-b46e-1d6adb911b70> - The UK and EU have announced a reset of their post-Brexit relationship through a three-part agreement aimed at improving economic ties, security cooperation, and energy integration. Key components include a new security and defence partnership, improved trade in agrifoods and electricity, and a veterinary agreement reducing red tape on agricultural exports. While Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer claims a potential £9bn annual economic boost by 2040, analysts note the gains would only marginally offset Brexit’s 4% long-term GDP impact. The agreement includes a controversial 12-year extension of EU fishing access to UK waters, a trade-off for securing improvements in food trade. The UK will also work towards rejoining the EU's internal energy market, which could save consumers €44bn annually. The security pact reestablishes institutional cooperation, including regular high-level meetings and potential UK involvement in the EU’s €150bn arms fund. Gains in youth and professional mobility remain uncertain, with limited commitments on work exchanges and no progress on touring artist visas. Despite some economic and diplomatic progress, the reset does not reverse the fundamental Brexit trade and regulatory realignments.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/04bf9ddc-1abf-4641-a4e3-f9b5f2689ebb> - Nine years after the Brexit referendum, the UK’s new agreement with the EU under the Labour government marks a modest but symbolically significant step towards closer cooperation. The centerpiece is a security and defence pact that formalizes collaboration in military training, cyber and space security, infrastructure resilience, and hybrid threats. This agreement also opens the door for UK participation in the EU's €150bn Security Action for Europe procurement fund. Economically, the deal includes a veterinary agreement to ease agrifood exports and aligns emissions trading systems, potentially adding £9bn to the UK economy by 2040. However, the UK has accepted dynamic alignment with EU rules in certain areas and extended EU fishing access to UK waters for 12 years, prompting criticism from rightwing parties as a loss of sovereignty and a betrayal of the fishing industry. While the Labour government has maintained red lines against rejoining the single market or customs union, the deal reflects a shift towards more pragmatic relations. With Europe facing rising security challenges, the agreement serves as a foundation for a deeper realignment, recognizing the UK's need to foster stronger ties with its principal trade and security partner.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/what-britain-eu-may-discuss-monday-summit-2025-05-18/> - At the upcoming summit in London on Monday, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and European Union leaders aim to reset UK-EU relations with progress on key issues. Discussions may focus on a defence and security pact, prompted by Russia's aggression and NATO burden-sharing concerns. The UK seeks access to EU defence projects, while EU leaders may link agreements to fisheries. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures are critical to easing border checks, with potential EU demands for rule alignment and oversight by the European Court of Justice. A youth mobility scheme for under-30s to travel and work across borders is a priority, though it will be controlled, not a return to freedom of movement. Other possible topics include fisheries, as key agreements expire in 2026, electricity trading efficiency post-Brexit, linking carbon markets to improve cost and efficiency, and cooperation in professional qualifications, touring artists’ travel, and data sharing. Although no final agreements are expected at this summit, both sides hope to establish frameworks to guide future negotiations.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/47adc80f-ab03-49a1-9f7e-1a5962e71b83> - At a London summit, the UK and EU announced a significant reset of their post-Brexit relationship, encompassing multiple areas of cooperation. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen unveiled agreements on defence, security, trade, and mobility. Highlights include biannual foreign policy dialogues, UK participation in EU defence exercises, and cooperation on cybersecurity and space. A new 12-year fisheries deal guarantees EU boat access to UK waters until 2038 based on historic catches. On agriculture, both sides agreed to pursue a veterinary pact to reduce export checks, contingent on the UK aligning with EU rules. Youth and business mobility talks include plans for a youth work-travel scheme and potential UK reentry into the Erasmus+ programme. Energy cooperation will be explored further, including UK rejoining the EU’s energy market and linking carbon trading schemes, which means potential exemption from upcoming EU carbon border taxes. Enhanced law enforcement collaboration includes closer Europol ties, information sharing on serious crimes, and coordinated border security efforts. The deal indicates an overall thaw in UK-EU relations, marked by more structured and cooperative engagements across key policy areas.
6. <https://www.lemonde.fr/en/european-union/article/2023/09/19/keir-starmer-leader-of-british-labour-party-outlines-european-policy_6137723_156.html> - Keir Starmer, leader of the UK's Labour Party, has begun outlining his European policy as the campaign for the next British general election heats up. In a series of high-profile international engagements, Starmer has focused on contentious issues like Brexit renegotiation and migration. He criticized the existing post-Brexit trade deal, calling for a major renegotiation, though he ruled out rejoining the EU single market. Starmer also proposed scrapping the Conservative law on asylum seekers arriving in small boats and suggested a readmission plan with the EU. While Conservative MPs claim this would lead to an influx of migrants, Starmer disputed it. Despite apparent differences, the Labour and Conservative stances on Brexit and migration are not vastly different. Starmer's visits to international leaders, including meetings with Emmanuel Macron and Justin Trudeau, signal Labour's commitment to repairing EU relations damaged during Boris Johnson's and Liz Truss's tenures.
7. <https://apnews.com/article/12019e486e025ac7399747020c868812> - El líder opositor británico, Keir Starmer, afirmó que buscará estrechar la relación del Reino Unido con la Unión Europea si su partido, el Partido Laborista, gana las elecciones nacionales que se celebrarán a finales del próximo año. Aunque Starmer no pretende revertir el Brexit, considera que el acuerdo de comercio y cooperación negociado por los Conservadores es 'demasiado escaso' y aboga por un acuerdo mucho mejor. Starmer, quien hizo campaña para permanecer en la UE durante el referéndum de 2016, ha reafirmado que su partido no buscará reincorporarse al bloque ni al mercado único. Pese a la mejora de relaciones bajo el actual primer ministro, Rishi Sunak, también existe reticencia en el gobierno conservador de renegociar el acuerdo con la UE. Con una ventaja en las encuestas, Starmer está realizando visitas internacionales, como su próximo encuentro con el presidente francés Emmanuel Macron y su reciente reunión con el primer ministro canadiense Justin Trudeau, para fortalecer su perfil antes de las elecciones de 2024.