

Let's keep Lame Duck PM Theresa May for now...

By Graham Eardley, Guest Blogger

Following the recent confidence motion brought by Conservative MPs, as a leaver I would argue that it is best to keep Theresa May as Prime Minister... for now at least.

Mrs. May's 'victory' by 200 votes to 117 and her promise to stand down before the next general election expected in 2022 means she is a 'Lame Duck' Prime Minister. This, I would argue could only be good news for fellow voters who like me supported Leave in the June 2016 Referendum, because if no deal is reached with the European Union by 11pm on 29th March 2019, then the UK would leave the EU under World Trade Organisation (WTO) preferential terms.

The result of the confidence motion brought by at least 48 of Mrs. May's fellow Conservative MPs shows that this scenario is now the most likely outcome.

As I write Mrs. May is currently in Brussels at an EU Council meeting trying to renegotiate the 'back stop' element of her EU withdrawal proposal, something which EU leaders last night at a summit in Brussels reiterated they are unwilling to budge on.

The Democratic Unionists Party (DUP), who are staunch unionists, who have fought both politically and physically to maintain Northern Ireland's presence in the UK and which prop up her government thanks in no small part to Mrs. May's ill-timed general election of 2017, will not capitulate to the back-stop proposal as it currently stands.

Also, the vast majority, if not all of the 117 Conservative and Unionist members of Parliament who submitted a vote of no confidence yesterday, will find themselves unable to support Mrs. May.

The Prime Minister could have tried to be more collegiate in her approach to opposition members of the Labour Party, but here again

she failed in doing this and it is unlikely that she will find any support amongst Labour members of Parliament.

Given the time left and the intransigence on both sides, I doubt that she will be able to get any other withdrawal agreement through Parliament before 29th March 2019.

The DUP and of course the Conservatives have indicated that they will not support any motion of no confidence in Government, largely because they fear a Labour party led by Jeremy Corbyn more than anything else!

Also the prospects of Her Majesty's Opposition bringing any successful Motion of no confidence in the Government is, I would argue, negligible. So for that reason a general election can be ruled out. You only need to look at the Labour Party's front benches to see the reluctance in bringing forth such a Motion, even though the Liberal Democrats, SNP and Plaid Cymru are trying to force the issue. Even Jeremy Corbyn can count!

There is no Commons majority for a second referendum and little time to introduce the necessary legislation through Parliament for another referendum or as some remainers like to call it, a Peoples Vote.

In their book "Moralitis" Robert Oulds, MA FRSA and Niall McCrae Phd, Msc, RMN, a senior lecturer at Kings College London, state that "We argue that the present schism in society is not left versus right, but a social class conflict between progressive middle-class and the lower orders. The outlook of the former, particular the younger generation is a kaleidoscope of identity politics."¹¹

I would argue that it is from this kaleidoscope that those who support a second referendum are in the main drawn from.

Notwithstanding the above, I would argue that with the clock is ticking and the only deal on the table since Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty was approved is for Mrs. May and those Conservative MPs who consider themselves to be loyalist, as well as the European Research Group (ERG), is to embrace a WTO Brexit and to offer member states of the EU negotiations a deal in order to keep aviation and essential goods flowing and to offer Ireland a bilateral negotiation to facilitate

cross-border trade and maintain the common travel area on 'a take it or leave it' basis.

Reference(s)

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Blogger Bio

Graham Eardley is a member of the Bruges Group operational executive and he is the Chairman of the Walsall Branch of UKIP He is a former member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council.