

# They think it's all over...

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As we race towards the Halloween closure of the most prolonged period of political indecision, we might finally get on with shaping the future.

In the meantime, we can expect to see a final stand from those Remainers who will never change their views that the British public were lied to and did not understand the consequences of the democratic decision to leave.

The comments of the former Chancellor Philip Hammond and those of the Speaker Mr Bercow at the Edinburgh Fringe, bear witness to the fact that politicians and indeed some senior civil servants are adamant that we should not leave the European Union and they will continue to do everything in their power to block it.

So “Project Fear” ably assisted by large elements of the media is alive and well. Drawing on the inspiration of those who hold up placards proclaiming “The end of the world is nigh” the British public will be subjected to extreme barrage of negative economic messages right up to the witching hour!

So, provided that the last-ditch parliamentary manoeuvring fails and Boris sticks to his word, we will wake up to the dawn of a brave new world on November 1<sup>st</sup> as an independent nation free to strike out and trade with Europe and the rest of the world. There is little doubt that this will be accompanied by a collapse in the value of Sterling, an interest rate cut, and a media scrummage to find any opportunity to show the country in crisis.

Other than that, I am expecting a rather normal November day free from some of the predictions of economic and social collapse and most people in our nation enjoying some relief that that we have finally made a decision. They will be looking forward to a future, free

from the daily rhetoric on Brexit that has blighted our lives for the last 3 years.

If only it was that simple. The smart money is on a General Election sometime between now and the Spring. This will either come about as a result of a Vote of No Confidence in Boris Johnson or because he feels that now is the time to go to the country, given that he is on the verge of having no overall majority and the opposition is equally divided and in some turmoil.

Many would say that the election campaign has already started. Big announcements and public spending commitments on Police, hospitals and public servants are now a daily occurrence and the Boris tour bus seems relentless. This is clearly a Prime Minister spending his time trying to win over public support rather than visiting European Heads of State and trying to avoid what now looks more and more certain to be a “No Deal” Brexit.

So we might think it is all over but here comes an election which may well deliver a hung parliament and so the indecision we have grown to hate over the last three years looks set to continue.

So perhaps our most challenging times still lie ahead. With no transition period the pressure is on to do trade deals with Europe and beyond. An election and a hung parliament will only hinder our progress. Once we have made the decision and we have left the European Union it is critical that we all accept that position and get on with the job of securing our future.

Sadly, I fear that we the denial will continue and that our political system will implode as we witness more and more intense in-fighting that places self-interest before country and puts us all at risk of an uncertain future.

**Disclaimer: This blog is written in a personal capacity and does not necessarily reflect the views of Centre for Brexit Studies and Birmingham City University.**