

gwythian [REDACTED]

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FYI

To : [REDACTED]

At the moment I am heavily involved in trying to kill off the Prime Minister's dreadful Withdrawal Agreement and stand with those who hope for a 'sovereign Brexit' on WTO terms which is looking more likely by the day. The idea of a second referendum will not fly. My contribution to the debate has been naturally in the area of defence, security and intelligence.

One aspect of the Withdrawal Agreement which has so far failed to attract attention is that the UK has perversely signed up to various European defence initiatives just as it is about to leave the EU. As a consequence we will be bound as a third country to agreements which we will not be able to change and which will cut across our NATO commitments and very close bilateral links with the US. You may recall that this almost happened before when Blair signed the St.Malo agreement with the French, and after Washington had expressed its displeasure (never officially) the whole idea was allowed to run into the sand.

Basically we need to deliver a similar message from your side of the Atlantic, ideally from someone with Henry's influence, which will persuade wavering MPs to join ranks and torpedo the agreement when it comes to the House of Commons vote on 14 January. An article or statement could also knock on the head statements by Merkel and Macron recently about a European Army. So it is more topical than just Brexit. We believe the National Security argument is in the end so important that it would finally kill off the more widely awful Withdrawal Agreement. If Henry is game to help with this then I can provide the background material necessary for an understanding of this quite complicated issue, complicated because there is no section devoted to defence etc in the agreement just lots of separate references buried in the text. In short Henry's contribution would be an endorsement about the continued centrality of the Special Relationship in key areas of the UK's National Security after Brexit and the importance of not getting sucked in to European projects which are more fanciful than of real security value.