

## The EU has to demand a treaty now to protect its citizens...

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The [Times reported](#) (paywall) this morning that:

*Negotiations on Britain's future trade agreement will continue only if last week's withdrawal deal is quickly turned into a legally binding treaty, European Union leaders will state.*

*A text to be agreed by them this week calls on Theresa May to "start drafting the relevant parts of the withdrawal agreement" into law.*

*In language aimed at David Davis, the Brexit secretary, they will warn that any attempt to backtrack on last Friday's agreement would result in the EU halting trade talks.*

*EU officials and diplomats were irritated by Mr Davis's remark at the weekend that the withdrawal agreement was just a "statement of intent". "It's not helpful if people cast everything into doubt 24 hours later," one source said.*

And why not?

First, there is the [perfidious Mr Davis](#) to consider.

Second, there is the fact that no British parliament can bind another, but a Treaty can, and that matters when commitments for up to eight years are being made to secure a deal for EU citizens which are otherwise worthless.

Third, there is the Irish situation to resolve. Many [Brexiters are now saying](#) 'nothing is agreed until everything is agreed' but this is simply not true. [The agreement with the EU says](#):

That is in complete contradiction to the claim made by May and others: as a result in the case of Ireland this commitment is binding, and not now a choice, whatever she says:

And if I was the EU, and Ireland, I'd be saying put that in both law and a Treaty or forget moving on.

To put it another way, it's time to stop kicking this issue into touch and for a decision to be made. I sincerely hope that in the light of UK comments since Friday that now happens.