

## The reality is we are a divided, belittled, leaderless ...

Published: January 17, 2026, 10:56 am

---

Theresa May faced reality yesterday.

Reality came in a number of forms.

Immediately there was the certainty of a parliamentary loss.

Thereafter there was the consequent threat to her premiership.

And, unless she really is as robotic as she sometimes appears, there must have also been the realisation that her premiership really will go down in history as an unmitigated disaster, whatever now happens.

And those were only the personal realities. For the country the reality was worse.

We have no functioning government.

We have no Brexit deal.

There is no workable plan, or anything remotely like one, being offered by our official Opposition.

And there is a possibility that a second referendum could be 'Deal or no deal' and that Remain will never get a look in despite being what most in the Commons desire.

The reality is then that in the midst of utter chaos, created by political inability, there is nothing to make anyone think that at present there is any reason for anything to change.

The EU won't move. I think there almost no chance of them renegotiating.

The Irish back stop is a fixture, as is its permanence until an alternative is found.

And as a matter of fact, Corbyn really should appreciate frictionless trade is a feature of EU membership, not a post-deal agreement.

Whilst 'no-deal' is a far-right fantasy no -one with any concern for the people of this country should be going near.

These are as near facts as we can get right now. And they have all been predictable for a long time. It did not take yesterday for that reality to emerge, except to Theresa May.

So where next?

Right now a general election would solve nothing. It would probably, in any event, be inconclusive as neither major party looks able to present a manifesto.

So, we could have a second referendum. But the risk is enormous. No deal could still win because people are so fed up with this.

Or parliament could ask for a moratorium: a deferral of Article 50 to allow time for a realistic plan to emerge. The EU might just agree.

Or Article 50 notice could be revoked, knowing it could be given again, if need be. Which is, incidentally, why the EU would grant a moratorium.

Or we could stay in the EU, except no one in leadership of the major parties has the gumption to say this is very obviously the best thing to do. It fell to Caroline Lucas to do so at the weekend.

Which of these will happen in reality? I simply don't know.

Because the reality is that our combined political leadership may let the U.K. crash out of the EU on 29 March, which is the current legal requirement.

And no one does know what might happen as an alternative .

But any sensible person knows that there is a massive amount being lost in all this.

Our national well-being.

Our self-esteem.

Respect for our political processes.

And real economic opportunity that is being foregone.

Whilst massively important policy issues remain unattended to.

The reality is we are a divided, belittled, leaderless nation.

We got here by choice.

And so far there is no leadership able to change that.

Welcome to reality.