

Naive optimism is not the best way to manage Trump

Published: January 13, 2026, 2:26 pm

This is from [last night's Mansion House Speech](#) by Rachel Reeves:

I will always do what is in our national interest...

... for our economy...

... for our businesses...

... and for the British people.

That means free and open trade...

... especially with our most economically important partners.

That includes the United States...

... our single most important destination for financial services trade...

... and there is so much potential for us to deepen our economic relationship on areas such as emerging technologies.

I look forward to working closely with President-Elect Trump, and his team, to strengthen our relationship in the years ahead.

Naive optimism is not the best way of selling your policy to an audience that is well aware of the risks that Trump is currently threatening.

If Reeves were to have made sense, she would have talked about the threat of tariffs and how she will manage it, but she did not. I am not sure her audience will have been massively comforted by her naivete.

And she then went on to say we will never rejoin the EU. That must have also added to their comfort.

If she's going to claim to put the national interest first, she really should show how and not ignore the realities of the current world political-economic situation.