

# Starmer's insignificant deal

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Starmer [has done a deal with the EU](#). Only, of course, just like the deal with Trump, most of the detail has yet to be worked out. In that case, let's not get overly excited. Detail matters in these things.

Nonetheless, the relevance of the move has to be recognised, insignificant as it is in terms of its impact on vital issues such as overall levels of regulation, freedom of movement, the burdens on business, and national well-being. Flawed as the EU is, and that is undoubtedly true, the fact remains that we were, as a country, better off in membership than we are outside it.

Last night, Labour ministers were emphasising that we remain outside the EU and that decision will never be open to renegotiation in any way. All that is possible are minutely incremental deals of the sort made yesterday.

In other words, Labour continue to pander to those who created a scheme that deliberately destroyed 5% of the UK's national income whilst simultaneously promoting the idea of English exceptionalism, which it emphatically disproved.

When you base your policy on these continuing stupidities, nothing can make it credible, and this deal has to be seen within that context. If Starmer wishes to present this as a success within the framework of a continued disaster, then he has the right to do so. However, the only way in which he can really improve things is by deciding to do what is actually required, which is to totally reframe our relationship with the EU by beginning pathways to much closer alignment, if not membership.

Is Starmer capable of that? I question it. The inevitable triangulation in which Labour is always engaged will, most likely, make it impossible. If he wants to appeal to the Reform vote, as he clearly does above all else, then he cannot achieve anything useful, because Reform does not exist for that purpose: its intent is the destruction of government as we have known it and unless and until Stramer realises that, and rejects it, then there is nothing he can add to the political agenda.

Yesterday's minor agreement of inconsequential overall impact proves this. The country already knows that. Starmer might pretend otherwise, but he is an appalling actor. People can readily sense the insincerity that he continually exudes. No wonder that, politically, they want to move on. And yesterday will not alter that for anyone, whatever Starmer has to say about it.