

Latest incoherent and inadequate proposals on customs arrangements are designed to gloss over Cabinet divisions – Starmer

Keir

Starmer MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, commenting on the Government's latest proposals on customs arrangements, said:

"These are incoherent and inadequate proposals designed to gloss over deep and continuing divisions within the Cabinet.

"Businesses, trade unions and the country need certainty about our future trading and customs arrangements. They also need a pragmatic and considered approach that delivers the best deal for Britain.

"Instead, the Cabinet remain split on key issues and cannot decide between two very different but equally unachievable options. The first proposal suggests "a new customs border with the EU" could be introduced without disrupting trade; the second suggests a new borderless customs partnership could somehow be agreed while Britain also signs external trade deals.

"These fantastical and contradictory proposals provide no guidance for negotiators or certainty for businesses. The proposals also make it less likely that necessary transitional arrangements will be in place by March 2019.

"Labour is clear that we need to retain the benefits of the Customs Union and avoid a cliff-edge for the British economy. That means committing now to strong transitional arrangements on the same basic terms we currently enjoy – including the Single Market and the Customs Union."

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