The New Deal Ahead but at what cost? The EU-UK Security and Energy alliance

12 NOVEMBER 2026

Nithya Bajjuri



Photo by Franz Wender on Unsplash

Chris Ward who was the co-creator for the red lines ruling in 2024 recently stated the need to retire from such a practice and join back hands with the EU, indicating in his response that the UK is better off in entering the EU market over continued reliance on the USA. As implied in his own words, "Could no longer rely on Americans". The following remarks marked the necessity for a renewal in the EU-UK strategic alliance which will be addressed in the new Brexit summit that will be held on November 20, 2026, in Brussels.

Three crucial discussions that will be focused upon include the Youth mobility scheme, emissions trading and agrifood trade. The re-entry into the EU market however is not exempt from sharp trade-offs. Although Britain is willing to undertake discussions openly regarding their participation in provisions for infrastructural schemes in low- income parts of the EU in order to gain access into the European electricity market, require-

ments for Britain's participation in the cohesion fund may have formed a hindrance in striking a deal.

In terms of youth mobility, negotiators are still facing concerns in finalizing a deal due to the UK's persistence in demanding an NHS surcharge for EU students, workforce and student quotas (about 50,000 annually). The cap however as demanded by the EU stands much higher between 100,000 and 500,000. The debate therefore is ongoing, and sources suggest a potential postponement for the scheme's deadline.

Highlighting the positive side, the red tape for food producers has been officially lifted. The need to hold a 200 Euros veterinary certificate or a 25 Euros plant health certificate (proof of produce free of pests) need not be a further concern for exporters.

The final political price of this deal therefore still remains to be seen.

EPIS