



*Dear Simon,*

*How good is the 'deal' that David Cameron got from the EU in Brussels? Can he be satisfied with it?*

**In legal, formal terms**, Cameron's deal is very thin: as many Leavers have already pointed out. The entire package is conditional upon the UK voting to stay in the Union in June, and even then the main points of substance are simply commitments to introduce pieces of legislation, which will face serious challenge from the European Parliament, other member states and even legal challenges in the European Court of Justice.

Moreover, the package is clearly placed within the framework of the treaties, which means that it does not represent a fundamental change in membership, for the UK or anyone else.

However, **politically**, the deal is essential to Cameron's plans. Without it, he would have found himself almost certain to have lost the referendum. Now he is able to claim that he has started to put British membership on the correct footing, as well as allowing many in his party and Cabinet to say that this is enough to justify staying in.

As much as the media have been excited by the announcement of London mayor Boris Johnson that he will campaign for Leave, this should not detract from Cameron's success in getting all the big names in his Cabinet to stay with him, including George Osborne (Chancellor)<sup>1</sup> and Theresa May (Home Office)<sup>2</sup>.

While this can also be understood as a function of the leadership contest that the Tories will have in a year or two, it's also a reflection of Cameron's abilities as a campaigner himself. As much as Cameron has already laid out his exit plan from Number 10, defeat in June will make his position much less tenable, especially if Boris Johnson pushes his advantage.

*Best Wishes, Simon.*



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<sup>1</sup> Finances

<sup>2</sup> Intérieur