

Boris Johnson's post-Brexit trade deal passes into UK law

(The Guardian – Rajeev Syal – 31 Dec 2020)



5 Boris Johnson's post-Brexit trade deal with Brussels has passed into law following a **whirlwind** 14-hour parliamentary process that has radically redrawn the UK's **ties** with Europe.

The prime minister thanked MPs and peers for passing the European Union (future relationship) bill in one day, in a statement urging the nation to "seize" the moment when the transition period with the bloc ends at 11pm on Thursday.

10 It was announced that the Queen had given approval to the European Union (future relationship) bill at 12.25am on Thursday morning. Her signature puts the UK-EU agreement into British law, **preventing** a no-deal Brexit at 11pm on Thursday when the transition period ends. (...)

15 Johnson said: "11pm on 31 December marks a new beginning in our country's history and a new relationship with the EU as their biggest ally. This moment is finally upon us and now is the time to seize it." (...)

The deal comes four and a half years after the Brexit referendum vote to take the UK out of the European Union, but its rapid approval has raised concerns from MPs and peers that the bill has not been properly **scrutinised**.

20 Parliamentarians raised concerns over the document, saying it had **failed** to secure access to security databases, broke promises over fishing rights in UK waters and left unanswered border questions in Gibraltar and Northern Ireland. (...)

The prime minister told MPs the deal would redefine the UK's relationship with the EU. "We now seize this moment to forge a fantastic new relationship with our European neighbours, based on free trade and friendly cooperation," he said.

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- 30 **whirlwind** = éclair, extrêmement rapide
ties = liens
prevent = empêcher
scrutinised = examiné - fail = échouer

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