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UK to Fund EU Budget Again Under New Post-Brexit Deal

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The United Kingdom is set to make financial contributions to specific EU regulatory programs as part of a post-Brexit agreement finalised in May 2025. This development, revealed through recently published EU documents, has sparked fierce criticism from those who see it as a betrayal of the 2016 Brexit referendum.

According to the European Commission's papers, reported by The Telegraph, the UK will not only be required to align with EU food standards and carbon market regulations but also make financial contributions to cover participation in joint regulatory frameworks. These contributions are intended to cover the costs of participating in the EU's sanitary and phytosanitary framework and linking the UK's emissions trading system with the EU's to prevent carbon border adjustment taxes on UK exports.

The documents explicitly state: "The UK should bear appropriate costs for participation in the common sanitary and phytosanitary area and for the implementation of the agreement to link the UK and the Union's greenhouse gas emissions trading systems." They further clarify that the UK will have no say in shaping these rules, effectively reducing Britain to a "rule-taker" status.

Critics have been quick to condemn the deal. In a recent interview, Shadow Foreign Secretary Dame Priti Patel lambasted the agreement, stating, "Labour has made Britain a rule-taker from Brussels, and British taxpayers will now pay into the EU budget. This government does not stand up for Britain on the world stage. They give away our money to foreign countries and allow them to make decisions about us." Her remarks reflect a growing unease among Conservatives who believe the deal undermines the sovereignty gained through Brexit.

Similarly, Richard Tice MP, deputy leader of Reform UK, expressed outrage at the financial implications. In an interview, he declared, "By signing this deal without even agreeing how much these payments will be, the government has effectively signed a blank cheque on the UK's behalf. We should not be paying into a club we voted to leave. This is a clear betrayal of the Brexit vote." His comments underscore the frustration among Brexit supporters who view the agreement as a step backwards.

The deal, which aims to boost cross-Channel trade by aligning UK regulations with EU standards, has reignited debates about Britain's independence from Brussels. The EU documents make it clear that the UK will be excluded from decision-making processes, stating, "Neither agreement should give the UK the right to participate in the Union's decision-making." This has raised concerns about the erosion of Britain's ability to set its own rules, a cornerstone of the Brexit campaign.

Adding to the controversy, the agreement comes at a time when European leaders continue to express regret over Brexit. During a visit to an Airbus plant in Stevenage, German

Chancellor Friedrich Merz remarked, “The United Kingdom and I personally deeply deplore the decision to leave the European Union. It is together that we respond to the major challenges of our time.” His comments, made alongside the UK’s leadership, highlight the lingering tensions between Britain and its former EU partners.

The financial commitments, combined with the loss of regulatory autonomy, have fuelled accusations that the current government is compromising the principles of Brexit. For many, the prospect of funnelling millions into the EU budget without a clear figure or timeline raises questions about the cost of this so-called reset. As the UK navigates its post-Brexit identity, this deal is likely to remain a lightning rod for criticism, particularly from those who championed leaving the EU to reclaim national sovereignty.