

## **Why Michel Barnier will not expose UK cover up**

With time running out for the UK to firm up on its Brexit proposal, Michel Barnier knows that the UK has more than two options but is not saying he knows.

Everyone now knows that neither of the options put forward by the UK – Customs Partnership and Maximum Facilitation – will be acceptable to the EU. Nor can they be made to work within the next 3-5 years even though Theresa May insists they are continuing to work on them. So why is she persevering with them?

Because she knows that if she can keep up this bluff for just a few weeks longer she will be able to say there is no time left to consider any other option and, as the EU has rejected both her options, it will be the fault of the EU if they then insist on a border for Ireland. And this will mean her presenting the EU with the conundrum of either taking responsibility for defaulting on the Good Friday Agreement or agreeing instead to a free trade deal for the UK.

So why, when he knows this is what the UK is planning, does M Barnier not cry foul? Because he does not want to publicly embarrass the British government? Because he does not believe they could be so silly? We shall soon find out.