

Email on the European Union to Ms Minton Beddoes, Editor of the Economist
by Coen Teulings, Chairman of Merifin Capital, September 2019

Dear Ms. Minton Beddoes,

I love and admire The Economist and I also recently had the privilege of hearing you speak. The Economist Espresso of 9 September 2019 however stated something which really is not on and quite frankly plain nonsense. It stated on the European Union that “Ursula von der Leyen only became president of the European Commission because national leaders could not settle on an alternative”...and therefore that “some might question her authority”.

Mrs Von der Leyen actually is a heavy weight German politician with an impressive curriculum and had unanimously been selected by the heads of government. A decision in politics is often and in the European Union by its very nature based on compromise. The fact that all heads of governments agreed on Mrs Von der Leyen therefore is a major achievement and she enjoys full legitimacy since the heads of government do represent the European Union.

If the Anglo-Saxon world and the United Kingdom in particular are in a monumental mess it seems cheap for anyone to suggest that the European Union too is a motley bunch in shambles. And I definitely would not expect it from The Economist. The European Union of course remains work in progress but it essentially is an amazing and huge success in which The United Kingdom will be badly missed in case the UK somehow would drop out.

Coen Teulings