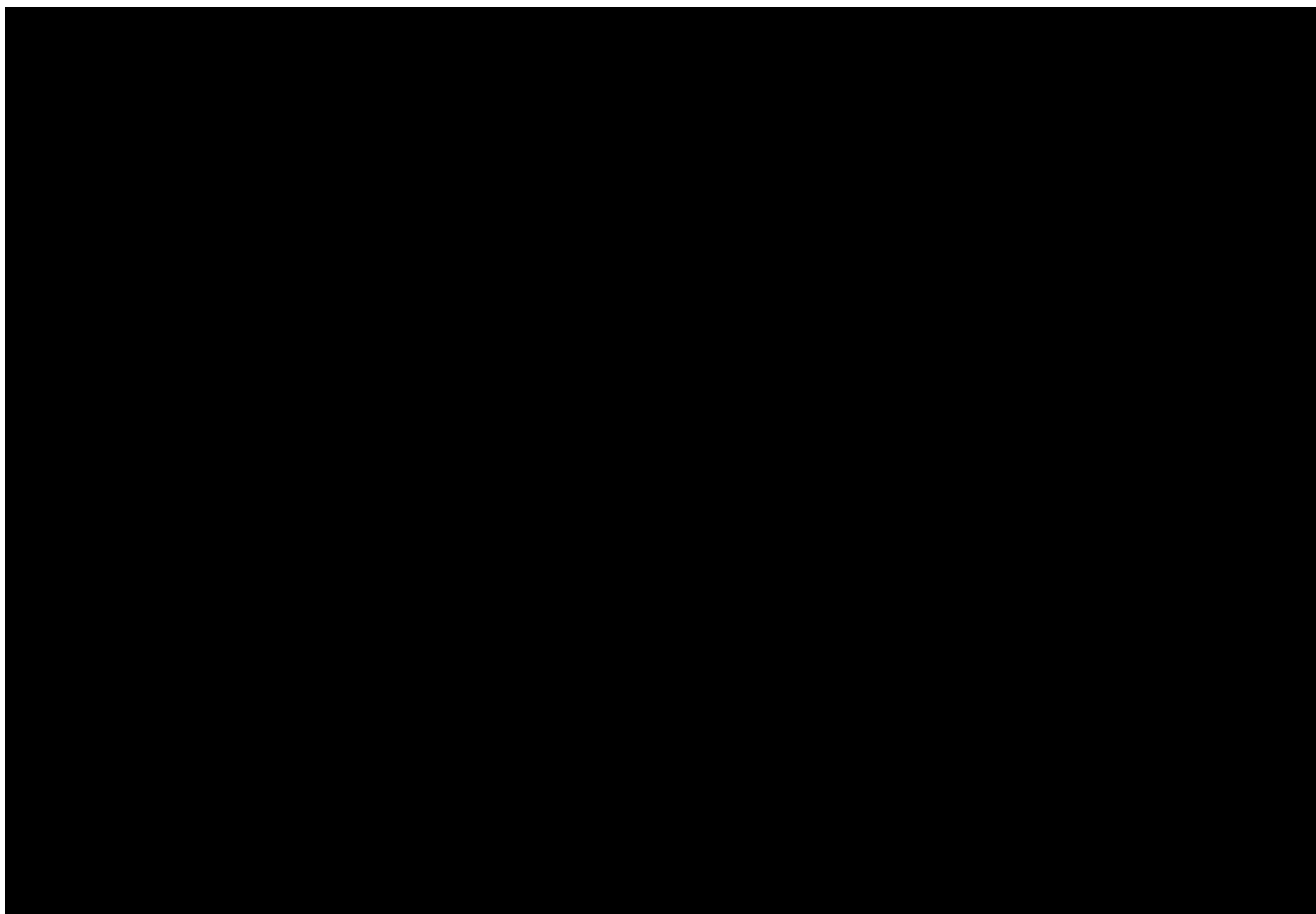


With thanks to Briefings for Britain

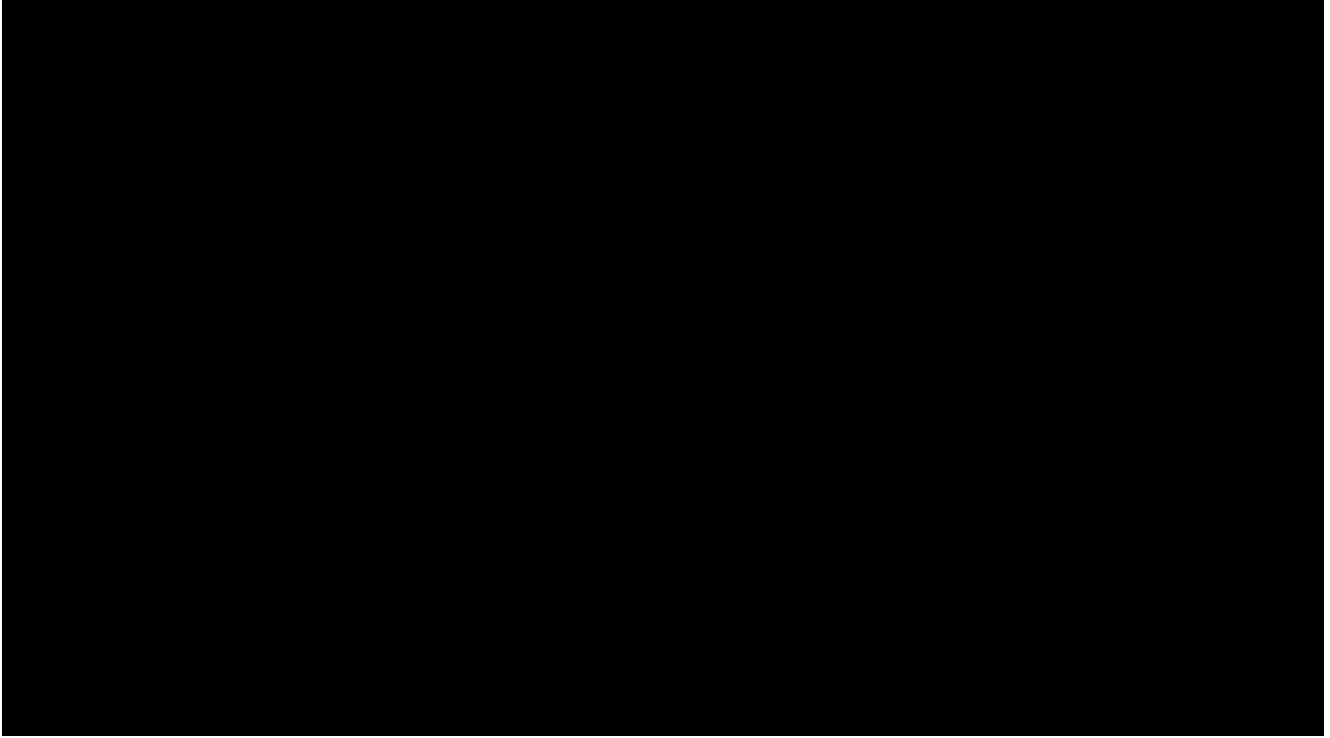


Dangerous Conditions for a Crossing

French politicians have become increasingly erratic and confrontational in recent months. We count outright threats of energy and goods blockades by fisheries minister Annick Girardin, Macron's accusations of treachery over the AUKUS pact, and recently foreign minister Yves Le-Drian's claim that Boris Johnson is a populist uses all the elements at his disposal to blame others for problems he faces internally.

This last, needless to say, is more typical of his own government's conduct. In response to a reasonable and moderate letter by Johnson which the UK published via Twitter, France disinvented Home Secretary Priti Patel from multilateral talks about the current migrant problem.

France may be feeling emboldened by a show of support from the European Commission, which has asked Britain to resolve the problems around the licensing of new boats by December 10th. With this political background understood, France's conduct in effectively using migration enforcement as a bargaining chip becomes more understandable though not more justifiable.



Giving a Green Light to Ever-Closer Union

Elsewhere in Europe, the new traffic light coalition deal