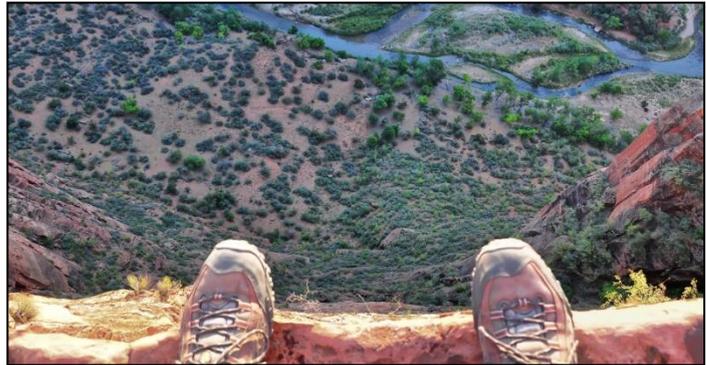


Politics be damned

February 2026

This is no longer about Ukraine. It is about trajectory. The UK and EU leaders are driving their nations to a point where economic fragility, political fragmentation and strategic overreach will meet like a train crash. The continued rhetoric of open-ended confrontation with Russia may play well in chambers and summits, but the negative consequences are already materialising at home.



Growth is weak. Debt is high. Energy costs remain structurally elevated and can only increase. Industrial competitiveness is dissolving. Defence commitments are expanding without serious thought as to where the money will come from to pay for it. When leadership messaging signals prolonged escalation without a publicly defined political objective, markets adjust. Investment stops. Households retrench. Borrowing costs harden. In this, the UK is particularly exposed given its debt profile and dependence on financial market confidence. Several EU economies are in a similar position.

Political cohesion across Europe is stretching to breaking point. Coalition governments are brittle, and public trust is eroding as they watch their economies contract drastically. Societal fracture will not announce itself in advance, it compounds quietly and then surfaces abruptly. We are closer to that point today than many realise.

Leaders must recognise that prolonged emergency narratives normalise extraordinary fiscal expansion and centralised authority. Whether intended or not, the longer this confrontation is treated as structural and indefinite, the more domestic governance shifts toward control rather than consent. That path may appear stabilising in the short term, but it is extremely corrosive in the long term.

This is why the current march must stop.

The US, under President Donald Trump, is signalling strategic recalibration, defining limits, rebalancing and prioritising domestic economic resilience. Whether one agrees with the tone or not, the US' direction is toward realism rather than rhetorical maximalism favoured by UK and EU leaders. They must now stop and align with realism. Above all, they must act collectively, across party lines and abandon ideological grandstanding.

Conclusion

This is not appeasement. It is preservation.

If these European leaders continue on the current trajectory, they will trigger the very instability they claim to be guarding against. Financial stress will not remain contained within spreadsheets. It will migrate on to the streets. History rarely punishes nations for prudent de-escalation. It often punishes them for pride. Step back from the precipice and put an end to this dangerous international posturing.

Politics must now yield to survival.

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