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EU BOMBSHELL: How the bloc 'imposed the HIGHEST electricity and gas bills on Britain'

THE EU has imposed some of the highest electricity and gas bills in the world on the UK over the years, bringing about huge damage to Britain's steel industry, Conservative MEP Daniel Hannan claimed in his latest book.

Brexit: Theresa May will REJECT second vote says expert

Last night, Theresa May suffered a humiliating defeat in the House of Commons by MPs who oppose leaving the EU without a deal. The Finance Bill amendment – which passed by 303 votes to 296 – means that the Government needs explicit parliamentary approval to leave the EU without a deal before it can use certain powers relating to taxation law. The crushing defeat was interpreted by many as “a signal” there is “no majority for a no-deal outcome to Brexit”.

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(/news/politics/1069285/brexit-news-latest- (/celebrity-news/1069300/Susanna-Reid-no-deal-vote-debate-amendment-theresa-may) Twitter-Good-Morning-Britain-Kay-Burley- Since the 2016 referendum, warnings that a no-deal Brexit could have "catastrophic" consequences have been issued on a daily basis.

Last month, The UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) said a no-deal Brexit could increase electricity generation costs by £270million a year.

According to the UKERC, trade barriers threaten to increase the cost of importing gas and electricity across the Channel.

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However, in his 2016 book "What next: How to get the best from Brexit", Conservative MEP and Leave campaigner Daniel Hannan claimed the reason why "Britain has some of the highest electricity and gas bills in the world" in the first place is "because of EU policy".



THE EU has imposed some of the highest electricity and gas bills in the world on the UK (Image: GETTY)



Mrs May suffered a defeat by Labour and Conservative MPs, who oppose leaving the EU without a deal (Image: GETTY)

Mr Hannan wrote: "Brussels drives prices up in two ways: through setting renewables targets and, since 2010, through direct legislation.

"As a result, medium-sized business in the EU pay 20 per cent more for energy than an equivalent firm in China, 65 per cent more than one in India and 100 per cent more than one in the US.

"These artificially high energy prices have already closed most of Britain's steel industry, and now threaten other high-energy manufacturers."

Mr Hannan went on to explain how the prices have also made an impact outside manufacturing, adding: "In 2012/2013, the NHS spent an extraordinary £630million on energy bills."

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The EU drives prices up in two ways: through setting renewables targets and through legislation (Image: GETTY)



Britain will presumably continue to be part of the Paris Climate Change after Brexit (Image: GETTY)

The Conservative politician added that it is true the world is seeking to reduce carbon emissions and that Britain will presumably remain part of that global effort after Brexit.

However, Mr Hannan claimed the EU "doesn't simply set a target for emissions cuts and leave it to the member states to meet it" as it would be to accept the "supremacy" of the approach agreed at the 2015 Paris Climate Change.

He concluded: "Instead, Brussels supports specific forms of alternative energy in a way which has the incidental effect of purchasing the loyalty of those who supply it.

"In general, the current system of EU energy subsidies works very well for the rich."

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