

[Negotiating a Northern Ireland trade deal](#)". *The Times* (lead letter), 21 February 2023.

Sir, Seven years after the EU referendum and two years since Boris Johnson allegedly "settled" the issue, Brexit's loose ends are still haunting us ("[Sunak ready to defy DUP over Brexit trade deal](#)", Feb 20). Rishi Sunak will be keen to quote Charles de Gaulle, who said: "To govern is always to choose among disadvantages." This might be tempting but is wrong: given that the EU remains our main trading partner, it makes sense to minimise trade frictions with Brussels. Sunak should ignore the objections of his Brexiteer MPs and wrap up a deal on the Northern Ireland protocol. By doing so he will exhibit strong leadership qualities that will both boost the UK's economic prospects and strengthen his credentials among the electorate.

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