There is no justification for a “Henry VIII Bill”. The only justification that I have heard suggested is that it is required by the sheer volume of our legislation that is hosted by the EU. That is the worst possible reason!!! If a very important job needs doing, it needs doing properly. And “if it ain't broke, don't fix it!” If a formal Henry VIII bill is needed simply to give effect to porting EU legislation into UK law, the bill must be worded to do just that – lock stock and barrel, with no loopholes for sneaking through changes of substance.

Most EU legislation is relatively uncontroversial and won't need changing. Since the whole Brexit process is being started by porting EU law lock stock and barrel into domestic legislation, there is NO reason arising from any timetable or deadline to do with the actual date of Brexit that requires completing or set in place to operate on or before Brexit day, except that some laws will have to be amended because the wording will specifically mention our place in the EU (size and colour of our passports comes to mind) and have to be changed so as not to be a nonsense. Such changes are and should be treated as technical matters, and not a way of sneaking through significant changes of substance that should be subject to proper public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny.

Controversial and contentious matters should not be hurried, and, most of all, should NOT be sneaked through administratively by inappropriate enabling legislation.

It would make sense to incorporate in this legislation the provision and mechanism to abort Brexit if the terms are widely accepted as unsatisfactory. This suggestion will raise hackles, I know, but think of what the alternative is - the country going over the cliff with no way of stopping? We would only abort Brexit if there was a clear case for and public and parliamentary support for doing so, so, far from not respecting the will of the people, we would be ensuring we were able to do just that if the will of the people changed!

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