

Today's speech was meaningless bravado from the government's most policy-light minister – Gardiner

Barry

Gardiner MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, responding to Liam Fox's

Conservative Party speech said:

"Today's

speech was an opportunity for the Secretary of State to allay business and industry's fears about the structure of our future trade relations. A serious politician would have addressed the threat to 4,000 jobs in Northern Ireland by the American decision to impose a 220 per cent tariff on Bombardier's CSeries aircraft.

"His

facile suggestion that "Free Trade in Action" will increase variety for consumers and reduce prices will ring hollow to those who fear what it could mean for British jobs, given the Conservative's failure on Bombardier.

"Fox has

had more than a year to bring forward a trade white paper that sets out a proper road map for business export and inward investment. Today would have been a sensible time to introduce some of its key ideas. Instead we got meaningless bravado from the government's most policy-light minister."