

Brexit: Charting the Way Forward

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The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union

Presented to Parliament
by the Prime Minister
by Command of Her Majesty

February 2017

UK Government White Paper: Northern Ireland

We will work with the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to find a practical solution that recognises the unique economic, social and political context of the land border between Northern Ireland and Ireland. An explicit objective of the UK Government's work on EU exit is to ensure that full account is taken for the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland. We will seek to safeguard business interests in the exit negotiations. We will maintain close operational collaboration between UK and Irish law enforcement and security agencies and their judicial counterparts.





European Council

Brussels, 29 April 2017
(OR. en)

EUCO XT 20004/17

BXT 10
CO EUR 5
CONCL 2

COVER NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Special meeting of the European Council (Art. 50) (29 April 2017)
- Guidelines

Delegations will find attached the guidelines adopted by the European Council¹ at the above meeting, following the United Kingdom's notification under Article 50 TEU.

¹ Following the notification under Article 50 TEU, the member of the European Council representing the withdrawing Member State shall not participate in the discussions of the European Council or in decisions concerning it.



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 22 May 2017
(OR. en)

XT 21016/17
ADD 1 REV 2

BXT 24

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
No. Clon doc.: 21009/17 BXT 16 ADD 1
Subject: ANNEX to Council decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/... authorising the opening of negotiations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an agreement setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal from the European Union
- Directives for the negotiation of an agreement with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal from the European Union

European Council Guidelines

The Union has consistently supported the goal of peace and reconciliation enshrined in the Good Friday Agreement in all its parts, and continuing to support and protect the achievements, benefits and commitments of the Peace Process will remain of paramount importance. In view of the unique circumstances on the island of Ireland, flexible and imaginative solutions will be required, including with the aim of avoiding a hard border, while respecting the integrity of the Union legal order. In this context, the Union should also recognise existing bilateral agreements and arrangements between the United Kingdom and Ireland which are compatible with EU law.

29 April 2017

Donald Tusk

I want to assure you of the great sensitivity amongst your partners in the EU27 to the challenge now facing the island of Ireland after the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union in 2019. Addressing these unique circumstances is a priority for the first phase of talks. Flexible and imaginative solutions will be needed and I am fully committed to working closely with you in this respect.

Letter of congratulation from President Donald Tusk to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, 14 June 2017

Council Negotiating Mandate

In line with the European Council guidelines, the Union is committed to continuing to support peace, stability and reconciliation on the island of Ireland. Nothing in the Agreement should undermine the objectives and commitments set out in the Good Friday Agreement in all its parts and its related implementing agreements; the unique circumstances and challenges on the island of Ireland will require flexible and imaginative solutions. Negotiations should in particular aim to avoid the creation of a hard border on the island of Ireland, while respecting the integrity of the Union legal order. Full account should be taken of the fact that Irish citizens residing in Northern Ireland will continue to enjoy rights as EU citizens. Existing bilateral agreements and arrangements between Ireland and the United Kingdom, such as the Common Travel Area, which are in conformity with EU law, should be recognised. The Agreement should also address issues arising from Ireland's unique geographic situation, including transit of goods (to and from Ireland via the United Kingdom). These issues will be addressed in line with the approach established by the European Council guidelines.

22 May 2017

Options depend on nature and content of post-Brexit UK-EU Relationship?

UK Government seeking 'comprehensive, bold and ambitious Free trade area ... plus 'strategic partnership'

- Single Market via European Economic Area
- Customs Union
- Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area
- Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement
- EEA+

....

But what about agricultural trade?

“flexible and imaginative solutions”

**Free trade in
agricultural goods
on the island of
Ireland**

**NI/all-island
participation in EU
programmes**

**Northern Ireland in
the European
Economic Area**

**Autonomous
adoption of EU
acquis**

**All-island regulatory
frameworks/bodies**