



## RESOLUTION:

### **Urging EU Institutions and the UK to follow Brexit consequently**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Belgrade, on 02.12.2017*

#### **Recognising that:**

- The Treaty of Lisbon created the possibility for the withdrawal of a Member State in line with his own constitutional requirements.<sup>1</sup>
- The British people voted to leave the European Union on 23 June 2016 but Northern Ireland voted to remain (55.78%).<sup>2</sup>
- The UK Government notified the triggering of Article 50 TEU on the 29th March 2017 to the President of the European Council, and thus set the withdrawal date on the 30th March 2019 the latest.
- The European Council adopted on the 29th April 2017 guidelines for the negotiations following the UK's notification under Art. 50 TEU stipulating the principles to be followed.<sup>3</sup>
- The Council from 22nd May 2017 adopted the negotiation directives defining the mandate for the European Commission as Union negotiator.<sup>4</sup>
- The people of the United Kingdom are represented by 73 parliamentarians in the European Parliament.
- The United Kingdom's gross contribution to the EU-Budget in 2016 amounted to € 13,7 billion (€ 9,1 billion net).<sup>5</sup>
- President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani called for a doubling of the EU Budget from € 140 to € 280 Billion.<sup>6</sup>
- The Good Friday Agreement (GFA) is an internationally recognised peace agreement that was signed in April 1998 and brought an end to thirty years of political and religious motivated violence in Northern Ireland.
- The GFA, which is based on commonly held membership of the EU by the Republic of Ireland and the UK, is about peace, reconciliation and societal progress on the island of

<sup>1</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:115:0013:0045:en:PDF>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/ng-interactive/2016/jun/23/eu-referendum-live-results-and-analysis>

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-council-article-50-guidelines-brexite-negotiations\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-council-article-50-guidelines-brexite-negotiations_en)

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-council-article-50-guidelines-brexite-negotiations\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-council-article-50-guidelines-brexite-negotiations_en)

<sup>5</sup> <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7886/CBP-7886.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/article/antonio-tajani-brexite-bill-60-billion-euros/>

Ireland. Guaranteed by both the UK and Irish governments, the GFA affords the people of Northern Ireland the right to choose either UK citizenship or Irish citizenship (and by extension, EU citizenship).<sup>7</sup>

- More than three million EU citizens are currently living in the United Kingdom and have made life decisions based on the assumption the UK is part of the European Union. Through Brexit these people now have to live in uncertainty and are entirely dependent on the political will of the British Government.

### **Acknowledging that:**

- The UK Prime Minister Theresa May in her Florence speech announced that the United Kingdom will honour financial commitments made during the EU membership and that no other EU Member State has to pay more or receive less due to Brexit. Though no concessions have been made by the UK regarding concrete figures.
- Regarding citizen rights considerable progress has been made. PM May reassured all EU-citizens living lawfully in the UK today, that they will be able to stay. The UK Government promised to make it as easy as possible for EU citizen to obtain settled status in the UK and keeping the cost for this procedure as low as possible. However, many issues remain unsolved, especially the judicial protection of these rights.
- Regarding the question of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the EU and the UK agree on the joint negotiation principles, namely that the Good Friday Agreement has to be protected, the Common Travel Area has to be maintained and a hard border has to be avoided by all means.
- The proposals put forward by the UK government regarding a border and the GFA have so far been vague, lacking in significant detail and have used language such as a new undefined custom "arrangement" - which the EU Brexit Taskforce have labelled "magical thinking".<sup>8</sup>
- The detailed examinations of areas of North-South co-operation carried out by the teams of Michel Barnier and David Davis which have identified 142 areas areas of North-South co-operation (e.g. health, transport, animal welfare, security, policing, energy, education etc). These are provided for by the GFA and are underpinned by mutual EU membership by the Republic of Ireland and the UK.<sup>9</sup>
- European Council Conclusions of 20th October 2017 called for continuing the work of the first phase of the negotiations and starting internal preparatory discussions on Phase 2.
- EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier urged the UK to offer concessions timely before the European Council meeting in December.

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.britac.ac.uk/sites/.../TheGoodFridayAgreementBrexitandRights\\_0.pdf](https://www.britac.ac.uk/sites/.../TheGoodFridayAgreementBrexitandRights_0.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.rte.ie/news/analysis-and-comment/2017/1117/920981-long-read-brexit/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.rte.ie/news/analysis-and-comment/2017/1117/920981-long-read-brexit/>

## **YEPP calls on:**

- The European Institutions to see Brexit as an opportunity and use this momentum to start a comprehensive reform process (towards more subsidiarity).
- The European Institutions to be firm on the point that a Member State, who has decided to withdraw from the Union cannot enjoy the same rights as a remaining Member State.
- The European Institutions to assess every possible option to consolidate the EU Budget and compensate the loss of the UK share fully expenditure-based.
- The European Parliament not to redistribute the seats released by the UK MEPs to other Member States.
- The UK Government to turn the words of PM May into deeds and name their position on financial obligations to enable the negotiations to move on concerning this field.
- The UK Government and the Union negotiator to move on quickly on the question of citizen rights to provide legal certainty for our citizens.
- The UK Government to be dispense with their plans to establish a registration system for the EU citizen currently living in the UK as the rights enshrined in the Union citizenship directive need to continue to apply to them.
- The UK Government and the European Commission to make concrete proposals to resolve the outstanding questions regarding the situation on the island of Ireland, which must respect the integrity of the internal market and the Customs Union.
- The UK Government to take a realistic stand on the future economic relationship with the Union and stop trying to cherry pick advantages from the Single market without refusing to take the obligations that comes with it. However, the EU institutions will have to ensure a fluid commercial link between the United Kingdom and the EEA countries potentially through a trade agreement.
- The UK Government to accept the monopoly of interpretation of Union law of the European Court of Justice for every Union act continuing to be applicable on the territory of the United Kingdom after the withdrawal date.