

Brussels Weekly Update: BREXIT – 19/02/2018

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament:

Parliamentary Questions: Members of the EP (MEP) can submit questions for written answer to the European Commission (among other EU Institutions). The content of questions is the sole responsibility of their author(s), and an MEP can submit a maximum of five questions per month. Below, the Commission have responded to one EP question related to Brexit.

- [Trade relations between the EU and the United Kingdom after that country has left the EU](#). Martin Schirdewan (GUE/NGL).
- [Goods on the market post-Brexit](#). Molly Scott Cato (Verts/ALE).

[Brexit and the EP: What it means for fisheries & seafood](#) – Grimsby, 16th March 2018.
This event will explore the impact of Brexit on the future of UK fisheries and food chains. A panel of politicians, experts and local industry professionals will debate these issues and invite questions from the audience on Brexit, Fishing and Seafood.

European Commission:

- [Transitional Arrangements in the Withdrawal Agreement](#).

The European Commission published a draft text of the transitional arrangements to be included in the Article 50 Withdrawal Agreement, following the United Kingdom's request to remain in the Single Market and the Customs Union for a short time-limited period after its withdrawal from the European Union on 30 March 2019.

European Council:

- [Seeking post-Brexit unity, EU leaders find more fights](#). Source EURactive.

This newspaper reported a clash between French President Emmanuel Macron, leading the charge for a reformed Europe, and Juncker with his federalist vision of how top EU officials should be chosen in future.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Dutch to hire 750 new customs agents before Brexit](#). Source Reuters.

In a letter to parliament, The Dutch Government informed about its decision to recruit and train more workers for Customs and Food and Wares agencies. The government is working on the basis of two scenarios: that Britain leaves the EU with no deal in place, or that it leaves on similar terms to those of the Union's recent trade deal with Canada.

- [Irish SMEs pessimistic about Brexit](#). Source Source AIB.

AIB's Brexit Sentiment Index tracks SME business sentiment across the island of Ireland during Brexit negotiations.

- [Brexit: Trade in Food - Third Report of Session 2017–19](#). Source UK Parliament.

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee calls on the Government to: Consider creating a fund to support the UK's agricultural sector as it adapts to the post-Brexit environment; set out how it will make sure that IT systems and infrastructure are in place for the import and export of agricultural produce so that businesses can continue to trade smoothly with Europe and the rest of the world; begin to develop relationships at a political level with potential new trading partners; publish a sector-by-sector analysis of the impact of Brexit before the publication of the Agriculture Bill, and publish the Bill as soon as possible; ensure that any new agreements are not to the detriment of the UK's high animal welfare, environmental, or food standards; make clear how it will deal with potential regulatory divergence with the EU, and ensure that protected geographical indicators are retained in a similar form after the UK leaves the EU.

- [Ed Balls survey finds majority of businesses do not want to leave customs union](#). Source Politics Home.
- [HMRC office closures: some staff working on Brexit 'could face redundancies'](#). Source Civil Service World.
- [Brexit consequences for EU climate and energy policy](#). Source Bruegel.

Events:

- [Brexit hearing - Impact on Maritime transport. EP Committee on Transport and Tourism 26 February](#).
- [OB Manchester: Brexit and UK Business Great Debate](#). 22 February. Manchester.
- [The Parliamentary Scrutiny of Brexit: Perspectives from Europe and the UK](#). 8-9 March. Maastricht.
- [Brexit at the halfway point: What can third country investors expect?](#). 20 March. Brussels.
- [Brexit: It's Consequences for Whitehall & Westminster - Briefing Paper & Video](#). 21 March. London.