

# Brussels Weekly Update: BREXIT – 04/12/2017

## EU INSTITUTIONS

### European Parliament:

EP questions on Brexit: 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 a MEP can submit a maximum of five questions per month.

- [VAT fraud scandal in the United Kingdom](#) - Franck Proust (PPE)
- [Brexit Impact Studies](#) - The European Parliament has published dozens of impact assessments or studies on Brexit from experts, across a broad range of policy areas, which are publicly available online.

### European Commission:

- [EU Commission assess Brexit progress on Wednesday](#). Source Euobserver.

Last Friday a EU Commission representative confirmed that the Commission will announce this Wednesday 6th December whether Brexit negotiations have reached "sufficient progress" to move into the next phase.

### European Council:

- [European Council, 14-15/12/2017](#)

The European Council (Article 50), in an EU 27 format, will review the latest developments in the negotiations following the United Kingdom's notification of its intention to leave the EU.

Leaders will reassess the state of progress in the Brexit negotiations to determine whether sufficient progress has been achieved on three specific issues:

- Citizen's Rights
- Ireland
- Financial Obligations

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## MORE INFORMATION

- [The Local Economic Impacts of Brexit](#). Source National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

This research looks at the difference in predicted effects across all Local Authority Areas under a 'soft' and a 'hard' Brexit scenario (the former involves zero tariffs, but increased non-tariff barriers with the EU, the latter involves non-zero tariffs and even higher non-tariff barriers). It also provides some initial analysis on whether these predicted impacts are likely to exacerbate or alleviate existing disparities and looks at how the predicted economic impacts of Brexit correlate with voting patterns from the referendum.

- [MARQUES publishes Brexit position paper](#). Source Novagraaf.

The European brand owners association, MARQUES, has issued [a Brexit position paper](#) calling for urgent clarity on IP rights post-Brexit. In particular, the paper calls on the governments of the UK and EU27 member states, and the EU Commission to provide early certainty to businesses in respect of three key objectives; namely that, at the time of and in consequence of Brexit: there will be no loss of existing proprietary IP rights and no diminution in the level of IP protection in the UK and EU27 member states post-Brexit; businesses will not have to incur any, or at least any material, costs to maintain their existing rights; and there will be no, or as little as possible, administrative burden on businesses in retaining those rights.

- [British Irish Chamber of Commerce launches its big principles for a strong Brexit Partnership](#). Source The British Irish Chamber of Commerce.

On 27 November The British Irish Chamber of Commerce published a framework for how trade between the UK, Ireland and the EU could work in a post-Brexit world. The document follows extensive consultation with the Chamber's nine sectoral policy committees and external stakeholders over many months, leading to what the Chamber believes is a politically ambitious but technically achievable solution to the trade issue

- [The EU meat industry in a Hard Brexit scenario](#). Source UECBV

UECBV has published a paper focused on the worst scenario, in which no deal between the EU and the UK is agreed. According to UECBV the impact for the EU meat industry will be monumental, due particular exposure of this sector to tariff costs, veterinary checks and increased customs and transport costs.

- [Towards a Belgian position on Brexit: Actively reconciling national and European interests](#). Source Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations.

The prospect of seeing the United Kingdom leave the EU presents Belgium with its most significant foreign policy challenge in decades. Caught between its traditional support for advancing European integration and its longstanding links to the Anglo-Saxon world, Belgium finds itself at a crossroads at which its two deepest foreign policy instincts conflict with one another.

- [Commission calls for new public service funding formula post Brexit](#). Source CIPFA.

The Brexit Advisory Commission Advisory Commission for Public Services claims that in a Post Brexit scenario, the government must modernise the way it distributes funding to ensure that any replacement of the €20.6bn UK public services and programmes receive from the EU is allocated on a needs basis.

- [Future of UK Trade and Customs Policy Debate on 5 December 2017](#). Source House of Lords

On 5 December 2017 the House of Lords is due to debate a motion moved by Baroness Fairhead, Minister of State at the Department for International Trade, that "this House takes note of the future of United Kingdom trade and customs policy in the light of Her Majesty's Government white papers *Preparing for our Future UK Trade Policy* and *Customs Bill: Legislating for the UK's Future Customs*."

- [EU, Ireland tell UK to come up with Brexit border plan](#). Source DW.

"The EU 27 can't declare sufficient progress in the Brexit negotiations without firm and acceptable commitments on the border," Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said after meeting with European Council President Donald Tusk in Dublin on Friday.

- [Joint FoodDrinkEurope – FDF statement on Brexit negotiations](#). Source FoodDrinkEurope.

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## Videos

- [Brexit throws Europe's fishing industry into troubled waters](#). Source DW.

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## Events

- [INDIA, EUROPE and BREXIT](#). 5 December. Brussels.
- [BREXIT What framework for future EU-UK relations?](#). 4 December. Brussels.
- [Trade Scenarios after Brexit: Implications for the UK, the EU and the US](#). 12 December. London

