

Brussels Weekly Update: BREXIT – 19/03/2018

EU INSTITUTIONS

- **European Parliament:**

- [Draft Resolution to wind up the debate on the framework of the future EU-UK relationship.](#)

The draft resolution welcomes the Commission's 28 February draft of the Withdrawal agreement and expresses support for the transitional arrangements proposed. It also reiterates the importance given to securing equal and fair treatment for EU citizens living in the UK and British citizens living in the EU.

- **European Commission:**

- [Programme of EU-UK Article 50 negotiations.](#)

- **European Council:**

- [European Council \(Art.50\) \(23 March 2018\) Draft guidelines.](#)

MORE INFORMATION

- [EUFA welcomes draft guidelines on future trade agreement.](#) Source Fiskerforum.com.

The European Fisheries Alliance is a coalition of European fishing fleets directly impacted by Brexit. On the occasion of draft guidelines presented by European Council President Donald Tusk EUFA chairman Gerard van Balsfoort said: 'We welcome that the European Union has acknowledged the importance of ensuring a direct link between the post-Brexit fisheries framework and the future EU-UK free trade agreement. By the very nature of their activity, the British and European sectors have historically been deeply intertwined. Recognising this fact is essential to ensure a post-Brexit deal on fisheries that will secure long-term economic prosperity for fishermen, businesses and coastal communities both in the United Kingdom and the European Union.'

- [Brexit and rules of origin: Why free trade agreements ≠ free trade.](#) Source Centre for European Reform.

According to CER the only way that the UK can remove the need for rules of origin is to remain in the EU customs union, or enter into a new one. In the absence of an EU-UK customs union, rules of origin create immediate problems for post-Brexit Britain: UK exporters selling a product to the EU27, under any FTA, will be required to prove that the product they are selling is actually from the UK. However those UK exports that incorporate a significant proportion of non-UK components may struggle to qualify as 'British' for a UK-EU FTA. UK exporters currently making use of EU FTA with other countries may be used to complying with rules of origin. But they will face difficulties complying with existing rules in cases where the UK replicates the EU's free trade agreements with third countries.

- [Rules of origin in an EU-UK FTA A 'hidden hard Brexit' for food and drink exporters?.](#) Source FDF and Nabim.

Rules of origin represents a hugely important issue for food and drink manufacturers, in both the EU and the UK. For both organisations Food & Drink Federation and Nabim (National Association of British and Irish Flour Millers) the dilemma to be solved by the UK is how the EU and the UK design a new agreement that avoids disruption to supply chains that are central to the economy and to food security.

- [Policy paper - Joint Ministerial Committee communiqué: 14 March 2018.](#) Source UK Government.

The Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC), chaired by the Prime Minister, brings together the leaders of the

devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This communiqué gives a summary of the outcomes from the plenary meeting.

- [Post-Brexit trade: An opportunity to set new standards](#). Source United States Council for International Business.

In the words of Chris Southworth, the secretary general of ICC UK, USCIB's partner in the global International Chamber of Commerce network, the success or failure of Brexit will hinge on the government's ability to deliver trade deals – this is central pillar of the Brexit strategy to offset costs incurred from leaving the EU, especially for SMEs. To do that, it means breaking from the past, opening up and building a model of engagement that is more transparent, consensual and democratic in approach

- [No progress in finding solution to Brexit border problem](#). UK Parliament.

This briefing paper the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee expresses concern over progress in finding a solution to the UK-Ireland land border post Brexit and points out the absence of a technical solution to render the border invisible.

- [The progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal: December 2017 to March 2018](#). Source UK Parliament.

This is the second report in The Exiting the EU select committee overarching inquiry on the Article 50 negotiations. In this report, it is considered the current state of the negotiations, the plans for the transition/implementation period, and the work to date on plans for Phase 2.

- [Brexit: the exit bill](#). Source House of Commons Library.

Events:

- [Brexit at the halfway point: What can third country investors expect?](#). 20 March. Brussels.
- [Brexit and future trade relations](#). INTA Committee. 21 March. Brussels.
- [Brexit: Its Consequences for Whitehall & Westminster - Briefing Paper & Video](#). 21 March. London.

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