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EU Exit



News



European Commission

## Barnier Indicates Potential for Unprecedented Future Relationship Post-EU Exit

**29 August 2018**

Chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier has hinted that the EU may be willing to offer a unique bilateral relationship to the UK after it leaves the bloc. Speaking in Berlin following a meeting with the German Foreign Minister, Barnier said “We are prepared to offer Britain a partnership such as there has never been with any third country”, indicating strong economic ties were desirable.

However, Barnier reiterated previous warnings that the integrity of EU Single Market could not be compromised by such a deal, stating that “Single Market means Single Market...there is no Single Market a la carte”. Barnier’s optimism rallied sterling on international markets – the pound jumped some one percent in value against the dollar – before experiencing a cooling following the EU chief negotiator’s subsequent announcement that the EU is undertaking contingency planning measures for a ‘no-deal’ scenario. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt responded by describing the developments as “encouraging”, before caveating his remarks by stating “...it’s going to be a very hard long road ahead”.

## Barnier - ‘Geographical Indicators’ Present Stumbling Block to EU Exit Agreement

**31 August 2018**

in Brussels on 31 August following a further round of bilateral negotiations with DExEU Secretary Dominic Raab, Michel Barnier expressed “concern” over the UK government’s perceived lack of clarity surrounding the protection of ‘Geographical

Indicators’ – which include Cornish sardines, Isle of Man Queenies and Scottish farmed/wild salmon – after the UK leaves the EU. Barnier warned that Britain’s EU exit “...cannot lead to a loss of existing protection of intellectual property” amid protestations from EU sources that alleged UK intransigence on GI issues could lead to considerable political opposition from countries such as France and Italy.



**UK Government**

## **Raab Appears Before House of Lords Committee**

**29 August 2018**

On 29 August, Dominic Raab – DExEU Secretary of State – gave evidence before a House of Lords EU Committee covering a wide range of issues pertaining to Britain’s exit from the EU. In response to questioning over the progress of the ongoing negotiations, Raab confirmed that some 80% of the withdrawal agreement was complete, and he has developed a “...good professional and personal rapport” with EU Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier. Moreover, the proposed timing of a conclusion to the negotiations is likely to slip from October to November, given a need to finalise certain contentious issues surrounding the Northern Ireland border and the future economic relationship.

Raab further responded to criticism from peers that the technical guidance notes recently issued by government were too general in their scope, promising that further notes – scheduled for release in two tranches throughout September – would contain more detail pertinent to business for contingency planning purposes in a ‘no-deal’ scenario.

## **Lidington Consults with Scottish Fishermen over Post-EU Exit Fisheries Policy**

**23 August 2018**

Senior Cabinet Minister David Lidington MP recently visited Aberdeen to speak with fishing industry representatives concerning the Government’s Fisheries White Paper. Press reports suggest Lidington found a general agreement with the government’s approach to post-EU exit fisheries policy among industry, quoting the minister as being “determined” to maximise UK fisheries opportunities post-EU exit. However, a spokesman for the Scottish Government has voiced “significant concern” over UK government proposals on post-CFP policy, suggesting that consultations over the proposed policies were conducted without meaningful

engagement with stakeholders.



## Devolved Administrations

### Scottish Government Seeks Future Role in Developing Post-EU Ex Tade Arrangements

**30 August 2018**

Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitutional Relations, has published a discussion paper on behalf of the Scottish Government calling for an enhanced role for the devolved administration in determining future trade deals struck on a UK basis. In the paper, Russell demands that Scotland-specific issues be considered very closely when negotiating post EU-exit trade arrangements in order to "...bring clear benefits for Scottish producers, exporters and consumers".

The paper cites international examples where provincial or federal administrations are consulted prior to national-level deal making, such as in Canada preceding the EU-Canada CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement). The Cabinet Secretary furthermore reiterated the Scottish Government's long-held position that Scotland would benefit from EU Single Market and Customs Union membership, and its overall opposition to the UK exiting the EU.



- 3 September 2018: **Michel Barnier meets in Brussels with the UK House of Commons Committee on Exiting the EU**
- 5 September 2018: **House of Commons returns from summer recess**
- 12 September 2018: **DEFRA consultation on 'Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations' White paper closes**

Further  
information



- Dominic Raab's Lords EU Committee appearance analysed
- UK Government's preparations for a 'no-deal' scenario
- Oxford University report examines low-skilled labour opportunities post-EU exit

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