



## Barnier Issues Statement Confirming ‘continuous negotiation’ as Talks near Final Stages

**21 August 2018**

After a brief hiatus in high-level bilateral EU-UK negotiations to allow opportunities for technical meetings between officials, chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier has outlined the trajectory of future talks between the parties. Barnier – speaking in Brussels following a meeting with EU exit Secretary Dominic Raab – suggested that talks would hitherto focus on three principal matters of contention.

These unresolved issues will include the EU-proposed ‘back stop’ solution (which would avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland), a general ‘political declaration’ on future EU/UK relations and other outstanding matters such as the protection of existing ‘Geographical Indications’ – for example Arbroath Smokies, Whitstable Oysters and Lough Neagh Eels.

Barnier suggested that given the limited time available for talks to reach a mutually agreeable conclusion, the UK and EU would negotiate “continuously”, with the two interlocutors meeting “regularly”. Reiterating that significant progress had been made on the future foreign policy and security relationship, Barnier warned however that a workable solution to a future economic relationship must be found that respects both the integrity of the EU Single Market and the principles upon which the European project are based.



### Foreign Secretary Optimistic Over Post-EU Exit UK/US Trade Deal

**22 August 2018**

Following his inaugural trip to Washington as Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt has signalled his desire for a trade agreement to be reached swiftly between the two countries after Britain leaves the EU. Outlining the long history of bilateral trade cooperation, Hunt stated that his meetings with Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirmed that there remained high-level enthusiasm for such a deal, and when struck would “benefit business on both sides of the Atlantic”.

In subsequent comments to the press, made as his cabinet colleague Dominic Raab met in Brussels with Michel Barnier, the Foreign Secretary stated his belief that Britain would be “better off outside the EU”, even if a ‘no-deal’ scenario prevailed, writing on twitter that the UK “WOULD survive and prosper without a deal”.

### Government Publishes ‘no-deal’ EU Exit Technical Notes

**23 August 2018**

The UK government has released an initial series of detailed notes to provide guidance to business and public bodies on scenarios that may emerge following a ‘no-deal’ outcome to EU exit negotiations. Eventually understood to comprise some 70 briefings, the series are a key component of the government’s “responsible” approach to the ongoing talks, according to EU exit secretary Dominic Raab. The notes outline important preparations necessary to mitigate risks posed by the potentially adverse effects of a ‘no-deal’ EU exit, in ensuring that transport, infrastructure, aid programmes and business operations continue without disruption.

For example, the note entitled ‘Trading with the EU if there’s no deal’ outlines how bilateral trade will be transacted in terms of customs and VAT arrangements. While guidance pertaining specifically to the seafood industry is yet to be published – this is expected in subsequent releases timed for mid/late September – the [notes](#) released cover, variously, workplace rights, VAT for businesses, some aspects of importing and exporting and applying for EU funded programmes.

Raab further commented that following his appointment, the Prime Minister had impressed upon him the importance of “stepping up” contingency planning for ‘no-

deal'. Specifically, the Secretary of State explained this meant tasking some 7,000 civil servants with exit preparedness activities - with funds in place for an additional 9,000 staff – giving a significant boost to domestic institutional capacity in order to effectively administer repatriated competencies.

  


News

## Devolved Administrations

### Scottish Minister Calls on UK Government to Rule Out 'no-deal' EU Exit Outcome

**23 August 2018**

Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Constitutional Relations, Michael Russell MSP, has spoken on behalf of the governing SNP to highlight its concern over the possibility of "deeply damaging and disruptive" 'no-deal' UK exit from the EU. Russell recalled the EU Commission's description of such a negotiation outcome as a 'cliff edge scenario', and demanded that Downing Street "...accept the Scottish Government's strong case...for remaining within the European Single Market and Customs Union". Russell expressed further concern over perceived limits to the Scottish Government's ability to contingency-plan for a 'no-deal' outcome, citing in his view constraints over "...a lack of clarity on the direction of negotiations with the EU".

  


Dates for  
the diary

- W/C 27th August: **EU Chief negotiator Michel Barnier and DExEU Secretary Dominic Raab to conduct further negotiations**
  - 27 August 2018: **European Parliament returns from recess.**
  - 29 August 2018: **Dominic Raab to give evidence to the Lords EU Select Committee**
  - 30-31 August 2018: **Informal meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers, hosted by the Austrian Presidency**
  - 5 September 2018: **House of Commons returns from summer recess**
  - 12 September 2018: **DEFRA consultation on 'Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations' White paper closes**
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Further  
information



- 'Autumn surprises: possible scenarios for the next phase of Brexit'
- UK to allow EU citizens to remain resident if no Brexit deal emerges
- 'No-deal' papers breakdown
- Continued Cabinet split over EU exit

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