

FORUM: Group Of Twenty

QUESTION OF: Measures to reduce the impact of Brexit

THE GROUP OF TWENTY,

Emphasizing the necessity for a “soft” Brexit,

Recalling, that the United Kingdom is still required to pay a divorce fee,

Affirming, that the choice of the British public to leave the European Union was democratic and should therefore not be subjected to international ridicule,

Having considered, that all negotiations must be in accordance with Article 218(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, as stated under Article 50 of the Lisbon treaty,

Having considered, that over 3.8 million EU citizens currently live in the UK, and about 1 million British citizens live in European countries as of October 2018 and that the residency status of every single one of these people is threatened,

Stressing, that the Belfast Agreement of 1998, that established the current British-Irish border and ended three decades of fighting, needs to be preserved,

Supports the payment of at least 50 billion US dollars (38 billion Euros) by the UK, to help continue pay for the set budget of the EU until 2020, considering that:

- a) The UK agreed on the current budget bloc in 2014, and it ends April 2020,
- b) The “British rebate” that has been in place since 1984, that allowed the UK to have up to 66% of its contributors refunded; (France)

Emphasises the importance of keeping a soft border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to avoid reigniting sectarian violence, by means such as, but not limited to:

- a) Avoiding the introduction of more physical infrastructure at the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland,
- b) De-stressing the border, meaning that customs and regulatory controls are dispersed away from the border and take place elsewhere for example:
 - i) Ports,
 - ii) Ferries,
 - iii) Bordering cities,
 - iv) Factories or distribution centres,
- c) Increasing the cooperation of UK and Irish officials, including the possibility of joint spot-checks in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, in which:
 - i) Officials from both parties will get the opportunity to collaborate closely together in order to track goods in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland,

- ii) Officials will get the ability to conduct spot checks in situations where security is threatened or trade across the border is believed to have taken place outside of proper procedure;

Calls upon the UK and European Union to minimize the economic impact of Brexit by reaching an agreement classified as a ‘soft’ Brexit, which includes, but is not limited to:

- a) The UK remaining in the European single market,
- b) The UK remaining in the European customs union,
- c) The UK adhering to EU rules and regulations;

Encourages the United Kingdom to explore the possibility of trade agreements with other countries, if a “soft” Brexit agreement is not reached, for example with the commonwealth and asian allies , in particular, reminding the United Kingdom that its departure from the customs union will come at a cost, and that it should accordingly make more concessions in its ongoing negotiations with the EU and more generally;

Reaffirms the need for a “Soft Brexit” in the Norway model, which would:

- a. Establish customs checks on goods, therefore preventing a hard border with Ireland,
- b. Encourage the UK to join the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), along with Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein,
- c. Allow the UK to keep participating in the single market, in accordance with EFTA regulations,
- d. The United Kingdom has already agreed to have a similar deal than Norway’s, and most economics worldwide agreed that this is the best trade deal they can hope for;

Encourages the UK to allow EU citizens visa-free access to the UK for short-term tourism purposes of under 60 days and for the EU to do the same for UK citizens, this action will:

- a. Encourage tourism in the UK and EU across European countries,
- b. Promote a more pleasant relationship between European countries,
- c. Reduce time citizens spend at embassies or at the border between the UK and EU countries,
- d. Avoid cultural disconnect between the UK and mainland Europe.