



European Council

**Brussels, 29 October 2019
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Declaration of the European Council (Article 50)

Given the outcome of the written procedure (XM 20003/19) and pursuant to Article 10(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Council, Delegations will find in the Annex the above mentioned Declaration for the minutes of the European Council (Article 50).

Declaration of the European Council (Article 50)

On 17 October 2019, the European Council endorsed the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

Recalling its conclusions of 17 October 2019 by which it endorsed the Withdrawal Agreement and invited the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to take the necessary steps in view of its conclusion, the European Council expects the United Kingdom to proceed in parallel with its ratification so that it can enter into force as early as possible.

With a view to allowing for the finalisation of all steps necessary for the ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement, including the obtaining of the consent of the European Parliament, the European Council agrees to a further extension of the period under Article 50(3) TEU. It notes that the Withdrawal Agreement will enter into force on the first day of the month following the completion of the ratification procedures by the Parties during this period, which ends at the latest on 31 January 2020.

The European Council firmly states that it excludes any reopening of the Withdrawal Agreement in the future and recalls that any unilateral commitment, statement or other act by the United Kingdom should be compatible with the letter and the spirit of the Withdrawal Agreement, and must not hamper its implementation.

The European Council notes that, during this further extension, the United Kingdom will remain a Member State until the new withdrawal date, with full rights and obligations in accordance with Article 50 TEU, including the obligation to suggest a candidate for appointment as a member of the Commission.

The European Council recalls the commitment by the United Kingdom to act in a constructive and responsible manner throughout the extension in accordance with the duty of sincere cooperation, and expects the United Kingdom to fulfil this commitment and Treaty obligation in a manner that reflects its situation as a withdrawing Member State. To this effect, the United Kingdom shall facilitate the achievement of the Union's tasks and refrain from any measure which could jeopardise the attainment of the Union's objectives, in particular when participating in the decision-making processes of the Union.

The European Council recalls that, in addition to meetings under Article 50 TEU, the 27 Member States and the Commission, where appropriate together with other institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union, will continue to meet separately at all levels to discuss matters related to the situation after the withdrawal of the United Kingdom.
