

BREXIT

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We have compiled a list of the top 100 Brexit-related terms and translated them into clear and digestible language. The guide’s aim is simple: to provide definitions of the words that dominate the Brexit discourse and act as a handy resource to help in deciphering the complexities of Brexit.

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-Noelle O Connell, Executive Director of European Movement Ireland



Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to introduce European Movement Ireland's Brexit A to Z, your handy guide to all things Brexit.

The pending withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union is just over a year away and Brexit has introduced countless new and existing terms into mainstream vocabulary. We now hear words such as Customs Union and Cherry Picking, Protocol and Priorities on an almost daily basis. But, without a clear understanding of these terms and knowledge of the jargon of European politics and the European Institutions, it can sometimes be difficult to follow the Brexit negotiations.

Enter European Movement Ireland's Brexit A to Z.



We have compiled a list of the top 100 Brexit-related terms and translated them into clear and digestible language. The guide's aim is simple: to provide definitions of the words that dominate the Brexit discourse and act as a handy resource to help in deciphering the complexities of Brexit.

European Movement Ireland has been engaged on Brexit since early 2015, recognising it as an issue of vital importance for Ireland and indeed for the EU. We have held a series of National Dialogues around the country to help to inform and stimulate debate on the issue. These have been combined with the publication of a number of European Movement Ireland's Just the Facts policy briefings on Brexit, shining a light on the multifaceted and numerous issues which have sprung from the UK's vote. As an organisation, a core part of our work continues to focus on all the latest Brexit developments, as well as the Future of Europe process.

This guide is not meant to be exhaustive. Nor could we ever claim it to be, with developments changing so quickly. Rather, European Movement Ireland's Brexit A to Z is intended to be an ever-evolving online resource that will be continually updated throughout the Brexit negotiations and beyond. All comments and recommendations are welcome, so please do get in touch with us. From A to Z, we do hope you find the guide a useful aide in navigating the Brexit process, over the months and years ahead.

Noelle O'Connell,
European Movement Ireland Executive Director
19 March 2018



Table of Contents

Foreword	2
A	7
Acquis communautaire	7
Article 50	7
Accession	7
B	8
Backstop	8
Barnier (Michel)	8
Border	9
Brexit	9
C	10
Cake	10
Cameron (David)	10
Cameron (EU Reform Deal)	11
Canada Option	11
Cherry Picking	11
Common Travel Area	12
Corbyn (Jeremy)	12
Council of the European Union	12
Cox (Jo)	13
Coveney (Simon)	13
Customs Union	13
D	14
Davis (David)	14
Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)	14
Devolved Administrations	15
E	16
England EU Referendum Result/Turnout	16
Euro €	16
European Commission	16



European Council	17
European Court of Justice	17
European Economic Area (EEA).....	17
European Free Trade Association (EFTA)	17
European Parliament	18
European Parliament Elections 2019	18
EU27.....	18
F.....	19
Financial Settlement.....	19
Florence Speech	19
Four Freedoms	20
Free Trade Agreement	20
Future Relationship	20
G	21
General Affairs Council.....	21
Good Friday Agreement	21
Great Repeal Bill.....	21
Greenland	22
Guidelines	22
H	23
Hard vs Soft Brexit.....	23
Haulage	23
I	24
Irish4Europe	24
Irish Government Brexit Priorities.....	24
J	25
Johnson (Boris).....	25
Joint Report.....	25
Juncker (Jean-Claude)	26
Just the Facts.....	26
K	27
Kenny (Enda).....	27
Kerr (Lord)	27
Key Dates	28



L.....	29
Lancaster House Speech.....	29
Laws (EU).....	29
Leave Campaign	29
M.....	30
Mansion House Speech	30
May (Theresa)	30
McEntee (Helen)	31
Movement (Freedom of).....	31
N.....	32
No Deal	32
Northern Ireland EU Referendum Result/Turnout	32
North/South Co-operation	32
Norway Model	33
O.....	34
Opinion Polls	34
Options A, B and C.....	34
Orderly Withdrawal.....	35
P.....	36
Phone A Friend.....	36
Pound £.....	36
Priorities.....	36
Protocol.....	37
Q.....	38
Queen’s Speech.....	38
R.....	39
Remain Campaign	39
Resolution	39
Rights (Citizens’ Rights)	40
Rights (EU Charter of Fundamental Rights).....	40
S.....	41
Scotland EU Referendum Result/Turnout	41
Scottish National Party (SNP)	41
Single Market	42
Snap General Election	42



Strong Qualified Majority Voting.....	42
Sufficient Progress	43
T.....	44
Tajani (Antonio).....	44
Tariff.....	44
Task Force on Article 50 Negotiations with the United Kingdom	44
Third Country	45
Transitional Arrangements.....	45
Treaties	45
Tusk (Donald)	46
U.....	47
United Kingdom EU Referendum Results/Turnout.....	47
United Kingdom Independence Party	47
United Kingdom Supreme Court	47
V.....	48
Varadkar (Leo).....	48
Verhofstadt (Guy).....	48
W.....	49
Wales EU Referendum Result/Turnout	49
Weyand (Sabine).....	49
Withdrawal Agreement.....	49
World Trade Organisation (WTO).....	50
X.....	51
Xenophobia	51
Y.....	51
Youth Vote	51
Z.....	52
Zero Hour	52
Further Information.....	53



A

Acquis communautaire

The term *acquis communautaire* refers to all common rights and obligations that are binding on EU countries. That is to say the entire body of European law, including all the Treaties, regulations and directives, in addition to the rulings of the European Court of Justice.

Article 50

Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), first introduced with the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, provides that any EU country can decide to withdraw from the EU according to “its own constitutional requirements”. Once Article 50 is triggered, the withdrawing country has two years to negotiate an exit deal with the EU. The UK government triggered Article 50 on 29 March 2017, the only Member State to have ever done so. European Movement Ireland has published an Article 50 ‘explainer’ on the process of the withdrawal of a Member State.

Accession

Ireland and the UK joined the European Communities (which were later to become the EU) on 1 January 1973, with Denmark also joining on this day. These countries had signed the Treaty of Accession in January 1972, and in Ireland, a referendum was held in May 1972 which resulted in the country overwhelmingly voting by 83.1 per cent to join the European Communities. 2018 marks the 45th anniversary of membership.



B

Backstop

The term 'Backstop' refers to the option of avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland through Northern Ireland effectively remaining inside the EU Single Market and the EU Customs Union. It is referred to as a 'Backstop' as it would only be applied if other solutions cannot be agreed. Specifically, Option C (as it is also known) of Article 49 of the Joint Report (agreed between the EU and UK in December 2017) states that "in the absence of agreed solutions, the United Kingdom will maintain full alignment with those rules of the Internal Market and the Customs Union which, now or in the future, support North-South cooperation, the all-island economy and the protection of the 1998 [Good Friday] Agreement". The 'Backstop' has been included in the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland in the draft Withdrawal Agreement.

Barnier (Michel)

Michel Barnier is the European Union Chief Negotiator in charge of leading the European Commission Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 of the TEU. This Task Force is responsible for negotiating the terms of the UK's withdrawal from the EU with the UK government. From 1999-2004, Mr Barnier served as European Commissioner for Regional Policy, during which time he oversaw the EU PEACE programme which aims to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the



Border Regions and to promote economic and social progress. He is a former French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Border

There are fears of a return to a 'hard' border on the island of Ireland as a result of Brexit, which could negatively affect trade and the Good Friday Agreement. After Brexit, the Ireland/Northern Ireland border will become an external EU border, that is to say a border between an EU country and a non-EU country. The 499km border between Ireland and Northern Ireland is a key issue in the Brexit negotiations, with the unique issues on the island of Ireland having been formalised as one of three top priorities in the first phase of negotiations by both the EU and UK. The EU and UK have both committed to avoiding a return to a hard border on the island. The 'Backstop' option of avoiding a hard border through Northern Ireland effectively remaining inside the EU Single Market and the EU Customs Union was agreed between the EU and UK in December 2017.

Brexit

The term Brexit, which was named 2016 'word of the year' by the Collins English Dictionary, is a combination of the words British and exit and is used to denote the United Kingdom's pending exit from the European Union. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the term was coined by Peter Wilding, founder and Chairman of think-tank and advocacy group, British Influence, in May 2012. Politicians who campaigned for Brexit are sometimes referred to as 'Brexiters'.



C

Cake

The popular proverb ‘you can’t have your cake and eat it too’ has been recurrent in the Brexit discourse. The UK’s Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, has claimed the UK “could have our cake and eat it” in leaving the EU, and has also said “my policy on cake is pro having it and pro eating it”. The EU’s insistence that there can be no ‘cherry picking’ of the EU Single Market has often been used to counter the claim that the UK ‘could have its cake and eat it’ by picking parts of EU membership it likes, while leaving other parts of membership which it doesn’t.

Cameron (David)

David Cameron served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 2010-2016 and leader of the Conservative Party from 2005-2016. During the 2015 general election campaign, Mr Cameron pledged to hold a referendum on the UK’s membership of the EU. The referendum was called in February 2016 and the vote was set for 23 June of the same year. Mr Cameron subsequently campaigned for the UK to remain in the EU, and resigned from his position as Prime Minister on 24 June 2016 after the country voted to Leave.



Cameron (EU Reform Deal)

In the Conservative Party 2015 general election manifesto, then-Prime Minister David Cameron declared his intention to renegotiate the terms of the UK's membership of the EU. In a letter to European Council President, Donald Tusk, in November 2015, Mr Cameron proposed reform in four key areas: economic governance, sovereignty, competitiveness and immigration. These proposals were discussed by EU leaders and a compromise agreement was reached between them on these reforms. This unanimous, legally-binding and irreversible agreement was reached by all 28 EU leaders at a European Council Summit in February 2016. The agreement was intended to be implemented should the UK electorate have voted Remain in the EU referendum.

Canada Option

The term 'Canada option' refers to a potential situation in which the UK would model its future relationship with the EU on the free trade agreement reached between the EU and Canada, the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The agreement is over 1,500 pages in length and removes tariffs on many goods, as well as liberalising public procurement competition. However, CETA only grants limited services liberalisation. CETA does not involve Canadian contribution to the EU budget or include the free movement of people between Canada and the EU. As such, the 'Canada option' entails significantly less access to the EU's Single Market than the 'Norway model'.

Cherry Picking

The term no 'cherry picking' refers to the indivisibility of the four freedoms of the EU's Single Market, namely the free movement of people, goods, capital and services. EU Chief Brexit Negotiator, Michel Barnier, has said there can be no 'cherry picking' of the Single Market in relation to Brexit. This means that the EU's position is that if the UK were to seek continued membership of the Single Market, such membership would necessitate acceptance of all four freedoms and not sector-by-sector participation.



Common Travel Area

The Common Travel Area (CTA) is an open borders area comprising the UK (including the Channel Islands and Isle of Man) and Ireland. Within the Common Travel Area, British and Irish citizens can travel freely with minimal controls at borders. The Common Travel Area also affords 'special status' to UK nationals resident in Ireland and Irish nationals resident in the UK. For example, Irish citizens entering the UK from within the Common Travel Area are treated as if they have permanent permission to remain in the UK from the date they take up 'ordinary residence' there, and UK citizens are entitled to live in Ireland without conditions or restrictions. As part of the 'special status' of Irish citizens in the UK, Irish citizens over the age of 18 and resident in the UK had the right to vote in the UK's EU referendum in 2016.

Corbyn (Jeremy)

Jeremy Corbyn is the leader of the UK Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition. Mr Corbyn campaigned for the UK to remain in the EU, saying that while he remained critical of the EU's "shortcomings", it is "perfectly possible to be critical and still be convinced we need to remain a member". Mr Corbyn has said Labour would look "for a Brexit that puts the working people first", adding that "Labour would seek to negotiate a new comprehensive UK-EU customs union to ensure that there are no tariffs with Europe and to help avoid any need for a hard border in Northern Ireland".

Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union consists of government Ministers from each EU country. Together with the European Parliament, it is the main decision-making body of the EU. The Council of the EU was responsible for providing the European Commission with the mandate to begin Brexit negotiations on 22 May 2017. At this meeting, the Council also adopted negotiating directives for the talks. On 29 January 2018, the Council adopted supplementary negotiating directives for the Brexit negotiations, which outlined the EU27's position on transitional arrangements.



Cox (Jo)

Joanne (Jo) Cox was a UK Labour Party Member of Parliament (MP) for the Batley and Spen constituency and also previously worked for European Movement UK. On 16 June 2016, one week before the UK's EU referendum, Ms Cox was fatally shot and stabbed by Thomas Mair, a Batley and Spen constituent with links to far-right groups including the National Alliance. In the aftermath of Ms Cox's death, campaigning for the EU referendum was suspended for a number of days.

Coveney (Simon)

Simon Coveney TD is the Tánaiste and Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade with Special Responsibility for Brexit. The Tánaiste has been tasked by the Taoiseach with leading the Irish government response to Brexit, and coordinating the work of government departments in this respect. The Tánaiste has met with the EU Chief Brexit Negotiator multiple times to discuss the Irish specific concerns relating to Brexit. The Tánaiste has remarked that “after Brexit we will be relying more heavily on the Internal Market and, as a small Member State, we know that we perform best when we have clear rules on the free flow of goods, services, people and capital... Europe is united now and it is our home. In the face of a changing world, we are better together. The Irish people have no doubt about this at all”.

Customs Union

The EU Customs Union consists of Member States of the EU, Monaco, and some territories of the United Kingdom which are not part of the EU. Members agree to apply the same tariffs to goods from outside the Customs Union, known as a common external tariff. Once goods have cleared customs in one country, they can be transported to others in the Customs Union without further tariffs being applied. The European Commission is responsible for managing the EU Customs Union. The EU has customs arrangements with some other countries, for example the EU and Turkey are linked by a Customs Union agreement which covers all industrial goods but does not address agriculture (except processed agricultural products) services or public procurement.



D

Davis (David)

David Davis is the UK's Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, overseeing the Department for Exiting the European Union. He is Michel Barnier's (EU Chief Negotiator) opposite number during the negotiations on the terms of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. David Davis is the Member of Parliament (MP) for Haltemprice and Howden and campaigned to Leave in the referendum.

Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)

Following the UK's snap general election in June 2017, Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) agreed a confidence and supply agreement with the Conservative Party, allowing Prime Minister Theresa May to form a minority government. The DUP campaigned in favour of the UK's exit from the EU, the only main Northern Irish party to do so. DUP leader Arlene Foster has written that "the DUP will not countenance any arrangement that could lead to a new border being created in the Irish Sea" as a result of the Brexit negotiations.



Devolved Administrations

In 1998, the UK Parliament passed three devolution Acts, which established the devolved legislative bodies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This transferred to the devolved governments in these nations (or 'Executive' in Northern Ireland) certain legislative and administrative powers which were previously exercised by the UK government in Westminster. Several areas within the competence of the devolved nations' governments are currently covered by EU law; for example, agriculture, environmental regulation, and state aid for industry.



E

England EU Referendum Result/Turnout

Leave: 53.4 per cent

Remain: 46.6 per cent

Turnout: 73.0 per cent

Euro €

The Euro is the common currency in 19 of the 28 EU countries. It was launched as a virtual currency on 1 January 1999, and on 1 January 2002 Euro coins and banknotes were introduced. The term 'Eurozone' is used to collectively refer to the 19 EU countries which use the Euro as their main currency.

European Commission

The European Commission is the executive body of the EU, with its headquarters in Brussels. It is the guardian of the EU Treaties, overseeing their application, and is also responsible for handling the day-to-day business of the EU. The European Commission is made up of the members of the College of Commissioners (one from each EU country). The European Commission is principally in charge of conducting the Brexit negotiations but must act within guidelines set by the European Council and a mandate set by the Council of the EU.



European Council

Not to be confused with the Council of the EU, the European Council consists of the leaders of all the EU countries – the heads of state or government of the 28 EU Member States (in Ireland’s case, the Taoiseach) – as well as the European Council President and the President of the European Commission. Its role is to define the EU’s overall political direction and priorities by adopting a ‘strategic agenda’ of priority areas. Any withdrawal agreement between the EU and UK will have to be approved by the European Council through a ‘strong qualified majority’ vote.

European Court of Justice

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), otherwise known as the European Court of Justice (ECJ) is the judicial Institution of the European Union, based in Luxembourg. It deals with disputes between parties in matters of EU law and ensures that European law is applied in the same way in all EU Member States. The ECJ is a key issue in the Brexit negotiations; in her Lancaster House speech, UK Prime Minister Theresa May pledged to “bring an end to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in Britain”.

European Economic Area (EEA)

The European Economic Area (EEA) is an area of free trade and freedom of movement. It entered into force in 1994, extending the provisions of the EU Single Market to the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) countries. Membership of the EEA is open to Member States of the EU or EFTA. It comprises of all 28 EU Member States, as well as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. The EEA incorporates the four freedoms of the Single Market (free movement of goods, people, services and capital).

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is a regional free trade area comprising four European countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. EFTA was first set up in 1960, with the UK one of its founding members (it left, along with Denmark, in 1972 to join the European Communities, now the EU). The EFTA Council is the highest governing body of EFTA,



where the four EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – meet at Ambassador or Ministerial level. Three EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) also participate in the European Economic Area (EEA).

European Parliament

The European Parliament is the directly-elected Institution of the EU, with its headquarters in Strasbourg. It is the main decision-making body of the EU along with the Council of the EU, sharing the power to adopt and amend EU legislation. A simple majority of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) must give their consent to the final Withdrawal Agreement negotiated between the EU and the UK. 751 MEPs sit in the European Parliament, 11 of whom are from Ireland and 73 of whom are from the UK.

European Parliament Elections 2019

The next European Parliament elections are proposed to take place on 23-26 May 2019. The UK is due to leave the EU on 29 March 2019, and currently, 73 of the 751 seats in the European Parliament are held by UK Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). On 23 January 2018, the European Parliament Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) proposed that should the UK leave the EU, the total number of MEPs should be reduced from 751 to 705. This proposal was subsequently approved by a majority of MEPs, and EU leaders must now reach a unanimous decision at a European Council Summit, in June at the latest, for the proposal to advance further. European Movement Ireland has published an ‘explainer’ on the changing composition of the European Parliament.

EU27

The EU27 refers to the 27 Member States remaining in the EU once the UK leaves. The European Commission has been tasked by the Council of the EU with leading the negotiations with the UK on behalf of the EU27 countries. These countries are: Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; the Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; and Sweden.



F

Financial Settlement

The financial settlement is one of the priorities for an ‘orderly withdrawal’ of the UK, outlined in the European Council guidelines for the Brexit negotiations in April 2017. It refers to the financial commitments which the UK has signed up to as part of the EU budget to the end of 2020, as well “as those related to the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Development Fund (EDF) and the European Central Bank (ECB)”. The Joint Report, agreed by EU and UK negotiators in December 2017, states that “the UK will contribute to, and participate in, the implementation of the Union annual budgets for the years 2019 and 2020 as if it had remained in the Union”.

Florence Speech

On 22 September 2017, UK Prime Minister Theresa May delivered a speech in Florence, Italy at what she referred to as “a critical time in the evolution of the relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union”. In the Renaissance church of Santa Maria Novella, she called for an ‘implementation period’ between the ratification of the final Withdrawal Agreement and a future relationship deal between the EU and UK. During the speech, Prime Minister May also said that “the UK will honour commitments it has made during the period of our membership”, and proposed to write legal protections for EU citizens living in the UK into national law.



Four Freedoms

The four freedoms, established in the Treaty of Rome (1957), are the pillars of EU law and represent the key principles of the EU, underpinning the EU's Single Market. They are the freedom of movement of goods, people, services and capital across borders within the EU. In relation to Brexit, the European Council President, Donald Tusk, has said that "access to the Single Market requires acceptance of all four freedoms, including the freedom of movement".

Free Trade Agreement

In her letter invoking Article 50, UK Prime Minister Theresa May stated that the UK government "wants to agree a deep and special partnership between the UK and the EU". According to EU law, before the EU and UK can agree a future free trade agreement, they must first complete the negotiation of a withdrawal agreement. Negotiations under Article 50 may take into account the framework for the future relationship, but the Article states that an agreement on the future relationship itself must be negotiated in accordance with Article 218(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) which outlines the process for reaching agreements with third countries, those countries outside the EU.

Future Relationship

The term 'future relationship' is used to refer to the relationship between the EU and UK post-Brexit. Numerous options, or models, for this relationship have been proposed based on existing agreements the EU has with other non-EU countries, such as the 'Canada option' or the 'Norway model'. These models vary in terms of their sectoral scope and in the depth of a potential future relationship. Under Article 50, the EU and UK must first resolve the issues arising from the UK's withdrawal from the EU before they can reach a deal on their future relationship.



G

General Affairs Council

The General Affairs Council (GAC) is in charge of coordinating the preparations for European Council meetings. GAC is mainly made up of the European Affairs Ministers, or Foreign Affairs Ministers, from all EU countries. In the Brexit negotiations, GAC is responsible for adopting negotiating directives for the European Commission. Minister of State for European Affairs, Helen McEntee TD, represents Ireland at GAC.

Good Friday Agreement

The Good Friday Agreement, or the Belfast Agreement, was agreed on 10 April 1998 after multi-party negotiations and is regarded as a cornerstone of the peace process in Northern Ireland. It established a commitment “to partnership, equality and mutual respect as the basis of relationships within Northern Ireland, between North and South, and between these [Ireland and Great Britain] islands”. The Irish government, the EU, and the UK government have all committed to protecting the Good Friday Agreement in the Brexit negotiations.

Great Repeal Bill

Details of the ‘Great Repeal Bill’ were first published by the UK government the day after Article 50 was triggered, 30 March 2017. The bill is now often referred to as the Withdrawal Bill and is currently being debated in the Houses of Parliament under its formal title of the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill. Effectively it seeks to copy EU law into UK law, meaning



that after the UK's withdrawal from the EU, all EU laws would remain in force as UK law, unless these laws are amended or repealed by the UK Parliament.

Greenland

The case of Greenland's withdrawal from the European Communities is sometimes cited as an example of how complex the UK's withdrawal negotiations may be. Greenland, as part of Denmark, joined the European Communities at the same time as both Ireland and the UK on 1 January 1973, despite voting against membership in the 1972 Danish referendum on the matter. A decade later, and following the establishment of the Greenland Home Rule Arrangement in 1979, Greenland voted to leave the European Communities in 1982. Denmark resultantly notified the Council of the EU of Greenland's decision to leave the European Communities, suggesting that the Communities' rules 'cease to apply' to Greenland. The withdrawal treaty, just seven pages in length, took three years to negotiate.

Guidelines

The European Council, the leaders of the EU countries, agree guidelines for the Brexit negotiations at European Council Summits. These guidelines are used to set the priorities of the EU in the negotiations and outline the EU's position on a range of matters discussed in the Brexit negotiations.



H

Hard vs Soft Brexit

Depending on the outcome of the negotiations, Brexit could take varying forms. Supporters of a so-called ‘hard’ Brexit envisage the UK leaving the EU Single Market and the EU Customs Union entirely, possibly conducting trade under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. Those in favour of a ‘soft’ Brexit would prefer the UK to retain certain elements of EU membership (e.g. membership of the Single Market and/or the Customs Union).

Haulage

There are concerns that Brexit could affect the transportation of Irish exports to the European continent, many of which are transited through the UK. Approximately 80 per cent of Irish road freight headed to mainland Europe passes first through the UK, and within the Irish road haulage industry there is an apprehension that changes to the EU-UK relationship may affect the viability of this route.



I

Irish4Europe

The 'Irish4Europe' campaign was a civic campaign, run by Irish people in the United Kingdom campaigning for a vote to Remain in the EU referendum. Irish4Europe had three key aims for Irish people living in the UK, which were "to know they can vote, to register to vote, and to vote 'Remain' in the European Union referendum". Today, Irish4Europe highlights the concerns of Irish people living in the UK in relation to Brexit.

Irish Government Brexit Priorities

In May 2017, the Irish government issued a statement on its Brexit preparations in which it outlined its priorities for the negotiations. Those priorities were: minimising the impact of Brexit on trade and the economy; protecting the peace process and the Good Friday Agreement; maintaining the Common Travel Area; and securing Ireland's future in a strong EU. To keep citizens informed of its engagement work on Brexit, the Irish government offers a 'Brexit Update' service which provides regular email updates on the latest government developments regarding Brexit.



J

Johnson (Boris)

Boris Johnson is a Member of Parliament (MP) for Uxbridge and South Ruislip and is the UK's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Mr Johnson campaigned for the UK to leave the EU. He has said that he believes that Brexit “will allow the United Kingdom to engage with the world in a way that [it] hasn't been able to do for 43 years”.

Joint Report

The Joint Report from the EU and UK negotiators on progress made during phase one of the negotiations was published on 8 December 2017. It sets out joint commitments agreed in order to facilitate an ‘orderly withdrawal’ of the UK from the EU. The Joint Report formed the basis of the European Council's decision to agree that ‘sufficient progress’ had been made in phase one of the negotiations and the agreed commitments were subsequently reflected in the draft Withdrawal Agreement published by the European Commission. Article 49 of the Joint Report sets out EU-UK agreements on the avoidance of a hard border on the island of Ireland.



Juncker (Jean-Claude)

Jean-Claude Juncker has been the President of the European Commission since the current mandate began in 2014. He has stated that he will not seek a second term when the mandate ends in 2019. A former Prime Minister of Luxembourg, President Juncker was nominated for the position under the ‘Spitzenkandidaten’ process by the European People’s Party (EPP – the European Parliament political group of which he is a member). European Movement Ireland has published an ‘explainer’ on the Spitzenkandidaten process.

Just the Facts

In the lead up to the UK’s referendum on EU membership, European Movement Ireland published a series of ‘Just the Facts’ on the referendum which covered topics such as voting methods, the designated official campaigns for the referendum, and opinion polls. European Movement Ireland’s ‘Just the Facts’ series offers clear and concise briefings on the latest European and Irish news headlines. Factual and to the point, Just the Facts briefings are designed to bring the reader up-to-speed on key international issues.



K

Kenny (Enda)

Enda Kenny TD served as Taoiseach from 9 March 2011 to 14 June 2017. He represented Ireland at the European Council during this time, including at the European Council in April 2017 when draft guidelines for the first phase of the Brexit negotiations were agreed by EU27 leaders. On 24 June 2016, after the UK's vote to leave the EU, Mr Kenny made a speech setting out the Irish government's plans to deal with the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Kerr (Lord)

Lord Kerr of Kinlochard (John Olav Kerr) is a former diplomat who served as the UK's Permanent Representative to the European Union from 1990 to 1995. Lord Kerr is known for his part in drafting the text of Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union in 2003. Since the UK voted to leave the EU, Lord Kerr has expressed regret that the UK has used the withdrawal mechanism he helped to create, saying he had never expected it to.



Key Dates

- 23 June 2016: Polling day for the UK referendum on EU membership.
- 29 March 2017: Article 50 triggered by UK Prime Minister Theresa May.
- 19 June 2017: Article 50 negotiations between EU and UK officially start in Brussels.
- 19-20 October 2017: European Council Summit at which a decision was made that there was not yet 'sufficient progress' on the issues of citizens' rights, the financial settlement and Ireland in the first phase of negotiations.
- 8 December 2017: Publication of Joint Report from the EU and UK negotiators on progress made during phase one of the negotiations, setting out joint commitments which had been made to facilitate the UK's 'orderly withdrawal' from the EU.
- 14-15 December 2017: European Council Summit at which the EU27 agreed that 'sufficient progress' had been made in the first phase of the negotiations on the basis of the European Commission's recommendation as EU negotiator and the Joint Report from the EU and UK negotiators.
- 29 January 2018: European Commission receives mandate from the Council of the EU to allow negotiations to begin on possible transitional arrangements following the UK's 'orderly withdrawal' from the EU.
- 28 February 2018: Publication by the European Commission of the draft Withdrawal Agreement on the withdrawal of the UK from the EU and European Atomic Energy Community, which includes a Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.
- 22-23 March 2018: European Council Summit where the EU27 leaders are set to agree guidelines for the negotiations on the framework of the future relationship between the EU and UK.
- October 2018: The month by which EU Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier has stated that Article 50 negotiations should be concluded.
- 29 March 2019: The deadline set for the UK's departure from the EU, two years after Article 50 was triggered.



L

Lancaster House Speech

On 17 January 2017, in a speech at Lancaster House in London, UK Prime Minister Theresa May outlined twelve priorities of the UK government for the Brexit negotiations including a free trade agreement with the EU, continuing cooperation on defence, and maintaining the Common Travel Area with Ireland. She also stated that the UK would be leaving the EU Single Market and not seeking full membership of the EU Customs Union.

Laws (EU)

The European Parliament Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL) estimated that at the beginning of 2017, there were 20,833 EU rules and regulations in effect which applied to the UK and would have to be scrutinised in the negotiations.

Leave Campaign

The campaign for the UK to leave the EU was led by Vote Leave, guided by Chief Executive Matthew Elliott and Campaign Director, Dominic Cummings. Vote Leave was designated as the official campaign by the UK's Electoral Commission on 13 April 2017. Other Leave campaigns included Leave.EU, founded by Aaron Banks and Richard Tice.



M

Mansion House Speech

On 2 March 2018, UK Prime Minister Theresa May delivered the second of two Brexit speeches in as many weeks. In an address at Mansion House in London, Prime Minister May set out ‘five tests’ for the negotiations and outlined her vision for a future economic partnership between the UK and EU.

May (Theresa)

Theresa May is the Prime Minister of the UK, having succeeded David Cameron in July 2016 following his resignation after the UK’s referendum on EU membership. She is a Member of Parliament (MP) for Maidenhead and campaigned to Remain in the UK’s EU referendum. Prime Minister May delivered a speech at Lancaster House, London on 17 January 2017 setting out the UK government’s twelve priorities for Brexit. After gaining parliamentary approval, she signed the letter to trigger Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union on 29 March 2017. She called a snap general election on 18 April 2017.



McEntee (Helen)

Helen McEntee TD is the Irish Minister of State for European Affairs. After the Council of the EU adopted negotiating directives for discussions on transitional arrangements, Minister McEntee thanked “EU partners again for their support and solidarity on Ireland's specific concerns” and also underlined “Ireland's wish to see the closest possible relationship between the EU and the UK”.

Movement (Freedom of)

Freedom of Movement is one of the ‘four freedoms’ of the EU and gives EU citizens the right to live and work in any EU Member State. Freedom of movement was a key issue in the UK’s EU referendum campaign and continues to be important in the negotiations. EU Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier has emphasised that there can be no ‘cherry picking’ in regards to full access to the Single Market, suggesting that the UK would have to agree to continued freedom of movement to remain in it.



N

No Deal

The term ‘no deal’ refers to a potential situation in which the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement in place. There are conflicting views as to what this would mean in practice, but the UK’s Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, David Davis, has said that without a withdrawal agreement, the UK would be likely to trade with the EU under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. Prime Minister Theresa May has previously said that “no deal would be better than a bad deal” for the UK.

Northern Ireland EU Referendum Result/Turnout

Leave: 44.2 per cent

Remain: 55.8 per cent

Turnout: 62.7 per cent

North/South Co-operation

North/South co-operation on the island of Ireland is provided for in the Good Friday Agreement. Much of this co-operation is underpinned by Ireland’s and the UK’s joint membership of the EU. A mapping exercise by EU and UK negotiators revealed 142 areas of North/South co-operation where EU law is relevant. This includes areas such as: environmental protection; the Single Electricity Market; agriculture and fisheries;



telecommunications; higher education; and transport. The EU and UK have committed to continuing to support North/South co-operation after Brexit.

Norway Model

The term 'Norway model' refers to a potential situation in which the UK would model the terms of its withdrawal from the EU on Norway's relationship with the EU. Essentially, this would mean that the UK would leave the EU but remain part of the Single Market via membership of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which allows access to the Single Market via the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement. Norway is outside the EU Customs Union, which means it can negotiate its own trade deals, but it is required to maintain the EU's four freedoms and comply with EU legislation as it is within the Single Market.



0

Opinion Polls

In the lead up to the UK's referendum on its membership of the EU, polls were conducted across the UK with a view to predicting the result of the vote. According to a post-referendum analysis by UK polling agency YouGov, while several pollsters were predicting a vote to leave the EU in the weeks leading up to the referendum, the majority of pollsters predicted a vote to remain in the EU immediately prior to the referendum.

Options A, B and C

Options A, B and C refer to the three possible options set out in Article 49 of the Joint Report for the avoidance of a hard border on the island of Ireland. Option A is the avoidance of a hard border to protect North/South co-operation through the future EU-UK relationship, which can only be agreed after the Withdrawal Agreement is in place. Option B requires the UK to propose specific solutions which would viably address the unique circumstances on the island of Ireland. Option C is that the UK would “maintain full alignment with those rules of the Single Market and the Customs Union which support North/South co-operation, the All-Island economy and the Good Friday Agreement”.



Orderly Withdrawal

On 29 April 2017, the European Council adopted guidelines for the Article 50 negotiations. These guidelines set out three priorities for an ‘orderly withdrawal’ of the UK from the EU “so as to reduce uncertainty and, to the extent possible, minimise disruption caused by this abrupt change”. The guidelines stated that, as part of the phasing of negotiations, ‘sufficient progress’ must first be made on the priorities of an orderly withdrawal (citizens’ rights, the financial settlement and unique circumstances on the island of Ireland) before preliminary and preparatory discussions on the future relationship could begin. After the publication of the EU-UK Joint Report on 8 December 2017, the European Council concluded ‘sufficient progress’ had been made in the first phase of negotiations. The commitments in the Joint Report were converted into a draft legal text of the Withdrawal Agreement published by the European Commission on 28 February 2018.



P

Phone A Friend

'Phone A Friend' was an awareness raising campaign run by European Movement Ireland to encourage people to register to vote, and to vote, in the UK's EU referendum. The campaign was aimed at two distinct groups: Irish-born people living in the UK and British citizens living in Ireland. The campaign took the form of various graphics, which people could use on their own online profiles, as well as postcards which could be sent to relatives reminding them to register. It reached nearly 3,500,000 people in Britain, and nearly 1,000,000 in Ireland.

Pound £

In the immediate aftermath of the UK's vote to leave the EU, the value of the British pound fell against the euro. The pound fell from £1 to €1.31 in June 2016 immediately prior to the referendum, to €1.16 on the day Article 50 was triggered.

Priorities

On 29 April 2017, the European Council adopted guidelines for the Article 50 negotiations. These guidelines set out three priorities for the first phase of the negotiations. The guidelines stated that, as part of the phasing of negotiations, 'sufficient progress' must first be made on the priorities of citizens' rights, the financial settlement and unique circumstances on the island of Ireland before discussions on the framework of the future EU-UK relationship could begin.



Protocol

The Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland in the draft Withdrawal Agreement published by the European Commission converts into legal text the safeguard, or 'Backstop', agreed between the EU and the UK in December to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland and protect the Good Friday Agreement. The Protocol translates Option C of the Joint Report, which is that the UK would "maintain full alignment with those rules of the Single Market and the Customs Union which support North/South co-operation, the All-Island economy and the Good Friday Agreement", into legal text.



Q

Queen's Speech

It is customary following a UK general election for the Sovereign to present in the House of Lords at the State Opening of Parliament. On 21 June 2017, following the snap election on 8 June 2017, Queen Elizabeth II gave a speech declaring the priorities of the minority Conservative government for the coming year. The speech outlined eight Brexit-related bills that the government hopes to introduce, including bills on immigration, customs, and trade arrangements. The speech also declared the government's intention to introduce the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.



R

Remain Campaign

The campaign in favour of the UK remaining in the EU was headed by advocacy group ‘Britain Stronger In Europe’, which was declared the official Remain campaign by the UK Electoral Commission on 13 April 2016 and led by Executive Director, Will Straw. The campaign’s core message was that the referendum represented a choice between “economic security and global influence as part of the EU, or a leap in the dark”. European Movement UK campaigned for a vote to Remain, led by then Chair, Laura Sandys.

Resolution

The European Parliament has adopted three resolutions on Brexit so far. Resolutions are prepared by the European Parliament’s Brexit Steering Group, chaired by Guy Verhofstaft MEP, and set out the European Parliament’s position on issues discussed in the Brexit negotiations. The European Parliament will have a vote on whether to accept or reject the Withdrawal Deal.



Rights (Citizens' Rights)

Citizens' rights are the rights and protections afforded to European Union citizens under EU law. They include the right to free movement, settlement and employment anywhere in the EU and to be treated on an equal footing with nationals of that EU country. In the Joint Report from the EU and UK negotiators in December 2017, both sides agreed that the rights of EU citizens living in the UK, and UK citizens living in the EU27, should remain the same after the UK has left the EU.

Rights (EU Charter of Fundamental Rights)

The Charter of Fundamental Rights brings together all the personal, civic, political, economic and social rights enjoyed by people within the EU in a single text. It became legally binding on the EU with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. It is the UK government's plan that the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill will exclude the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and on 16 January 2018, Members of Parliament (MPs) voted against a Labour Party amendment that sought to retain the provisions in the Charter.



S

Scotland EU Referendum Result/Turnout

Leave: 38.0 per cent

Remain: 62.0 per cent

Turnout: 67.2 per cent

Scottish National Party (SNP)

The Scottish National Party (SNP), led by Nicola Sturgeon who is the First Minister of Scotland, is the largest political party in the Scottish Parliament and the third largest by membership in the UK. Ms Sturgeon has stated that “no matter how it happens, Brexit will have a profound, long-lasting and damaging effect on our economy and our society. Our analysis shows that by far the best option, short of remaining in the EU, is to remain in the Single Market and the Customs Union”. The SNP also supports Scottish independence from the UK and in March 2017, Ms Sturgeon called for a second referendum on Scottish independence to take place before the UK leaves the EU. Following the UK snap general election in June 2017, in which the SNP lost 21 of its 56 seats in Parliament, Ms Sturgeon postponed plans for a second Scottish independence vote.



Single Market

The Single Market, also known as the Internal Market, refers to the European Union as a territory without internal borders or barriers to the free movement of goods and services. Effectively, the Single Market aims to make it as easy to trade between Cork and Copenhagen, as it is to trade between Limerick and Letterkenny. UK Prime Minister Theresa May has stated that the UK plans to leave the Single Market as not to do so would mean “not leaving the EU at all”.

Snap General Election

On 18 April 2017, UK Prime Minister Theresa May called a snap general election in the UK. The election took place on 8 June 2017. With 46,843,896 votes cast, turnout at the elections was 68.7 per cent. The UK electorate returned a hung parliament, with no single political party reaching the 326 seat threshold required to gain an outright majority. The ruling Conservative Party lost 13 seats in the election but subsequently negotiated a confidence and supply agreement with Northern Ireland’s Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) in order to form a government. As part of our ‘Just the Facts’ series, European Movement Ireland published an informative article on the election.

Strong Qualified Majority Voting

Any withdrawal agreement negotiated between the EU and UK will have to be approved by the European Council through a ‘strong qualified majority’ vote. At least 72 per cent of Member State leaders will have to agree to the agreement, which would amount to 20 of the 27 EU countries after the UK leaves. These countries will need to make up at least 65 per cent of the population of the EU, or account for around 290 million people of the EU’s population without the UK. The final deal must also receive the consent of a simple majority of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).



Sufficient Progress

The European Council guidelines for the negotiations state that, in the phasing of the negotiations, ‘sufficient progress’ must first be made on the issues of citizens’ rights, the financial settlement and the unique situation on the island of Ireland before negotiations can progress to discussing the future relationship between the EU and UK. The guidelines state that the European Council “will monitor progress closely and determine when sufficient progress has been achieved to allow negotiations to proceed to the next phase”. At the European Council Summit on 14-15 December 2017, a decision was made by the EU27 leaders that ‘sufficient progress’ had been made to proceed to the second phase of negotiations.



T

Tajani (Antonio)

Antonio Tajani is the President of the European Parliament, having been elected to the position in January 2017. President Tajani sits in the European People’s Party (EPP) political group. In March 2017, then-Taoiseach Enda Kenny travelled to Brussels to meet with President Tajani to discuss the impact of Brexit on the island of Ireland. Following the meeting, President Tajani said that “Brexit will be a particular challenge for Ireland and its people”.

Tariff

A tariff is a tax imposed on imports or exports between countries. In the EU Customs Union, members agree to apply the same tariffs to goods from outside the Customs Union, known as a common external tariff. Once goods have cleared customs in one country, they can be transported to others in the Customs Union without further tariffs being applied.

Task Force on Article 50 Negotiations with the United Kingdom

The Task Force on Article 50 Negotiations with the United Kingdom (also known as TF50) is a service department of the European Commission. It was set up to prepare and conduct the negotiations with the UK on the terms of its withdrawal from the European Union. It is headed by Chief Negotiator, Michel Barnier, and Deputy Chief Negotiator, Sabine Weyand.



Third Country

The term 'third country' refers to those countries which are not members of the EU. It is used in EU Treaties and this meaning stems from the fact that these countries are not party to an agreement between two other countries (i.e. countries of the EU). The UK will become a third country when it leaves the EU on 29 March 2019.

Transitional Arrangements

The term 'transitional arrangements' refers to a potential period (following the end of the Article 50 negotiations) between the ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement and any agreement on the future relationship between the EU and UK. Such transitional agreements would allow for the effective bridging of the gap between these two separate but related agreements. On 29 January 2018, the Council of the EU agreed negotiating directives for the transitional arrangements which would see the UK leave the EU. Under these directives, the UK would relinquish its voting rights but stay within the Single Market and the Customs Union for transition, as well as remaining under the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice (ECJ).

Treaties

Along with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Treaty on European Union (TEU) forms the basis of European Union law and sets out the powers of the EU. The Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force in 2009, amended both the TEU and TFEU, updating these Treaties. Article 50 of the TEU, which provides the formal mechanism by which a Member State may leave the EU, was included in EU law for the first time with the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty.



Tusk (Donald)

Donald Tusk is the President of the European Council. President Tusk sits in the European People's Party (EPP) political group in the European Parliament. Following the UK Government's triggering of Article 50 in March 2017, President Tusk outlined the EU's negotiating position, saying "In these negotiations the Union will act as one. It will be constructive throughout and will strive to find an agreement. This is in the best interest of both sides". He is a former Prime Minister of Poland.



U

United Kingdom EU Referendum Results/Turnout

Leave: 51.9 per cent

Remain: 48.1 per cent

Turnout: 72.2 per cent

United Kingdom Independence Party

The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) was founded in 1993 to campaign for the UK's withdrawal from the EU. UKIP was led by Nigel Farage, who is a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), from 2006 to 2009 and again from 2010 to 2016. Although it was not part of the official Leave campaign, UKIP played a prominent role in campaigning for the UK to leave the EU. In the 2014 European Parliament elections, UKIP gained the highest number of UK seats, returning 24 of the 73 MEPs.

United Kingdom Supreme Court

In January 2017, following an appeal by the UK government, the UK's Supreme Court upheld the ruling that the government required parliamentary approval to invoke Article 50. This necessitated a bill to be passed in the UK Parliament to allow the government to invoke Article 50. Following debate in both Houses of the UK Parliament, and after the House of Lords had voted down two amendments, the 'Brexit Bill' was passed. This gave Prime Minister Theresa May the power to invoke Article 50, thereby giving notice of the UK's exit from the EU, which she did on 29 March 2017.



V

Varadkar (Leo)

Leo Varadkar TD became Taoiseach on 14 June 2017, becoming Ireland’s youngest ever Taoiseach. On 17 January 2018, the Taoiseach addressed the European Parliament and said that “For us [Ireland], Europe enabled our transformation from being a country on the periphery, to an island at the centre of the world, at the heart of the common European home that we helped to build”. Mr Varadkar represents Ireland at the European Council.

Verhofstadt (Guy)

Guy Verhofstadt is a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and current leader of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) political group. In September 2016, Mr Verhofstadt was appointed the European Parliament’s Chief Brexit Coordinator and Chair of European Parliament’s Brexit Steering Group. Mr Verhofstadt’s role is to keep the European Parliament Conference of Presidents (comprising the European Parliament President and political group leaders) informed of developments and to help prepare the European Parliament position in the negotiations.



W

Wales EU Referendum Result/Turnout

Leave: 52.5%

Remain: 47.5%

Turnout: 71.7%

Weyand (Sabine)

Sabine Weyand is the European Commission's Deputy Chief Negotiator for Brexit. Ms Weyand has spent more than two decades working in the European Commission and has previously played key roles in the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations with the United States and the successful Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) negotiations with Canada.

Withdrawal Agreement

A withdrawal agreement setting out the terms of the UK's exit from the EU must be agreed and ratified by both the EU and UK by 29 March 2019. The purpose of the Withdrawal Agreement is to disentangle the existing EU-UK relationship and provide for an 'orderly withdrawal' of the UK from the EU. On 28 February 2018, the European Commission published the draft Withdrawal Agreement based on joint commitments reached between the EU and UK in the first phase of negotiations.



World Trade Organisation (WTO)

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is an intergovernmental organisation that regulates international trade by providing a framework for negotiating trade agreements as well as a dispute resolution process. The dispute resolution process is aimed at ensuring trading countries' compliance with WTO agreements, which are negotiated and signed by those countries. In the potential scenario of a 'no deal' Brexit, the UK and the EU could revert to trading with each other under WTO rules. Trade between Ireland and the UK under WTO rules could mean that some agri-food products would face tariffs of over 50 per cent.



X

Xenophobia

In October 2016, the BBC reported that according to figures published by the UK's Home Office, incidents of racist or religious abuse recorded by police had increased by 41 per cent in the month after the UK's vote to leave the EU. In addition, a report by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (a human rights body of the Council of Europe, which is a separate organisation to the EU) documented that there had been “an increase in xenophobic sentiment” in the UK following the referendum.

Y

Youth Vote

According to polling data from YouGov, approximately 75 per cent of voters between the ages of 18 and 24 voted to remain in the European Union in the UK referendum. Research carried out by the London School of Economics (LSE) suggested that voter turnout among this demographic was around 64 per cent.



Z

Zero Hour

The United Kingdom is set to formally leave the European Union on 29 March 2019, two years after Article 50 was triggered. This means that on the day this booklet is published (19 March 2018), there are 375 days remaining until Brexit is due to come into effect.



Further Information

Get In Touch

If you have any comments on this A-Z guide, we'd love to hear from you. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate and we'll be constantly updating the guide online as the Brexit negotiations develop. So, if you have noticed any error or omission please let us know by contacting info@europeanmovement.ie.



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