



Global Trade News Alert Belgium

Brexit: EU Summit outcome

Introduction

At the European Council Meetings on 28-29 June 2018, the European ministers discussed the progress on Brexit negotiations. The Summit was the last joint gathering before the European Council meets again on 18 October 2018, repeatedly marked as the due date for an agreement by EU chief negotiator Barnier.

Before the Summit: joint statement

In preparation of the Summit, the UK and the EU-27 presented a joint statement in the form of a [document](#), indicating progress made since the [colour-coded version](#) of the draft Withdrawal Agreement, published on 19 March 2018. The parties indicate that there are multiple outstanding issues, inter alia on geographical indications and the treatment of ongoing police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters. Moreover, the protocols to the Withdrawal Agreement – inter alia on the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland – remain a subject of further discussion.

Conclusions adopted by the European Council

The European Council welcomes the progress made on parts of the legal text of the draft Withdrawal Agreement. The Council takes note that other important aspects still need to be agreed upon and expresses its concern that substantial progress is yet to be made on agreeing a backstop solution for Ireland / Northern Ireland.

Next to the Withdrawal Agreement, the parties will have to agree on a political declaration on the future relationship between the UK and the EU-27, which can only be concluded once the UK has become a third country. The European Council stresses that work must be accelerated with a view to prepare this political declaration. According to the Council, this requires further clarity as well as realistic and workable proposals from the UK regarding its position on the future relationship.

Conclusions

In its conclusions to the Summit, the European Council renews its call upon all stakeholders to intensify their work on preparedness at all levels and for all outcomes.

Taking into account the 29 March 2019 deadline, businesses should be aware of the potential impacts of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Deloitte's Global Trade Advisory specialists are readily available to provide additional insight regarding the above, and support businesses with the required technology tools to ensure Brexit readiness.

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