

BREXIT BRIEF



Brexit Brief Issue 70: 11 September 2019



Introduction

The Brief seeks to provide up-to-date information on the progress and content of the UK-EU negotiations, and bring together relevant statements and policy positions from key players in Ireland, the UK and EU.

The Brief is part of a wider communications programme covering the work of the IIEA's UK Project Group – including commentaries, speeches, texts and event reports – which are highlighted on the Institute's website.

(www.iiea.com)

Section One: State of Play

Scottish Court Rules that the prorogation of Parliament was unlawful

On Wednesday, 11 September 2019, Scottish appeal court judges declared Boris Johnson's decision to suspend parliament in the run-up to the October Brexit deadline to be unlawful.

The suspension of parliament was justified as necessary to give the new administration time to prepare a new legislative programme to be contained in a Queen's Speech to be delivered on 14 October, just five days before the scheduled meeting of the European Council in Brussels, which has been seen as crucial in the search for a new Brexit deal. This would provide MPs with very little time to debate before the 31 October Withdrawal date.

Legal challenges by opposition campaigners and MPs were immediately launched in England, Scotland and

Northern Ireland. All three courts initially ruled in favour of the Government, but an appeal in Scotland has yielded a significant victory for MPs opposed to the Government's plans.

A panel of three judges, chaired by Lord Carloway, Scotland's most senior judge, overturned the earlier ruling that the courts did not have the power to interfere in the prime minister's political decision to prorogue parliament.

Most remarkably, the summary of the decision released to the media stated explicitly that the advice given to the Queen by the Prime Minister was misleading, and that "styming parliament" in the run-up to the 31 October withdrawal date was the true motivation behind the request to prorogue parliament:

The Inner House of the Court of Session has ruled that the Prime Minister's advice to HM the Queen that the United Kingdom Parliament should be prorogued from a day between 9 and 12 September

until 14 October was unlawful because it had the purpose of stymying Parliament.

[...]

All three First Division judges have decided that the PM's advice to HM the Queen is justiciable, that it was motivated by the improper purpose of stymying Parliament and that it, and what has followed from it, is unlawful.

The court has not issued a judgement on whether Parliament should be recalled, and Mr Johnson's Government has already launched an appeal.

Opposition parties, including Labour, the SNP and the Liberal Democrats, have called for Parliament to be immediately recalled, and several high-profile figures in British politics have called for the Prime Minister to resign if it transpires that he deliberately misled the Queen. Among them was Dominic Grieve QC MP, a former UK Attorney General who was stripped of the whip after voting against the Government last week. Mr Grieve said:

If it were to be the case that the government had misled the Queen about the reasons for suspending parliament, and the motives for it, that would be a very serious matter indeed. Indeed, in my view, it would then be the moment for Mr Johnson to resign, and very swiftly.

The UK Government's appeal is expected to be heard by the Supreme Court next week.

Cross-Party Response to Prorogation of Parliament – MPs take control of the Agenda

Previously, in the wake of the Prime Minister's decision to prorogue Parliament, an immediate cross-party reaction to the move was started. A six-party meeting, convened by Jeremy Corbyn, agreed to pursue legislation aimed at stopping the Government taking the UK out of the EU without an agreement on 31 October. The parties involved were Labour, the Scottish National Party, Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru, Greens and the Independent Group for Change. The first agreement was on seeking an emergency Commons debate and a motion giving the

House control of the agenda, allowing the introduction of legislation to force the Prime Minister into asking for another extension to the Article 50 process.

MPs opposed to a no-deal Brexit then called an emergency debate on 3 September to take control of the House of Commons on the following day in order to block no-deal. With 328 votes to 301, they won with a comfortable majority of 27 MPs — a 52 per cent majority, in fact, mirroring the outcome of the 2016 referendum on Brexit.

As many as 21 Conservative MPs rebelled and supported the move, including some of the party's most senior figures, among them Ken Clarke, the father of the Commons who has been a Tory MP since 1970 and served as Chancellor; Philip Hammond, another former Chancellor; Greg Clark, former Business Secretary; David Gauke, former Justice Secretary; and Rory Stewart, former International Development Secretary.

The Government acted immediately to remove the party whip from the 21 rebels, thus creating a minority administration. The Prime Minister was urged by moderates in the party to overturn the expulsions, one minister arguing that "We've got to bring them back if we want to win the coming election." Two of those arguing this case – Amber Rudd and the Prime Minister's brother, Jo Johnson – have since announced their resignations from Government.

European Union (Withdrawal) (No.6) Bill

Having gained control of the Commons agenda, opponents of a no-deal outcome introduced the European Union (Withdrawal) (No.6) Bill which provides that if the Government has not reached an agreement with the European Union by 19 October 2019 the Prime Minister must seek to obtain from the European Council an extension of the departure date from 31 October to 31 January 2020. On 4 September, the House of Commons voted by 327 to 299 to approve the Bill which moved on to the House of Lords for consideration.

The House of Lords agreed to deal with the matter urgently and approved the European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 6) Bill at third reading without a formal vote. It went through its final stages in the Lords without amendment and was returned to the Commons in advance of receiving royal assent, thereby completing all stages required to become law.

The Prime Minister described the Bill as “surrender” and told journalists that he would “rather be dead in a ditch” than go to Brussels to ask for a “pointless” delay. He has spoken of the legislation as obliging him only “in theory” to seek the delay, provoking MPs to prepare legal action to ensure enforcement of the legislation. The former Deputy PM, David Lidington said that “Defying any law sets a really dangerous precedent”.

Prime Minister’s Call for Election defeated

On 4 September – following the vote on the no-deal Bill - the Prime Minister introduced a Motion under the Fixed-Term Parliaments Act to permit the calling of a General Election, in the hope of securing a Commons majority and permitting him to move on Brexit without effective opposition. Under the terms of the Act a majority of two-thirds of the Commons membership – a threshold of 434 – is required to bring about an election. The House voted in favour of the proposal by 298 to 56, thus falling far short of the required vote. The opposition parties made it clear that they would not agree to an early election until the No.6 Bill was approved and given Assent.

Negotiations with the European Union

Prime Minister Johnson has promised a high level of activity in Brussels with a view to securing a deal and has argued that his “powers of persuasion” will produce a positive outcome. His Biarritz meetings with Chancellor Merkel, President Macron and Council President Tusk have been represented as providing an opening for agreement on the backstop and other crucial issues, including the so-called divorce settlement. The UK lead

negotiator, David Frost, has entered into twice-weekly discussions with the Barnier Task Force.

Controversy exists over the nature and intensity of David Frost’s interaction with the Brussels experts, with the criticism being made that nothing substantive or new has emerged from the UK side. In particular the EU position is that it awaits a clear indication from London of alternative solutions to replace the backstop. Michel Barnier has insisted that “The backstop is the maximum amount of flexibility that the EU can offer to a non-member state.” There is also controversy about the £39 billion financial settlement which, Boris Johnson has said, will not be paid in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

In her resignation letter, Amber Rudd stated that she no longer believed that leaving with a deal is the Government’s main objective. She was aware of the expenditure of a lot of energy preparing for no deal but she had not seen “the same level of intensity go into our talks with the European Union.”

[Section Two: The Evolving Debate](#)

Taoiseach and Prime Minister Meet in Dublin, 9 September 2019

The Taoiseach and the UK Prime Minister met for the first time at Government Buildings on Monday 9 September. They addressed a brief press conference before commencing discussions on the situation arising from the prospect of UK departure from the EU on 31 October.

Leo Varadkar said that, for the Irish Government, having no backstop in the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement was the same as having no deal. He said there was no such thing as a clean break, and that the story of Brexit will not end when the UK leaves the EU, either at the end of October or at the end of January: “We will have to get back to the negotiating table. When we do, the first and only items on the agenda will be citizens’ rights, the financial settlement and the Irish border. All the issues we had resolved in the

withdrawal agreement we made with your predecessor. An agreement made in good faith by 28 governments. It's going to be tough dealing with issues ranging from tariffs to fishing rights, product standards and State aid. It will then have to be ratified by 31 parliaments."

Mr Varadkar insisted that the backstop was a critical component of the Withdrawal Agreement, and that Ireland could not agree to replace what is a formal, legal guarantee with a promise: "We are open to all alternatives legally workable, but we have not received such to date." He concluded that "The Good Friday Agreement is the best example to show that old foes can come together and as co-guarantors of that agreement."

The UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, said he wants a Brexit deal by 18 October and that he is undaunted by attempts by the British parliament to block a no-deal exit. "I'm absolutely undaunted by whatever may take place in parliament [...] I think what the British people want us to do is to deliver a deal and to get on and take us out on October 31st. There are two tasks we simply have to do - we must restore Stormont and we must come out on 31 October, or else permanent damage will be done in the UK to trust in our democratic system."

He went on to state that he was bringing ideas on ways to resolve the Irish border backstop but that a breakthrough was unlikely on this occasion. "I have one message that I want to land with you today, Leo, that is I want to find a deal, I want to get a deal. Like you I've looked carefully at no-deal, I've assessed its consequences both for our country and yours. And yes, of course, we could do it, the UK could certainly get through it but be in no doubt that outcome would be a failure of statecraft for which we would all be responsible, and so, for the sake of business, and farmers, and for millions of ordinary people who are now counting on us to use our imagination and creativity to get this done, I would overwhelmingly prefer to find an agreement."

Joint Statement by the Taoiseach and Prime Minister Johnson, 9 September 2019

After the meeting between Mr Varadkar and Mr Johnson, the following joint statement was released:

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister had a positive and constructive meeting in Government Buildings this morning. This was an essential and timely opportunity for the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister to establish a relationship and a better understanding of each other's positions. They spoke privately over breakfast for more than half an hour before joining their delegations for another half hour meeting. While they agreed that the discussions are at an early stage, common ground was established in some areas although significant gaps remain. Ireland and the UK are committed to securing an agreement between the European Union and the UK, and recognise that negotiations take place through the Brussels Task Force. They also shared their commitment to the Good Friday Agreement and the restoration of the power-sharing institutions in Northern Ireland.

EU Contingency Plan

On 4 September 2019 the European Commission published a number of papers dealing with aspects of preparations for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 1 November 2019. A Press Release summarised the content:

With 8 weeks to go until the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union on 31 October 2019, the Commission has today – in its 6th Brexit preparedness Communication – reiterated its call on all stakeholders in the EU27 to prepare for a 'no-deal' scenario. In light of the continued uncertainty in the United Kingdom regarding the ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement – as agreed with the UK government in November 2018 – and the overall domestic political situation, a 'no-deal' scenario on 1 November 2019, remains a possible, although undesirable, outcome.

It is in this spirit that the European Commission has today published a detailed checklist to help those businesses that trade with the UK to make final preparations. In order to minimise disruption

to trade, all parties involved in supply chains with the UK – regardless of where they are based – should be aware of their responsibilities and the necessary formalities in cross-border trade. This builds on previous Communications and 100 stakeholder notices, which cover a broad range of sectors.

In addition to this, the Commission has proposed to the European Parliament and the Council to make targeted technical adjustments to the duration of the EU's 'no-deal' contingency measures in the area of transport. The Commission has also proposed to mirror, for the year 2020, the existing 2019 contingency arrangements for the fisheries sector and for the UK's potential participation in the EU budget for 2020. These measures are necessary given the decision to extend the Article 50 period to 31 October 2019.

Finally, the Commission has proposed that the European Solidarity Fund and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund are available to support businesses, workers and Member States most affected by a 'no-deal' scenario. These proposals need to be agreed by the European Parliament and the Council.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at British Irish Chamber of Commerce

The Taoiseach spoke to the Annual Dinner of the BICC on 5 September, noting the danger of a no-deal Brexit, while stating that the 'clean break' would not be the end of Brexit negotiations, but rather mark a new beginning. He noted that the Irish side was open to alternatives to the backstop:

Europe and division on Europe will dominate British politics for many years to come. That won't happen here, we will remain at the heart of Europe.

If there is no-deal, and I believe we may have to live with no-deal for a period, then at a certain point we will have to begin negotiations again. So Brexit is not a storm to be weathered. It is a permanent change in the political and economic environment in which the European Union and the United Kingdom will exist. I believe our future depends on making a realistic assessment and developing practical responses.

On Brexit itself, our position has been clear and consistent. Our preferred outcome is a deal on the

basis of the Withdrawal Agreement. The EU has been firm and respectful in its response that any deal must be consistent with the Withdrawal Agreement that was negotiated, in good faith, over a two-and-a-half year period by all 28 EU governments.

Avoiding the return of a hard border on this island is a Government priority in all circumstances. We must protect peace on the island and the success of the all-island economy. This is why the backstop continues to be a critical component of the Withdrawal Agreement, unless and until an alternative is found. And yes, we are open to alternatives as we always have been. But they must be realistic ones, legally binding and workable in practice. We have received no such proposals to date.

Vice President Pence in Dublin 2 September

Following talks in Dublin with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Vice President Pence told a press conference, in a prepared statement: "As the deadline for Brexit approaches, we urge Ireland and the European Union, as well, to negotiate in good faith with Prime Minister Johnson, and work to reach an agreement that respects the United Kingdom's sovereignty and minimises the disruption to commerce."

The Irish Times commented: "Pence was of course only echoing his master's voice in supporting Johnson and denigrating the EU. A central element of Trump's policy is to do everything he can to encourage the break-up of the EU. Support for the hardest possible type of Brexit is part of a strategy designed to weaken the EU and ultimately destroy it."

Irish Government Activity

On 3 September 2019 the Tánaiste briefed the Cabinet on a detailed study of the likely implications of no-deal which referred to the threat of significant job losses in the tourism and hospitality industry in the first three months after Brexit. Ministers were told of the inevitability of some checks on goods imported across the Border but that these checks would not take place at the Border. Essential protection of the country's place in the EU single market will require that checks are carried out in consultation with the EU Commission.

The latest Government Brexit Updates record the extensive series of meetings undertaken by the Tánaiste, Simon Coveney, in Prague, Paris, Helsinki and Warsaw. These visits are seen as an opportunity to further reiterate the solidarity of the EU27. The Tánaiste delivered a major speech at the MEDEF Summer School in Paris on the theme “Futures of Europe: Different Perspectives” in which he stressed the need to avoid Brexit consuming “all of our attention. We have a shared future to build that we must define together. This is a time of renewal for the EU. We must use this moment wisely and for the benefit of our citizens.”

The Updates continue to highlight the measures taken by the Government “both nationally and in conjunction with the EU, in preparation for the possibility that the UK fails to agree a deal.” Issues dealt with range from ‘travelling with your pet’ to changes in online retail and compliance with product safety legislation. Customs Workshops and Seminars and Brexit Advice Clinics are continuing nationwide.

UK Business Views

The Director General of the CBI, Carolyn Fairbairn, has argued that among businesses across the UK – “from entrepreneurs to multinationals” - there is unity on “one message for the government: strain every sinew to get a Brexit deal with the EU. Members of the CBI understand that politicians are facing desperately hard choices and want them to hear the economic evidence direct. One of the loudest messages is that no-deal Brexit is not the end of chaos for business, it’s just the beginning.”

The Bank of England has reported that Brexit has caused British companies exposed to Europe to cut investment plans significantly – on average by about 11 per cent - and has cut UK productivity by between 2 and 5 per cent.

Section Three: Background Material and Further Reading

Background Material

Merrion Street Joint Statement by the Taoiseach and Prime Minister Johnson, Dublin, 9 September 2019. https://merrionstreet.ie/en/News-Room/News/Spotlights/Joint_Statement_following_the_meeting_between_the_Taoiseach_and_UK_Prime_Minister.html

Merrion Street Statement on the Visit of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, 9 September 2019. https://merrionstreet.ie/en/News-Room/News/Spotlights/Statement_on_the_Visit_of_Prime_Minister_Boris_Johnson.html

HM Government PM press statement with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar: 9 September 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-press-statement-with-taoiseach-leo-varakar-9-septembert-2019>

HM Government Prime Minister’s Statement: 2 September 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-2-september-2019>

HM Government Prime Minister Statement on G7 Summit: 3 September 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-g7-summit-3-septembert-2019>

European Commission Brexit ‘no-deal’ preparedness: Final Commission call to all EU citizens and businesses to prepare for the UK’s withdrawal on 31 October 2019 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_5509

European Commission Brexit Preparedness Checklist for Companies Doing Business in the EU. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/brexit-preparedness-communications-checklist_v3_en.pdf

European Commission Communication: Finalising preparations for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 1 November 2019 <https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/communication-4-september-2019-finalising-preparations-withdrawal-united-kingdom-european-union-1-november-2019>

BBC Parliament to be suspended in September. BBC, 28 August 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49493632>

RTE Read: Boris Johnson's letter to MPs in full. RTE, 28 August 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/2019/0828/1071366-boris-johnson-letter-brexite>

Financial Times Johnson to suspend parliament to frustrate efforts to block no-deal Brexit. FT, 28 August 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/f138bffc-c96e-11e9-af46-b09e8bfe60c0>

RTE Johnson denies sidelining parliament over Brexit. RTE, 28 August 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/brexit/2019/0828/1071336-brexit>

Financial Times Boris Johnson shifts focus to securing a deal with Brussels. FT, 7 September 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/722e3f28-d0be-11e9-99a4-b5ded7a7fe3f>

Irish Times Tory rebels vow to defy Johnson's threats on Brexit vote. IT, 3 September 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/uk/tory-rebels-vow-to-defy-johnson-s-threats-on-brexit-vote-1.4006172>

BBC PM's brother quits as Tory MP and minister. BBC, 5 September 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49594793>

BBC Brexit: EU studies backstop while watching MPs in uproar. BBC, 3 September 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-49553654>

Financial Times Boris Johnson defeated in Brexit and election votes. FT, 5 September 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/fea40036-cf2a-11e9-99a4-b5ded7a7fe3f>

BBC Brexit: MPs willing to go to court to enforce delay. BBC, 7 September 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49618242>

The Telegraph Boris Johnson set to defy the law rather than ask for Brexit delay. Telegraph, 7 September 2019. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/09/06/boris-johnson-set-defy-law-rather-ask-brexit-delay>

Financial Times Boris Johnson faces electoral gamble despite poll lead. FT, 3 September 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/0ca93f62-cd9f-11e9-99a4-b5ded7a7fe3f>

Financial Times Boris Johnson challenges Tory rebels over no deal Brexit. FT, 21 September 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/92f6f320-cc87-11e9-b018-ca4456540ea6>

BBC Brexit: UK negotiators 'to step up tempo' on new deal talks. BBC, 30 August 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49515489>

The Guardian Scottish judge refuses to make emergency order stopping Johnson proroguing parliament. Guardian, 30 August 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/aug/30/boris-johnson-prorogue-parliament-scottish-judge>

RTE Protests and petition against suspending UK parliament. RTE, 29 August 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/brexit/2019/0829/1071539-prorogue-petition>

Financial Times Opposition groups agree legal strategy to block no-deal Brexit. FT, 28 August 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/9d0cc584-c89e-11e9-a1f4-3669401ba76f>

Financial Times The FT View. Boris Johnson's suspension of parliament is an affront to democracy. FT, 29 August 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/9dbc7852-c9b2-11e9-af46-b09e8bfe60c0>

The Guardian Boris Johnson's intention is clear: he wants a 'people v parliament' election. Guardian, 28 August 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/28/boris-johnson-election-prorogue-parliament-populist-majority>

The Telegraph Boris Johnson risks clash with Brexiteers if he only secures concessions from EU on the Irish backstop. Telegraph, 28 August 2019. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/08/27/boris-johnson-risks-clash-brexiteers-secures-concessions-eu>

Financial Times Boris Johnson prepares to face down hardline Eurosceptics. FT, 28 August 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/baadddf2-c8bd-11e9-a1f4-3669401ba76f>

BBC Brexit: Michel Barnier rejects demands for backstop to be axed. BBC, 1 September 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49540681>

RTE Michel Barnier 'not optimistic' about avoiding no-deal Brexit. RTE, 1 September 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/brexit/2019/0901/1073096-brexit>

Philip Stephens Brexit has read the rites over British conservatism. FT, 5 September 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/fbddd6d6-cf1a-11e9-99a4-b5ded7a7fe3f>

Financial Times Britain is becoming Trump's geopolitical chess piece. FT, 26 August 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/1c792f38-c4c1-11e9-ae6e-a26d1d0455f4>

Financial Times UK will refuse to pay £39bn divorce bill in no-deal Brexit. FT, 26 August 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/31341238-c725-11e9-a1f4-3669401ba76f>

The Guardian Corbyn could support pre-Brexit election to stop no deal. Guardian, 27 August 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/aug/27/jeremy-corbyn>

RTE UK will have to settle EU budget bill – Moscovici. RTE, 27 August 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/brexit/2019/0827/1071124-brexit>

Politico Experts propose alternative to Brexit backstop. Politico, 27 August 2019. <https://www.politico.eu/article/experts-propose-alternative-to-brexit-backstop-no-deal-uk-eu-ireland>

Financial Times The Brexit message from UK business is clear: get us a deal. FT, 1 September 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/12321148-cb1a-11e9-af46-b09e8bfe60c0>

Financial Times Brexit has cut UK productivity by up to 5% says BoE. FT, 31 August 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/8ab44f8c-cb2e-11e9-af46-b09e8bfe60c0>

Politico Boris Johnson is nothing like Winston Churchill, says wartime PM's grandson. Politico, 7 September 2019. <https://www.politico.eu/article/boris-johnson-is-nothing-like-winston-churchill-says-wartime-pms-grandson-nicholas-soames>

The Observer Amber Rudd quits Cabinet and attacks PM for 'political vandalism'. Observer, 8 September 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/07/amber-rudd-resigns-from-cabinet-and-surrenders-conservative-whip>

BBC PM's brother quits as Tory MP and minister. BBC, 5 September 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49594793>

Government of Ireland Government Brexit Updates, 29 August 2019 and 5 September 2019. www.gov.ie/brexit

Gov.ie Speech by An Taoiseach, British Irish Chamber of Commerce, 5 September 2019. <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/891d6d-speech-by-an-taoiseach-british-irish-chamber-of-commerce-gala-dinner>

Tánaiste Simon Coveney Speech to MEDEF Summer School: ‘Futures of Europe: Different Perspectives’, Paris, 28 August 2019. <https://www.dfa.ie/news-and-media/speeches/speeches-archive/2019/august/speech-by-tanaiste-simon-coveney-medef-summer-school-theme>

Tony Connelly Brexit: The backstop dilemma burns bright. RTE, 7 September 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/analysis-and-comment/2019/0907/1074437-backstop-brexit-boris-johnson>

RTE Johnson ‘totally unreasonable’ in backstop dispute-Coveney. RTE, 30 August 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/brexit/2019/0830/1071745-brexit>

Irish Times Brexit: Coveney meets Raab but stark differences remain on backstop. BBC, 30 August 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/brexit-coveney-meets-raab-but-stark-differences-remain-on-backstop-1.4002266>

Irish Times Coveney welcomes ‘consistent’ EU support for Brexit backstop. IT, 26 August 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/coveney-welcomes-consistent-eu-support-for-brexit-backstop-1.3997-41>

John FitzGerald The UK already has a plan that would break the Brexit backstop. IT, 30 August 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/business/economy/the-uk-already-has-a-plan-that-would-break-the-brexit-backstop-deadlock-1.4001590>

RTE No-deal more likely after UK parliament decision – McEntee. RTE, 29 August 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/brexit/2019/0829/1071567-brexit-reaction>

Irish Times The real reason Boris Johnson wants to suspend the British parliament. IT, 28 August 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/the-real-reason-boris-johnson-wants-to-suspend-the-british-parliament-1.3999855>

RTE Government will not compromise on ‘fragile’ peace process. RTE, 28 August 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/2019/0828/1071476-coveney-brexit>

Irish Times Paul Gillespie: Hard Brexiteers simply don’t know their Irish history. IT, 31 August 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/hard-brexiteers-simply-don-t-know-their-irish-history-1.4002461>

Sean Whelan Johnson’s suspension of parliament is a political stroke. RTE, 31 August 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/2019/0831/1072927-boris-johnson-parliament>

Patrick Smyth Secret report undermines UK’s backstop alternatives. IT, 4 September 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/europe/secret-report-undermines-uk-s-backstop-alternatives-1.4007543>

Irish Times Ministers taken aback by predicted scale of no-deal Brexit damage. IT, 5 September 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/ministers-taken-aback-by-predicted-scale-of-no-deal-brexit-damage-1.4008114>

Further Reading

Clark, Christopher, The Sleepwalkers. How Europe went to War in 1914. Allen Lane.

The Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) is Ireland's leading international affairs think tank. Founded in 1991, its mission is to foster and shape political, policy and public discourse in order to broaden awareness of international and European issues in Ireland and contribute to more informed strategic decisions by political, business and civil society leaders.

The IIEA is independent of government and all political parties and is a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status. In January 2017, the Global Go To Think Tank Index ranked the IIEA as Ireland's top think tank.

© Institute of International and European Affairs, September 2019

Creative Commons License

This is a human-readable summary of (and not a substitute for) the license.

[https://creativecommons.org/licenses/Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC-SA 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0))

You are free to:

- Share - copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- Adapt - remix, transform, and build upon the material
- The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.

Under the following terms:

Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

NonCommercial — You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.



The IIEA acknowledges the support of the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union



The Institute of International and European Affairs,

8 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1, Ireland

T: +353-1-8746756 F: +353-1-8786880

E: reception@iiea.com W: www.iiea.com