



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 of the TEU

Deputy Chief Negotiator

Brussels, 25/04/2017  
tf50.dgdir(2017)2309729

Dear Mr Trimmel, dear Mr Nazeer,

EU Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier thanks you for your email concerning the UK withdrawal and the future negotiations and sharing with us your concerns which we have read with interest.

Mr Barnier outlined the conditions necessary for reaching an agreement with the United Kingdom. He stressed the need for unity of the EU27. He said that the key to reaching an agreement is putting the issues in the right order. An agreement on an orderly withdrawal is a prerequisite for a good future partnership. Negotiations should begin by removing the current uncertainty surrounding the rights of EU citizens in the UK and of UK citizens in the EU. The issues of legal and budgetary commitments undertaken by the EU28 and the challenges of new external borders must also be dealt with at an early stage. Reaching a deal will also require negotiations to be conducted in a transparent manner, with the EU27 explaining their positions every step of the way to their parliaments, their public and civil society.

The Chief Negotiator also outlined principles for a new partnership with the UK. Given the UK's intention to leave the Single Market and the Customs Union, such a new partnership will never generate the same benefits as EU membership. But market access and trading will continue and will need to be based on a level playing field. He also called for a continued framework for EU-UK cooperation on security and defence. Multilateral cooperation and sustainable development are likely to be among the issues the EU and the UK will discuss in the context of the new partnership after UK withdrawal from the EU.

The remaining 27 EU Member States stand united: they wish to reach an agreement on the essential elements of the withdrawal agreement before opening discussions on the future relation. Those essential elements are that a fair deal has to be inferior to full membership, no cherry-picking of rights, reciprocity, guarantees of a level playing field and an efficient enforcement mechanism. Chief Negotiator Barnier will lead the negotiations constructively, and with the objective of succeeding.

Yours sincerely,

Sabine Weyand

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