



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 12 October 2017  
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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee  
Subject: European Council (Art. 50) (20 October 2017)  
- Draft conclusions

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*In accordance with Article 2(3)(a) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, delegations will find attached the draft conclusions prepared by the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the member of the European Council representing the Member State holding the six-monthly Presidency of the Council and with the President of the Commission.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Following the notification under Article 50 TEU, the member of the European Council or of the Council representing the withdrawing Member State shall not participate in the discussions of the European Council or Council or in decisions concerning it.

1. In the light of the first five rounds of negotiations, taking into account the assessment presented by the Union negotiator, the European Council:
  - welcomes the progress made regarding *citizens' rights* and invites the negotiator to build on the convergence achieved so as to provide the necessary legal certainty and guarantees to all concerned citizens and their family members who shall be able to exercise directly the rights protected by the withdrawal agreement, including through smooth and simple administrative procedures;
  - acknowledges that, as regards *Ireland*, there has been some progress on convergence on principles and objectives regarding protection of the Good Friday Agreement and maintenance of the Common Travel Area, and invites the Union negotiator to pursue further refinement of these principles, taking into account the major challenge that the UK's withdrawal represents, including as regards avoidance of a hard border, and therefore expecting the UK to present and commit to flexible and imaginative solutions called for by the unique situation of Ireland.
  - notes that, while the UK has stated that it will honour its *financial obligations* taken during its membership, this has not yet been translated into a firm and concrete commitment from the UK to settle all of these obligations.
2. Building on this progress, the European Council calls for work to continue with a view to consolidating the convergence achieved and pursuing negotiations in order to be able to move to the second phase of the negotiations as soon as possible.
3. At its next session in December, the European Council will reassess the state of progress in the negotiations with a view to determining whether sufficient progress has been achieved, and, if so, adopt additional guidelines in relation to the framework for the future relationship and on possible transitional arrangements which are in the interest of the Union and live up to the conditions and core principles of the guidelines of 29 April 2017. In order to be fully ready for such a scenario, the European Council invites the Council (Art. 50) together with the Union negotiator to start internal preparatory discussions.