

COMMENTARY

What now? Options for Brexit - And a cry for help

EUROPEAN MIGRATION AND DIVERSITY



Andrew Duff

Former Member of the European Parliament; Visiting fellow, European Policy Centre

Photo Credit:
REUTERS/Noah Berger237
SHARES

215



15



in 7

TWEET THIS

In this paper, Andrew Duff reviews the intended and unintended consequences of the results of last week's general election. He argues that:

1. Since both Labour and Conservatives campaigned to complete Brexit, there will be no more talk of the possible revocation of Article 50. Brexit does indeed mean Brexit.
2. Now Brexit is free from the shadow of immediate electioneering. And the new composition of the House of Commons has improved the chances that if there is an Article 50 treaty it will be approved.
3. The unintended consequence of the snap election has been to make a softer Brexit more likely. Mercifully, we should not hear again that "no deal is better than a bad deal" as a bust up of the Article 50 talks would lead to the collapse of the May government and the holding of another general election, much-feared by the Conservative party.

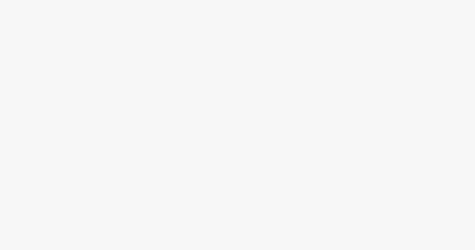
Following the outcome of last week's election, Andrew Duff analyses what needs to be done on both sides of the Channel to ensure a successful Brexit negotiation. He argues that:

1. The Article 50 talks will not and cannot succeed unless the secession treaty refers to the framework of the UK's future relationship with the EU.
- In practice, this means that Britain's future place in Europe has got to be defined and agreed during the next six to nine months.
2. The better choice for Britain would be to initially remain a member of the EU customs union until a new and deeper relationship can be negotiated. Everyone on the island of Ireland would be satisfied that the Northern Ireland border with the Republic could remain soft.
3. A "deep and special partnership" between the UK and the EU – or Accord would basically be a comprehensive free trade agreement (building on the customs union, but widened to embrace services) plus political collaboration in both internal and external security matters. A useful template is the 2014 association agreement with Ukraine.
4. Once the future framework is so defined, the transition agreement will need to do three things: to oversee the phasing out of the UK's membership obligations to the EU (and vice versa); to iron out unforeseen problems arising from Brexit but not included in the Article 50 treaty; and to prepare for whatever comes next.
5. The EU's leaders could help things along by responding positively to a reconstructed Theresa May. A friendly steer here from President Tusk and a firm pull there from.

TOPICS ➔ EMU REFORM

TAGS ➔ BREXIT EMU REFORM EU BUDGET EU BUDGET

PUBLICATIONS



DIGITAL EU / POLICY BRIEF

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit

by Iva Tasheva – 8 June 2017



BREXIT / COMMENTARY

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit

by Iva Tasheva – 8 June 2017

+ see all

CONTRIBUTIONS

MIGRATION / STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

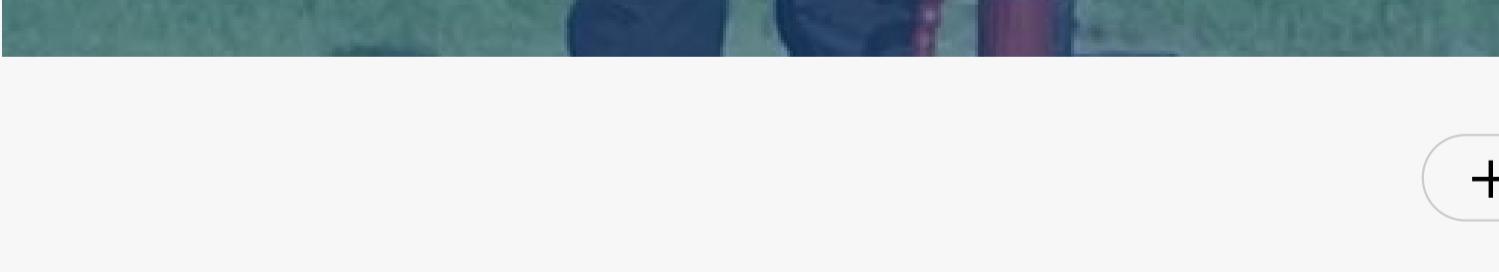
European Agenda on Migration

On 19 July 2017, Marco Funk and Katharina Bamberg participated in a stakeholder consultation organised by the European Commission on the mid-term review of the European Agenda on Migration. The consultation gathered representatives of think tanks, academia, NGOs and international organisations in order to evaluate EU actions to date and to provide policy recommendations for the second half of the Juncker Commission's term.

Mid-term review of the European Agenda on Migration
19 July 2017 – Brussels, Belgium
European Commission

+ see all

EVENTS



RADICALISATION / POLICY DIALOGUE

register

Tuesday 4 Oct.

⌚ 10:30 - 12:30

How to counter jihadist radicalisation in schools?

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT / BREAKFAST POLICY BRIEFING

Thursday 6 Sept.

Antonio Tajani
President of the European Parliament

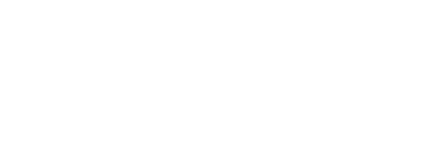
+ see all

FOUNDATION PARTNERS



King Baudouin Foundation

Working together for a better society



STIFTUNG MERCATOR



ADESSIUM FOUNDATION

The best of the EPC, right in your inbox.

Sign up for our email newsletter

enter your email

Sign up

Independence
Innovation
Impact

FOLLOW US

14-16 rue du Trône, 1000 Brussels, Belgium – Tel: +32 (0)2 231 03 40

Privacy Policy | Terms of Use | © 2017, European Policy Centre

