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Breakfast & Evening Briefing Series

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Brexit – implications for Ireland and the EU

Key questions

- Was Brexit inevitable?
- Current state of play?
- Post Brexit – a different EU?
- Future Ireland/UK relations?





Was Brexit inevitable?

- UK joined late
- Always Common Market, not a political project
- Negative attitude of some media and ruling elites
- Euro crisis turning point
- Lack of understanding of EU

State of play

- Draft Withdrawal Treaty
- Outline of future relationship
- European Council 25 November
- House of Commons vote early December
- European Parliament vote – early 2019
- Brexit – 29 March 2019



GOOD DEAL

Is it a good deal?

- EU priorities
 - Exit must mean less advantages than membership
 - Protection of the Single Market
 - No hard border Ireland/Northern Ireland
- UK priorities
 - ?

Withdrawal Treaty

- Citizen's rights
- Financial settlement
- Northern Ireland
- Gibraltar and UK bases in Cyprus
- Transition period

Future EU/EU relations

- Free trade agreement (deep and comprehensive regulatory and customs cooperation)
- Services – liberalisation beyond WTO
- Financial services – equivalence
- Digital, IPR, mobility, transport
- Fishing
- Security partnership
- cooperation on foreign and judicial affairs

What next?

- European Council 25 November
- House of Commons - December
 - Narrow yes?
 - Defeat?
 - Leadership change?
 - Election?
 - Second “people’s “ vote?
 - No deal Brexit?

YouGov opinion poll 16 November

- 45% of UK public think deal does not respect referendum
- 60% prefer to leave with this deal than no deal
- 56% prefer a second vote to this deal
- 54% prefer a second vote to no deal
- Only 27% feel a new Tory leader would get a better deal
- Half of leave voters think no deal would be a good thing



Post Brexit – a different EU?

- Increased power of Germany and France
- Euro area and EU merge over time
- More protectionist?
- Stronger social policy
- Less enthusiasm for enlargement?
- Diminished common law influence, more regulation

2019 – a complicated year

- 29 March – BREXIT
- April – start of EU/UK negotiations on new relationship
- 9 May – EU leaders meet in Romania on Future of EU
- 23-26 May – European Parliament elections
- June – new Commission President
- November – new Commission
- December – new President of the European Council



Future Ireland/UK relations?

- Fence mending
- Less regular easy contact
- Need for structures that work
- Ireland to make most of the running
- Role for business and social partners

Conclusions

- EU will reshape
- Re-assert its core values
- Move towards managed migration
- Euro consolidation
- New MFF
- Trade
- Outcome of EP elections?
- Close relationship with UK?