

#### **Breakfast & Evening Briefing Series**

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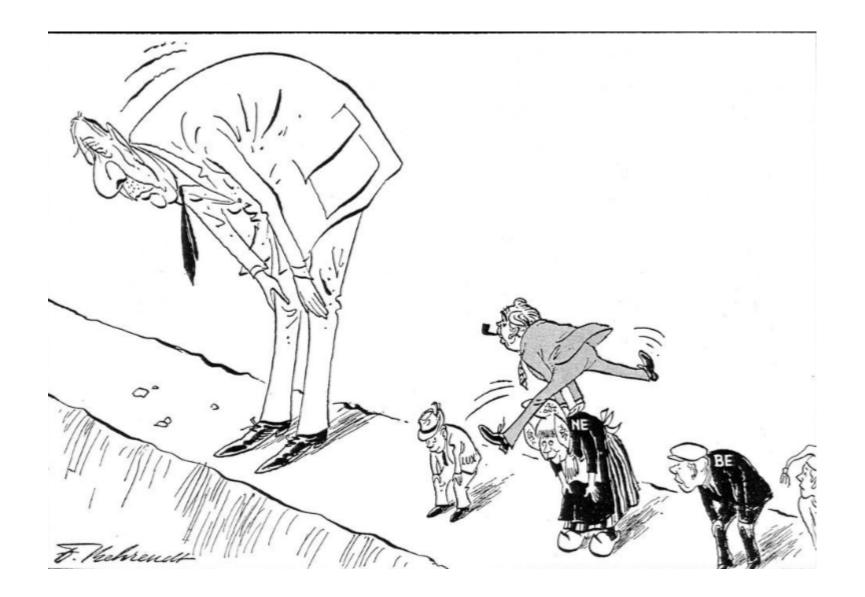
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# **Brexit – implications for Ireland and the EU**

# 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



# 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?