

Brexit : Opening of Negotiations

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On the 29 March 2017, the United Kingdom notified the European Council of their intention to withdraw from the European Union , thus beginning the implementation of Article 50 of the European Union Treaty. The procedure continues at present with the opening of negotiations.

On the 22 May 2017, the Council, reunited as the Union of 27 Member States, adopted a decision authorizing the commencement of the Brexit negotiations with the United Kingdom. Furthermore, in line with the approach chosen by the European Council, the Commission (mandated as European Union negotiator) has been advised of some Directives.

The Council emphasizes the overriding importance which will be given to the protection of the rights of both European Union citizens and United Kingdom citizens, since it is the “first priority of the negotiations”.

In accordance with the Directives of negotiation, the guarantees which will be granted to both European Union citizens and United Kingdom citizens:

*should be reciprocal,

*should be based on equality of treatment of citizens of the 27 Member States in relation to the citizens of the United Kingdom,

*should cover salaried and non-salaried workers, students and other inactive persons, as well as cross border workers and members of their family,

*should protect the rights of residence and of free circulation, as well as all associated rights, during the entire life of the persons concerned.

Source: European Union Council press communication