

EN  
E-000537/2019  
Answer given by President Juncker  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(14.5.2019)

The United Kingdom (UK) has decided to leave the European Union, invoking the procedure in Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.

As emphasised in the Commission's Communication of 19 July 2018 on "Preparing for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom on 30 March 2019", and repeated in subsequent Contingency Communications, irrespective of the scenario envisaged, the UK's choice to leave the Union will cause significant disruption<sup>1</sup>.

In the case of a withdrawal without an agreement, disruption is expected to be particularly severe as all primary and secondary EU law will cease to apply to the UK immediately as of the date of the withdrawal with no transition period. The Commission has not produced its own quantitative assessment of the impact of a no deal-withdrawal but is of course aware of the studies carried out by Central Banks and other actors, as well as by Member States, which are often best placed to assess the direct economic impact on their own markets.

The Commission has therefore consistently called on European citizens, businesses and Member States to prepare for all possible scenarios, assess relevant risks and plan their response to mitigate them. The Commission has issued 92 notices<sup>2</sup> covering a wide range of policy areas, including several aspects of trade, the purpose of which is to draw the attention of stakeholders to the consequences of a withdrawal of the UK without a withdrawal agreement, and inform them about the legal framework applicable in relation to third countries – as opposed to the situation from which Member States benefit.

Following its first Brexit preparedness communication of 19 July 2018, on 13 November 2018 and 19 December 2018 the Commission adopted two further Communications and launched the implementation of its Contingency Action Plan. Further operational contingency guidance, in order to ensure a coordinated EU approach, was published on 10 April 2019<sup>3</sup>. The Commission has also adopted 19 legislative proposals to prepare the European Union for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom and mitigate the most severe consequences of a withdrawal without an agreement<sup>4</sup>, 18 of which have been agreed by the European Parliament and the Council.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0556R%2801%29&locale=en>

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness/preparedness-notices\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness/preparedness-notices_en)

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/communication-10-april-2019-addressing-impact-withdrawal-united-kingdom-union-without-agreement-unions-coordinated-approach\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/communication-10-april-2019-addressing-impact-withdrawal-united-kingdom-union-without-agreement-unions-coordinated-approach_en)

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness_en)