**Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL).** – Madam President, Ireland finds itself in an unenviable position, caught between two large powers, neither of whom history tells us we can trust. We were bullied for years by Britain, then bullied by the EU on Lisbon and Nice, bullied again on bank debt. It is because of this, I believe that Ireland needs a seat on Michel Barnier’s negotiating team. It is only in this scenario, can we get the best possible deal for Ireland both North and South.

We hear support from Donald Tusk, support from Manfred Weber, so they tell us, but I hope it isn’t just support because it suits them now, because we didn’t get support from you in the past.

During these negotiations we’ve got to be pragmatic. We’ve got to work together. We’ve got to protect citizens' rights. We need to be positive. Statements such as you ‘will regret it’ from Mr Juncker, I hope you mean that from the point of view of you won’t make them regret it, but you think they will regret it, because we need this to work out.

I’d like to hear more positive stuff as we heard from Mr Gualtieri that we need to reduce the negative impact as much as possible. We need this to work. We need you all to grow up, stop fighting and support people.

*(The speaker agreed to take a blue-card question under Rule 162(8))*