



**2020/2202(INI)**

25.10.2022

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on the implementation report on the Agreement on the withdrawal of the UK  
from the EU  
(2020/2202(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Andreas Schieder

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the Withdrawal Agreement included ‘specific arrangements relating to the Union’s external action’ whereby, during the transition period, the United Kingdom was bound by the obligations stemming from the international agreements concluded by the EU to implement the Union’s restrictive measures, whether decided upon during the transition period or already in place, and to support EU statements and positions vis-à-vis third countries and international organisations; whereas the agreement envisaged the UK’s participation on a case-by-case basis in EU military operations and civilian missions established under the common security and defence policy through a framework participation agreement, while respecting the EU’s decision-making autonomy and the relevant EU decisions and legislation and excluding the UK from leading such operations or missions;
  - B. whereas, on 10 April 1998, the Belfast Agreement was signed by the Government of the UK, the Government of Ireland and the other participants in the multi-party negotiations (the ‘Good Friday Agreement’); whereas the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland to the Withdrawal Agreement provides for a legal framework that preserves the Good Friday Agreement in all its parts and the rights of the people of Northern Ireland, and safeguards peace, the integrity of the single market and the all-island economy and therefore avoids a hard border; whereas it is the UK’s obligation to ensure that the Good Friday Agreement is applied in all its parts and under all circumstances;
  - C. whereas the UK and the EU share common values and security interests, both in the immediate European neighbourhood and globally; whereas the UK is and will remain a key partner of the EU, as well as a central actor within NATO;
- 1. Recalls that pursuant to Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union, withdrawal agreements are to take account of the framework for the withdrawing state’s future relationship with the Union;
  - 2. Recalls that the EU’s signature of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) and its ratification by the European Parliament were conditioned on the full implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement; regrets the fact that, as yet, the Withdrawal Agreement has still not been fully implemented, especially as regards the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland;
  - 3. Recalls that whereas the political declaration accompanying the Withdrawal Agreement included clear provisions established by both parties on cooperation in the areas of foreign policy, security and defence, these provisions were not pursued further in the negotiations on the TCA owing to the UK Government’s lack of interest in discussing these issues;
  - 4. Regrets that despite the mutual interest in cooperation in the areas of foreign policy and security, which would be based on shared values and would contribute to promoting

peace and strengthening the rules-based global order, no agreement was reached on an institutionalised format for cooperation, as the UK declined to take advantage of this possibility; underlines, however, that the UK's contributions to Euro-Atlantic security have increased, and recognises the substantial contributions that the UK has made to supporting Ukraine's self-defence, territorial integrity and intelligence capabilities;

5. Underlines that the need for a tighter and more closely coordinated relationship between the EU and the UK on security issues has been heightened since Russia launched its war of aggression against Ukraine; calls for meaningful coordination and cooperation between the EU and the UK, to enable both to play an active role in the resolution of major conflicts; recalls its proposal that such coordination should be governed by a joint UK-EU foreign policy framework, offering both sides a systematic platform for high-level consultation and coordination on foreign policy issues;
6. Stresses that although the political declaration has not been honoured and there is no agreement on foreign policy and defence, both sides should step up cooperation in these fields, with a foreign policy approach based on democracy and the rule of law, gender equality, disarmament and non-proliferation, and international cooperation for development and climate action;
7. Is alarmed by the actions of the UK Government, which have the potential to undermine the Good Friday Agreement and destabilise peace in Northern Ireland; recalls that these actions do not comply with the Withdrawal Agreement, whereby it is a UK obligation to ensure that the Good Friday Agreement is applied and enforced in full and under all circumstances; recalls that these unilateral actions are in violation of international law, undermine the relationship between the EU and the UK, damage the UK's reputation as a reliable partner and come at a time when the ongoing geopolitical crises call for more unity and solidarity between allies than ever; urges the new UK Government to engage constructively and in good faith with the EU and all communities in Northern Ireland.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	25.10.2022
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 41 -: 1 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Alviina Alametsä, Alexander Alexandrov Yordanov, Maria Arena, Petras Auštrevičius, Traian Băsescu, Susanna Ceccardi, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Kinga Gál, Sunčana Glavak, Klemen Grošelj, Bernard Guetta, Dietmar Köster, David Lega, Miriam Lexmann, Leopoldo López Gil, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Pedro Marques, Vangelis Meimarakis, Sven Mikser, Francisco José Millán Mon, Urmas Paet, Kostas Papadakis, Thijs Reuten, Nacho Sánchez Amor, Isabel Santos, Mounir Satouri, Andreas Schieder, Jordi Solé, Tineke Strik, Hermann Tertsch, Dragoș Tudorache, Thomas Waitz, Charlie Weimers, Salima Yenbou
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Corina Crețu, Markéta Gregorová, Andrey Kovatchev, Georgios Kyrtos, Gabriel Mato, Ramona Strugariu
<b>Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote</b>	Janusz Lewandowski, Alessandro Panza

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

41	+
ECR	Hermann Tertsch
ID	Susanna Ceccardi, Alessandro Panza
NI	Kinga Gál
PPE	Alexander Alexandrov Yordanov, Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Traian Băsescu, Sunčana Glavak, Andrey Kovatchev, David Lega, Miriam Lexmann, Janusz Lewandowski, Leopoldo López Gil, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Gabriel Mato, Vangelis Meimarakis, Francisco José Millán Mon
RENEW	Petras Auštrevičius, Klemen Grošelj, Bernard Guetta, Georgios Kyrtos, Ramona Strugariu, Urmas Paet, Dragoș Tudorache, Salima Yenbou
S&D	Maria Arena, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Corina Crețu, Dietmar Köster, Pedro Marques, Sven Mikser, Thijs Reuten, Nacho Sánchez Amor, Isabel Santos, Andreas Schieder
Verts/ALE	Alviina Alametsä, Markéta Gregorová, Mounir Satouri, Jordi Solé, Tineke Strik, Thomas Waitz

1	-
NI	Kostas Papadakis

1	0
ECR	Charlie Weimers

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention