

**Priority question for written answer P-003638/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Belinda De Lucy (NI)

Subject: Extension of the transition period under the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement

Article 132 of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement expressly states that the transition period may be extended for up to 1 or 2 years with a 'single' decision. The original end date of the transition period is 31 December 2020, as defined in Article 126 of the Withdrawal Agreement.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Does the Commission agree that, under the provisions of this Withdrawal Agreement, the combined language of Articles 126 and 132 makes December 2022 the latest end date under any circumstances?

Given Chief Negotiator Barnier's comments in the media¹ that the negotiations of the subsequent Free Trade Agreement will take 3 years or more, how does the Commission envision any further extensions to take place?

Does the Commission agree that such an extension would itself need to be a trade agreement and that such an agreement would be a mixed agreement that would require ratification by Member States' legislatures?

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/michel-barnier-eu-uk-trade-deal-could-take-3-years/>