

# Background

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## European Parliament Press Kit for the European Council (EU27) of 25 November 2018

This press kit contains the latest European Parliament statements on the UK withdrawal agreement.

European Parliament President, Antonio Tajani, will represent the European Parliament and

- address the European Council at around 9:30
- hold a press conference at the European Council at around 10:15

# Statements by the Brexit Steering group and President Tajani

This section contains the latest statements by the Brexit Steering group and President Tajani

14-11-2018

[Guy Verhofstadt: EP Brexit steering group welcomes the positive progress made in the negotiations](#)

**Guy Verhofstadt (ALDE, BE), the European Parliament's Brexit Coordinator, issued a statement on behalf of the Brexit Steering Group:**

"We welcome the positive progress made in the negotiations by Michel Barnier and his team, who have consistently fought for the interests of the European Union. We look forward to being fully apprised of the details of the withdrawal agreement during European Parliament's Conference of Presidents tomorrow morning at 11h00 (CET) by Michel Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator.

It is encouraging to see that we are moving towards a fair deal that should ensure an orderly withdrawal, including a backstop guaranteeing that there will be no hardening of the Northern Irish/Irish border and that the Good Friday Agreement will be safeguarded. This deal is a milestone towards a credible and sustainable future relationship between the EU and the UK

It is now up to elected Parliamentarians on both sides of the Channel to do their work and scrutinise the proposed deal, including the political declaration and the framework for future relationship. Throughout the Article 50 negotiations, we have fought for a people – first Brexit, and we are committed to forensically monitor closely the implementation of the citizen's rights parts of the agreement. The European Parliament will have the final say, along with the UK Parliament, on the deal."

15-11-2018

[President Tajani on Brexit agreement](#)

**"Brexit is most of all about people. It is about the rights of our citizens, preserving the peace in Northern Ireland and safeguarding jobs affected by the UK's departure".**

"Brexit is most of all about people. It is about the rights of our citizens, preserving the peace in Northern Ireland and safeguarding jobs affected by the UK's departure," stated European Parliament President, Antonio Tajani, following Brexit chief negotiator, Michel Barnier's debrief on the Brexit agreement at the Conference of Presidents today.

“We believe in democracy and respect the decision of the British people. The text agreed to by the European Union and United Kingdom is the first step on a long road. Nevertheless, I am optimistic that it will pave the way towards a close future EU-UK relationship. As I have always said, the United Kingdom is leaving the European Union, not Europe”, added President Tajani.

“I would like to thank Michel Barnier for his tireless work and the spirit of cooperation that has underpinned the relationship between us. I would also like to acknowledge the essential input provided by the European Parliament’s Brexit steering group.

“This agreement should reflect that any outcome will be inferior to full membership, while safeguarding EU27 interests and citizens’ rights. It demonstrates what the European Union stands for: solidarity and unity among its members.

“I also want to make clear that this is just the beginning of a new phase. The European Parliament will be called upon to approve the agreement and will therefore continue to scrutinise developments, ensuring that our red lines are delivered upon,” President Tajani concluded.

### Further information

[Video recording of the Press point by Antonio TAJANI, EP President, Michel BARNIER, EC Chief Negotiator for Article 50 Negotiations with the UK, and Guy VERHOFSTADT \(ALDE,BE\), EP Brexit coordinator](#)

# Brexit Steering Group and Parliament's resolutions

This section provides information on the composition of the **Brexit Steering Group** and latest Parliament's resolutions

## Brexit Steering Group

Working under the aegis of the Conference of Presidents, the [Brexit Steering Group](#)'s purpose is to coordinate and prepare Parliament's deliberations, considerations and resolutions on the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

The Deputy Secretary-General supports the work of the Brexit Steering Group.

Composition:

- Guy Verhofstadt, Brexit coordinator and Chair
- Elmar Brok
- Pedro Silva Pereira
- Philippe Lamberts
- Gabriele Zimmer
- Danuta Hübner

[All statements from the BSG](#)

## European Parliament resolutions on Brexit

[European Parliament resolution of 14 March 2018 on the framework of the future EU-UK relationship](#)

[European Parliament resolution of 13 December 2017 on the state of play of negotiations with the United Kingdom](#)

[European Parliament resolution of 3 October 2017 on the state of play of negotiations with the United Kingdom](#)

[European Parliament resolution of 5 April 2017 on negotiations with the United Kingdom following its notification that it intends to withdraw from the European Union](#)

# About Parliament

**This section gives you information on the make-up of the European Parliament and seat allocation**

The European Parliament is made up of 751 Members elected in the 28 Member States of the European Union. Since 1979, MEPs have been elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year period.

Each country decides on the form its election will take and a secret ballot. EU elections are by proportional representation.

Seats are allocated on the basis of population size of each Member State, but by "degressive proportionality", i.e. the largest member states actually have fewer members than could be expected on the basis of population size alone and the smallest member states have more. Slightly more than one third of MEPs are women. MEPs are grouped by political affinity, not nationality.

On top of making EU laws, Parliament scrutinizes the work of the EU Commission, approves EU budgets (together with the Council), has veto rights over the EU's international agreements and can suggest new laws to the Commission.

## Political groups in the European Parliament

This section gives you information on Parliament's composition, based on the number of MEPs per political groups

(situation on 23.11.2018)

European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	217
Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the EP	187
European Conservatives and Reformists	72
Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	68
The Greens/European Free Alliance	52
European United Left - Nordic Green Left	52
Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group	43
Europe of Nations and Freedom	34
Non-attached Members	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>748</b>

## Contacts

This section provides a list of useful contacts for media

### Contacts

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