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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3610th Council meeting

General Affairs

Art. 50

Brussels, 20 March 2018

President **Ekaterina Zaharieva**
Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria

P R E S S

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

¹ • Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
• Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
• Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Brexit negotiations

As part of the preparations of the **European Council** Article 50 of 23 March, the Council, in EU27 format, discussed the state of play of the Brexit negotiations following the UK's notification under Article 50 TEU.

The Council was briefed by the Commission's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, on the latest developments in the Brexit negotiations. The chief negotiator presented to the ministers the partial agreement reached by negotiators on parts of the legal text of the Withdrawal Agreement including on citizens' rights, the financial settlement, a number of other withdrawal issues and the transition period. The chief negotiator also made reference to the letter of PM May to President Tusk of 19 March regarding this matter and in particular UK's commitments regarding the situation in the island of Ireland.

Ministers expressed their recognition to the efforts of the chief negotiator and his team that led to recent progress in the negotiations and supported his approach. They highlighted the importance of continued unity among the 27 for the negotiations.

[Draft agreement on the withdrawal of the UK from the EU - 19 March 2018 \(European Commission\)](#)

Draft guidelines on the framework for a future relationship with the UK

Also as part of the preparations of the **European Council** Article 50 of 23 March, the EU27 ministers discussed the draft guidelines on the framework for a future relationship with the UK. Ministers reviewed the text before submitting it to the **European Council** (Article 50) ahead of the meeting on 23 March 2018.

The EU27 heads of State and Government are expected to adopt the guidelines on the framework for a future relationship with the UK at their meeting on 23 March 2018. These guidelines are to serve as a mandate for the EU negotiator to start discussing the framework for the future relationship with the UK, with the aim of reaching an overall understanding. That understanding will be reflected in a political declaration accompanying and referred to in the withdrawal agreement.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED
