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PRESSE 46  
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## OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3637th Council meeting

### General Affairs

### Art. 50

Brussels, 18 September 2018

President **Gernot Blümel**  
Federal Minister for the EU, Arts, Culture and Media

# P R E S S

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### OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

*none*

- <sup>1</sup>
- 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**

### **State of play of Brexit negotiations**

The Council, in EU27 format, was briefed by the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier on the state of play in the Brexit negotiations following the latest rounds of negotiation with the UK. Ministers had an opportunity to discuss the situation and possibilities for the way forward.

Ministers highlighted the importance of unity in the EU position and gave full support to the chief negotiator in these last stages of the process. Ministers also recalled the need for all elements of withdrawal to be resolved, including an operational and legally solid backstop for Ireland, the governance of the agreement, the protection of geographical indications, the arrangements for the sovereign base areas in Cyprus and the issue of Gibraltar.

On the negotiations concerning the framework for future EU-UK relations, ministers renewed their support to the chief negotiator and his team for the work carried out so far, which prepares the ground for the political declaration on future EU-UK relations which will accompany the withdrawal agreement.

### **European Council (Article 50) of October 2018**

The Council took note of the agenda for October's European Council (Article 50) meeting. Ministers will continue preparations for the October summit at their next meeting on 16 October 2018 in Luxembourg.

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

*none*

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