



**Brussels, 29 January 2018
(OR. en)**

XT 21012/18

BXT 13

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 29 January 2018
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: XT 21011/18 BXT 12

Subject: General Affairs Council (Art. 50) on 29 January 2018
- Council Decision supplementing the Council Decision of 22 May 2017 authorising the opening of negotiations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an agreement setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal from the EU

On 29 January 2018, the General Affairs Council (Art.50) examined the above mentioned draft Council decision, including the draft supplementary directives for the negotiation of an agreement with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal from the European Union.

The General Affaris Council (Art.50):

- adopted the Council Decision supplementing the Council Decision of 22 May 2017 authorising the opening of negotiations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for an agreement setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal from the European Union (doc. XT 21004/18 BXT 5 + COR 2), including its Annex (doc. 21004/18 BXT 5 ADD1 REV 2) setting out supplementary directives for the negotiation;

- decided to enter into the minutes the statements set out in the Annex to this note and to make these statements public.
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Council statement for the minutes

1. In line with the European Council guidelines of 29 April and 15 December 2017 it is recalled that the EU is ready to establish partnerships with the UK in the areas of security, defence and foreign policy as well as the fight against terrorism and international crime. Specific arrangements with the UK in these areas could also be considered during the transition period, taking into account the framework for the future relationship.
2. The Council will continue to follow all aspects of the negotiations closely and to keep these negotiating directives under review in the light of progress in the negotiations and update them as necessary.
3. Should the Union be called to authorise the United Kingdom to become bound by international agreements entered into in its own capacity in the fields of competence of Union law during the transition period, providing such authorisation will be the responsibility of the Council in accordance with the relevant procedures under the Treaties.

Commission statement for the minutes

The Commission will issue, after consulting the Council, a guidance document on a consistent application of the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement corresponding to paragraph 19 of the Supplementary Directives for the negotiations, which foresees that as a general rule the United Kingdom will not attend meetings of committees referred to in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 or Commission experts groups and other similar entities or of the agencies, offices or bodies where Member States are represented, but that exceptionally on a case-by-case basis the United Kingdom could be invited to attend without voting rights.
