



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Commission's fourth Brexit Preparedness Communication of 10 April 2019 addressing the impact of a withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union without an agreement: the Union's coordinated approach {COM(2019) 195 final}.

The Commission remains firmly of the view that the Withdrawal Agreement negotiated between the United Kingdom and the Union is the best solution. As the Commission has consistently stressed, a withdrawal without an agreement would cause significant disruption both in the United Kingdom and also, though to a lesser extent, in the EU27 Member States. The Commission therefore remains determined in its primary objective to have an orderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union.

The Commission also welcomes the Camera Deputaților's support for its 'no-deal' preparations, including its endeavour to preserve the integrity of the internal market and to maintain a coordinated approach between EU27 Member States throughout a potential no-deal phase.

As regards the announced financial support to those most affected by a no-deal withdrawal, including small and medium-sized businesses trading with the United Kingdom and the agricultural sector, the Commission notes the Camera Deputaților's suggestion that such support be accompanied by information on access to support and simplified and accelerated access procedures.

In that regard, on 4 September 2019, the Commission adopted two legislative proposals: a proposal extending the scope of the European Solidarity Fund to cover the serious financial burden that may be inflicted on Member States by a no-deal scenario, subject to certain conditions {COM(2019) 399 final}; and a proposal ensuring that the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund is available to support workers and self-employed

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persons who are made redundant as a result of a no-deal scenario, subject to certain conditions {COM(2019) 397 final}.

The proposal on the European Solidarity Fund provides that the Commission will prepare guidance on how to access and implement the Fund effectively. That guidance shall provide detailed information on the preparation of the application and the information to be submitted to the Commission, including on the evidence to be provided concerning the financial burden inflicted.

The proposal on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund extends the scope of the Fund to workers made redundant in areas, sectors, territories or labour markets suffering serious economic disruption due to a no-deal withdrawal. As only Member States can apply to the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, it will be for national administrations to ensure that workers made redundant as a result of a 'no-deal' benefit from support under the Fund.

As regards the COSME Programme, also mentioned in the April Communication, the Commission is currently in touch with the European Investment Fund with the aim to extend the mandate for the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility to allow supporting small and medium-sized enterprises that are affected by a no-deal withdrawal.

With regard to the agriculture sector, the Commission recalls that, within the available financial resources, the full spectrum of existing instruments for market support and direct financial support to farmers will be made available to mitigate the worst impact on agri-food markets. For more immediate support, for example for smaller companies with large exposure to the United Kingdom, the EU's State aid rules offer flexible solutions for national support measures.

Finally, transparency and dialogue with EU27 stakeholders have been extremely important to the Commission throughout the current negotiations. National Parliaments have been an integral part of this endeavour, as exemplified by Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier's visit to all of them, including twice to the Camera Deputaţilor. The Commission would like to reassure the Camera Deputaţilor of its continued commitment to maintaining this transparency and dialogue also during the period following the United Kingdom's withdrawal.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaţilor and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*