**VOICES ON BREXIT: MEDIA,**

**POLITICIANS, & ORGANIZATIONS (3/1/19)**

The American Brexit Committee is just one of many varied voices expressing concern, doubts, anger and humor over the British vote to leave the European Community Customs Union, Single Market, and the plans to leave the jurisdiction of the EU Justice Court and the EU caseConvention of Human Rights.

1. **“The ‘hard’ BREXIT in Ireland contravenes the 1998 Belfast Agreement and jeopardizes integrating economies.”**  Peter Hain, former Secretary of Northern Ireland, 2005-2007
2. **“A terrible mistake with lasting consequences…impossible[for UK] to play the role of mediator…undermines 20 years of hard work.”** Jonathan Powell, Chief Labor Negotiator for 1998 “ Good Friday” Agreement on Conservative vote deal with N. I. Democratic Unionist Party.
3. **“…winning with a shamelessly false prospectus.”** Former British Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine on the BREXIT vote.
4. **“The Irish can not trust the British on BREXIT. The Good Friday Agreement makes moral, political and strategic sense and requires the Irish government demand the North remain in the Single Market and Customs Union as much as possible. . ”** Professor Brendan O’Leary, University of Pennsylvania, member of the U. S. Council on Foreign Relations and Sr. Fellow at Senator George Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, Queens University, Belfast.
5. **It was Britain’s decision to join the union 44 years ago, and since then …[the EU] …have done their best to accommodate British needs. It was exempted from EU policies such as the Euro,the Schengen passport-free zone, justice and home affairs cooperation and, for a time , the social chapter of the EU treaties. The UK’s budget was modified through a rebate and agricultural policy was modified. …it was a full voting member, with immense ability to stop policies it did not like. The UK was, you might say having its cake and eating it.”** Former Irish Taoiseach John Bruton from 1994-1997
6. **A commercial deal…should have nothing to do with human rights or child labor. They are separate from the free exchange of products and services.”** Daniel Hannan, British Member of the European Parliament justifying BREXIT.
7. **“The United Kingdom wants a better deal than the (EU) members. That’s not going to happen.”** Jenny Gross, Wall Street Journal
8. **“Prime Minister May claims to be acting upon the democratic will of the people but she has no mandate to threaten to turn the UK into a low tax haven or minimum regulation country or threaten EU over crime and terrorism cooperation.”** Martin Wolfe, Financial Times
9. **“Britain should threaten weak Ireland ..a tiny country that relies on the UK for its existence… with new border controls to get its way on BREXIT.”** Gerard Batten, BREXIT spokesperson for the United Kingdom Independent Party, THE INDEPENDENT, December, 3, 2017
10. **“Few in N. I. would accept that our industry is in a position to compete with countries in the Southern Hemisphere given the advantages in terms of scale, climate and lack of regulation.”** Conall Donnelly, N. I. Meat Exporters Assn., explaining their opposition to BREXIT. April, 2017
11. **“All countries including BREXIT Britain and Donald’ Trump’s America must commit to the rule of international law including in the trade sphere .”** Professor Kevin O’Rourke, Oxford University in TRADE AND VIOLENCE article, Oct, 2017
12. **“A hard BREXIT [Irish border] is not just bad for the UK…in their case[N. I. DUP party] it is unworkable.”** Simon Jenkins, GUARDIAN
13. **“If there is any aggressive or public marketing by Ireland in London or it was seen to be an opportunistic grab for a piece of the industry, you can imagine how that will play out in Treasury or Downing Street.”** Former UK Ambassador to Ireland threatening Kieran O’Donoghue of Ireland’s Industrial Development Authority , TELEGRAPH, June 2016
14. **“We represent workers from across these islands and all are united in their condemnation of any return to a ‘hard’ border across Ireland. The UK’s future relationship with the EU is guided by what plays well with the party, not the national interest.”** Manuel Cortes, General Secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs Assoc. Nov.,30th 2017
15. **“Border controls also involve enforcement of a wide variety of laws insuring environmental safety, deterring human smuggling, protecting industrial and commercial property and safeguarding national treasures. Leaving the border would open expose the UK as an eccentric, irresponsible global citizen not a way to launch boldly into the world as an independent trading partner.** Allan columnist, Financial Times, Dec.,2017
16. **“Britain’s BREXIT Minister Robin Walker admitted in Parliament that they have not carried out any BREXIT impact assessments in the North of Ireland….a staggering admission…that the people of Ireland are merely collateral damage.”** Michele O’Neill, Sinn Fein December, 2017

**“David Davis, the man in charge of BREXIT negotiation, never commissioned the studies on BREXIT’s economic impact that he said had been ordered. I cannot think of a greater act of negligence or dishonesty in post-war government.”**  Henry Porter, VANITY FAIR, Dec. 16, 2017

1. **“The idea that Leo Varadker or anyone else would under any circumstances sign up to another hard border displays ..ignorance, arrogance, and stupidity..”** Chris Johns, Irish Times, Nov. 16, 2017
2. **Gaining a mandate for a bad idea doesn’t make it a good one; it makes it a bad idea you’ve convinced others to buy into.”**  Gary Younge, The Nation
3. **“So let’s nail the lie that the European Union is not democratic. I can think of no piece of European legislation that has not , in the making, passed through the hands and scrutiny of an Irish Commissioner, Irish Ministers, Irish Parliamentarians and Irish officials.”** Ireland’s Tanaiste Simon Coveney, address at Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin.
4. **“Britain’s trade future could be dominated by customs checks, different regulations, different standards and trade falling off a cliff.”** Professor Anand Menon, Kings College, London, December, 2017 NYTimes.
5. **“The UK will be economically worse off outside of the E. U. under most of the scenarios.”** Charles P. Ries, V. P. Rand Corporation, December, 2017 NYTimes
6. “**Since July 2017 the UK has engaged with the EU’s BREXIT taskforce in an extensive mapping exercise that has so far identified more than 140 areas in which BREXIT threatens the Good Friday Agreement.”** Simon Nixon, Chief European Commentator, WSJ November 2017
7. **“The relatively small Irish economy faces major disruption as it may lose free-flowing trading rights with its largest trading partner.”** Jonathan Webb, Forbes Magazine, Nov. 27, 2017
8. **“Key European politicians, including French President Emmanuel Macron, generally regard the UK’s exit as an act of political vandalism**.” Andrew Hammond, Associate, London School of Economics, WSJ, December 18, 2017
9. **“We have no clue how to sort out the Irish question. The EU knows as well as we do that this [the Joint Reps charm offensives go) was not an immediate success.** Dieter Kempf, President of the Federation of German Industries
10. **I was surprised to hear it was now up to the EU to make an offer to the UK on how to deal with the UK in future. I understand you don’t want to be like Norway or Switzerland, or an agreement like the one with Canada. But for God’s sake, give us a bit of an idea of what you do want.”** Professor Anand Menon, Kings College, London, WSJ, December, 2017
11. “**President of the European Council, Donald Tusk stated it is hard for the British “…to understand” [the EU Brexit position on no return of a hard border in Ireland] after centuries of no other countries much concerned about how the British treated the Irish. After signing the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement giving the Irish government a say in running N. I. she told one of her closest associates, Lord McAlpine, It was the Americans who made me do it.”**  Simon Nixon, Chief European Commentator, Wall Street Journal, Dec., 2017
12. **“Irish and EU officials reject the idea that carving out a special status for N. I. would undermine the UK constitution.” Britain already accepts a regulatory divergence with the all-Ireland electricity market and has many other examples Hong Kong being but one**. Simon Nixon, Chief WSJ European Commentator Dec., 2017
13. “**The UK exports more to Ireland than to Brazil, India, Japan and South Africa combined. Irish Senate report suggests that BREXIT could reduce Irish GDP by 3.5% as much as the likely loss to British GDP.”** THE ECONOMIST, July, 2017
14. **“In 2010 the British produced a protocol setting out “Handling Arrangements for National Security Matters” …designating the entirety of the previous 40 years of the conflict as a national security matter. The Tory government has not only cut the funds for the Victims and Survivors Services but all of the cuts in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) will be applied to eliminating the Historical Enquiries Team. This despite the fact that N. I. has a policeman for every 265 people in N. I. as opposed to one for every 436 in England and Wales!!** Niall Murphy,KRW Law LLP,Springhill Center for Human Rights and Border Communities Against BREXIT, June. 2017
15. **“The British government have decreed that issues pertaining to the past are a matter of political debate…that the failure of the local political process discharges the State’s legal obligation under Article 2 of the European Convention of Human Rights. That is fundamentally flawed, wrong and must be challenged. Political unionism can have no veto over the States obligation under Article 2.”** Ibid
16. **“The first of many lessons that the EU will draw from this first phase of talks is that the UK government is an unserious, mendacious, incompetent, and untrustworthy negotiating partner.”** Chris Johns, Irish Times Journalist, December, 2017
17. **“There is massive collateral damage to Ireland, as once again the Orange card is played in Tory politics. Ms. May needs the 10 DUP votes, so she cannot agree to anything that can guarantee the Good Friday Agreement if it means upsetting hardline Ulster it means upsetting hardline Ulster protestant anti- Dublin sensibilities.”** Dennis McShane, Britain’s former Minister of Europe and a Labor MP Feb. 20, 2018
18. **“It is important to remember N. I. is already starting in a worse economic position than the other regions due to our legacy of division and violence. These figures do not take into account the impact of a hard border and the wider impact on the Good Friday Agreement and the fabric of N. I. society.”** Alliance Deputy Leader, Stephen Farry MLA referring to leaked Government study, February, 2018
19. **“The indifference of the rest of [British] government –typified by the Foreign Secretary disturbs me even more. Ministers have known all along that their hard BREXIT plans are incompatible with the Good Friday Agreement. They know that leaving the single market and customs union will destroy jobs and livelihoods in NI and that imposing a hard border will devastate the economy and threaten the peace.”** Frances O’Grady, General Secretary, Trade Union Congress, February 28, 2018
20. **“In truth the UK through its ‘security and intelligence agencies, issued threats to its Subjects, denied them protection, and assisted in every conceivable way those they then sent to kill them. That is the conclusions of the Stevens Inquiries, the De Silva Review and the Police Ombudsman. Stevens told a Parliamentary Committee of the 210 people he arrested 207 were agents employed by the State**.” Mark Thompson, Relatives for Justice before Helsinki Commission of the U. S. Congress, March 22, 2018
21. **“The whole foundation of the Good Friday Agreement is joint membership of the EU. So Brexit was clearly going to destabilize all of these arrangements.”** Professor James Hughes, Political Science, ,London School of Economics , Dec 14, 2017
22. **“In 2015 a version of a bill to establish [legacy] mechanisms contained extensive provisions for the British to redact ‘sensitive’ information from entering the public domain on the grounds of national security---measures unacceptable to the Irish government, the SDLP and Sinn Fein and nationalist victims groups. The bill is to be finalized in June, 2018 with the controversial national security caveats remaining.”** Professor Kieran McEvoy Professor of Law and Transitional Justice, Queens University, Belfast, March 30, 2018
23. **“A deal is there to be done, but a big impediment to doing it is the inability of British leaders - starting with Theresa May - to control their urge to be nasty.** Sean Whelan, Economics Editor, RTE, April 25, 2018
24. **David Davis refers sarcastically to the EU’s backstop solution for the Northern Ireland border as a “reserve parachute” and claims “the hardest task facing his team in the autumn is to justify what he has got in return for paying 40 billion pounds to the EU.”** David Davis in an appearance before Parliament Committee, April 25th 2018
25. **A majority of Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU: 85% of the Nationalists---40% of the Unionists. The DUP was the only party in NI to campaign in favor of Brexit….Northern Ireland will be dragged out of the EU against its will further antagonizing nationalists who dispute the legitimacy of Northern Ireland’s inclusion in the UK.”** Professors Cowell-Meyers and Gallaher, American University, April 20, 2018
26. **”[Conservatives] are blundering into the politics of Northern Ireland with a policy which is sometimes clueless and sometimes delinquent—with a can of petrol and a box of matches in the other hand.”** Lord Chris Patten, former Conservative Chairman, BBC World at One, May, 2018

**43.“There is a lot more hanging on this debate than simply the question of what we do with security arrangements on the border. What is at stake is the reversal or the danger of reversal of all that has been achieved.”** Lord Robin Eames,former Archbishop of Armagh, Parliament, May, 2018

**44. “One thing we have learned from Brexit is that the UK does not have a better idea; it does not have a replacement for the Union as a way to improve the life quality of its citizens, its businesses and its standing in the world.”** Ireland’s EU Commissioner of Agricultural and Rural Development, Phil Hogan, April 9th, 2018

**45. “Businesses North and South are hedging when it comes to investment decisions …which is putting ‘jobs’, economic growth and prosperity at risk.”** Feargal McCormack, President, Chartered Accountants Ireland, Irish Times, May 22,2018

46. **“You will never again be left behind by an Irish government…”** Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadker on the back-stop agreement between UK-EU to avoid re-imposing the border. Irish Business Post, February 18, 2018

47. **“No matter how passionately it is sold to the doubters, May’s package of red lines and commitments remains an unworkable mess of internal contradictions.”** Patrick Maguire, New Statesman, May, 2018

48. **“Boris Johnson stays silent after Ahern calls him a buffoon and will ruin Ireland.”**

Ellen Coyne, SUNDAY TIMES, June 23 2018

49. **We have felt for some time the UK doesn’t fully understand business, the risks associated with this process and doesn’t fully understand the implications fully in NI.”** Trevor Lockhart, Northern Ireland Chair, CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY, July 1, 2018

50. **“She is presenting the EU with a fait accompli; binding her government to a negotiating position that the EU has made clear it**  **will not accept.”** Professor Henry Farrell, George Washington University, Washington D. C. July, 2018

51. **“We were promised a peace dividend off the back of the Good Friday Agreement…it has not come…the gap in the employment rate between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK has grown since the signing…[ with Brexit]…the NI economy will be between 2.5 and 10% smaller than it would have been without Brexit”** Paul Gosling, economist and co-author of A New Union: A New Society…Ireland 2050, June, 2018

**52. “…the European Convention on Human Rights added nothing to the UK’s prosperity and that reform of human rights laws would only be brought about by leaving the ECHR and the jurisdiction of its court.”** Former Home Secretary now British Prime Minister Theresa May campaign speech, 2016

**53. “…there was a long standing secret policy to let security agents break the law [including] ..murder, torture and sexual assault.”** Prime Minister Cameron 2012 letter to Sir Mark Waller, Intelligence Services Commissioner, two weeks before he stated in Parliament that the British government murdered attorney Patrick Finucane and others in a “shocking amount of collusion..” with loyalist anti-Catholic bigots.

54. **“British Prime Minister’s May’s decision to renege on the [Irish] back-stop will stress the peace process to the very limit.”** Professor Henry Farrell, George Washington University, July 20, 2018

55. **“. Too many Brits fail to grasp that former colonies do not look back to the empire with unalloyed affection. While this has all been understood by serious figures in government, too much of Britain’s politics, culture and its self-image have been driven by its colonial past and the national myths built up around the last war. It is why the Brexiters cling so desperately to the theory that Theresa May has betrayed Brexit. The alternative is to accept that it is their own reckless chauvinism that has reduced the UK to the role of supplicant with its former partners.”** Robert Shrimsley, Financial Times

56. **“A no-deal Brexit means drug and food shortages. It will also be terrible for the Irish economy, but at least there will be the irony of a self-induced British famine.**

**Those shortages may have only just become obvious to the UK cabinet but they are the single most important reason why a deal must be done. That doesn’t necessarily mean a deal will be done. Idiots and incompetents are in charge. The game now is to shift the blame to somebody else – there is plenty more of this to come.**

**Ordinary punters in financial markets said as soon as our bank guarantee was announced that “the Irish taxpayer is on the hook for everything”. It really was that obvious, that simple.**

**Similarly, as soon as the British government signed up to the Border guarantee on each of the three times it committed to it, it was told it had created a conundrum that cannot be resolved. One with profound consequences. “** Journalist Chris Johns, IRISH TIMES, Nov 12, 2018

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