

# From Brexit to Brentrance

WestwoodMUNC II 2018



Greetings WestwoodMUNC II Delegates,

My name is Smita Chatterjee and I am currently a senior at Westwood High School. I joined Model United Nations in my sophomore year and have participated in several conferences including Brown University, Dartmouth College, and BC High. I am looking forward to giving delegates exciting and dynamic crises to work through. If you have any questions feel free to email me at [18schattejee@wpsstudents.org](mailto:18schattejee@wpsstudents.org) at any point.

I will be the Crisis Director for the Brentrance Crisis Committee. This committee is centered around one of the biggest events of the 21st century: Brexit. In 2016, Great Britain held a referendum that resulted in the nation's exit from the European Union. Much has happened since then. David Cameron has resigned, Theresa May is struggling to keep power, and Britain still remains very much divided over the not just the economic, but also the social strain this departure leaves behind. Borders that remained open have been closed, business partnerships that fostered growth are crumbling, and the different factions of British Parliament continue to feud. Now Britain seeks to re-enter the European Union. Should this be allowed? If so, on what terms may they enter? The European Union is reluctant to allow Britain's re-entrance after such a fiery exit. As delegates, it is your job to negotiate your way through Britain's delicate political climate and determine what will be best for the future of the nation.

Smita Chatterjee  
Director of Brentrance and Facebook BoD Crisis  
Westwood High School Class of 2018

Dear Delegates,

My name is Alex Bloukos, and I will be your chair for WestwoodMUNC II's British Re-entry into the European Union Committee, otherwise known as Brentrance. I am a junior at Westwood High School who has been part of the Model United Nations club since the earliest days of my freshman year, and I've had a passion for international affairs -- international law in particular -- for long before then.

Today, you will be focusing on potential British re-entry into the European Union. As you are (hopefully) aware, Britain voted to leave the European Union in June of 2016, but its exit will not be finalized until 2019. In this hypothetical scenario, Britain ended its process to leave the European Union a little over two years after Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty was triggered in Parliament in March of 2017. Article 50 gave negotiators a deadline of two years to formalize treaties, trade, etc. for leaving the European Union. No agreement was reached on many issues in our scenario -- as a result, most of the borders that Britain shared with other nations, including Ireland, have become much more stringent and controlled. Also, the United Kingdom is not part of the Schengen Zone anymore, meaning that it is much harder for trade and foreign nationals to enter the United Kingdom.

In this scenario, having not reached agreements on borders and trade, the British economy has been poor as of late, and appears close to a recession in the very near future. Much of the British population is now of the belief that leaving the European Union's Common Market and not being able to strike favorable trade deals are the cause of this, and popular opinion has tilted in favor of re-joining the European Union. However, British Conservatives believe that staying in "splendid isolation" is essential for safeguarding British values and tradition, and that the economy is merely an afterthought of the British people.

As members of this Committee, you must think about not just what is best for your nation, but also for Europe as a whole. Is Europe better when the pesky British are left out of it, letting France and Germany assert greater control over it? Is Europe better off when everyone is one? You will need to work with members on many sides of the issue in order to figure out what Britain's relationship should be either in or outside of the European Union and what specifically those arrangements might entail.

I would like to remind you that this Committee will assume that agreements on borders, trade, etc. have not been reached, hence why Britain is in the state that we assume it to be in this scenario.

Please do read this background guide in its entirety, and do be serious in your preparation. I am open to any questions or concerns -- do not hesitate to email me any that you may have.

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming weeks, and I'm certain that we're going to have an excellent Committee here at WestwoodMUNC II!

Best wishes,  
Alex Bloukos  
Chair of Brentrance  
Westwood High School '19  
[19abloukos@wpsstudents.org](mailto:19abloukos@wpsstudents.org)

Delegates,

Since Westwood MUNCII is being run as an entirely crisis-based conference, it is important for newcomers to the format to be familiar with the rules of procedure, as it does diverge from some of the more traditional General Assembly procedures. Please see below for a quick rundown of most of the rules we will be following for the duration of the conference:

I. Overview:

Crisis committees are run differently from “normal” Model UN committees. Because they are run at a very fast pace, each committee is run in a perpetual moderated caucus. This means that instead of a Speakers’ List, the chair will set the speaking time and the topic at the beginning of the first committee session. The rest of the committee follows normal parliamentary procedure with a few notable exceptions.

II. Format:

As previously stated, the format of debate differs slightly from a general assembly in a crisis simulation. There is no speakers list and therefore, the default method of debate is the moderated caucus. It is encouraged that the first motion be a round robin so as to ascertain the positions of others in the committee. This will serve as a good jumping off point for seeing who delegates are most likely to work with and who is most likely to get in the way of achieving their goals. After that, delegates will be able to motion for the “traditional” (un)moderated caucuses, round robins, straw polls, moving into voting procedure, etc. In order to make any of these motions, a delegate must be recognized by the chair by raising their placards. Points and motions may be made between speakers.

III. Directives:

Delegates **do not** work to pass resolutions. Rather, they will pass a series of *directives* that are binding, take effect immediately and can potentially alter the course of events for the entire crisis simulation. A directive is a specific action that the committee wishes to take.

VI. Personal Directives & Portfolio Powers

Additionally, individual members of the committee may pass *personal directives* depending on their “portfolio powers.” Portfolio powers are special privileges that are specific to a position, which will either be assigned in the Background Guide or at the start of committee. These powers can range anywhere from allocating funds for military development to taking military action and carrying out assassinations.

These actions do not need to be passed by the committee at large and their effectiveness is determined by their feasibility and the crisis staff. It is suggested that delegates refrain from sharing what personal directives they are planning taking as they should be used to achieve personal objectives that might not always align with the interests of the committee as a whole. Delegates with the ability to spend money will be updated on their budget at the beginning of each committee session. Budgets will not increase unless that individual is specifically allocated additional funding by the committee.

V. Communication:

Communication is an essential part of any crisis simulation. At the beginning of the conference, delegates will be provided with a pen and a pad of paper. They may use the paper to write notes to each other, write up directives, or organize thoughts. Regarding note passing: delegates may pass notes to each other during committee while other members are speaking, but this privilege may be revoked by the chair should it distract from the debate. Specifics about note passing will be addressed at the beginning of the first committee session by the chair.

VI. Conference Prep:

In order to prepare for this conference, it is ***strongly*** recommended that each delegate consolidate their thoughts and strategy by writing a position paper. Delegates that do not submit a paper by the deadline below will not be eligible for awards. Position papers should:

- Be 1-2 pages in length single spaced, 12 point font
- Address specific questions from the Background Guide that are relevant to your character
- Outline your character's likely optimal resolution and steps you need to take to achieve it
- MLA or Chicago style citations along with a Works Cited or Bibliography

Please email your position paper to your chair no later than ***11:59 pm on Sunday April 22*** so that they have adequate time to read them.

Once again, please feel free to email your chair or crisis director with any questions you may have regarding conference policies or procedures.

Best,  
WestwoodMUNCII Staff

In June of 2016, one of the most polarizing elections of modern British society took place. On June 23, 2016, the 71.8% of the eligible British electorate voted to leave the European Union with a majority of 51.9% of the vote<sup>1</sup> The two main factions throughout this campaign, the Vote Leave and the Vote Remain groups, have effectively polarized British politics into two pieces. The reactionary United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) was the main driving force in the vote to leave, while the sitting government -- the Conservatives -- were somewhat divided on the issue, The second-largest party in the nation, the Labour Party, was almost completely against the idea of leaving the European Union, and a host of other smaller parties -- the Liberal Democrats, the Greens, and the British National Party -- like the Conservatives, held varying viewpoints amongst themselves. Generally speaking, the youth voted to remain, while the elderly voted to leave.<sup>2</sup> This in and of itself created a deep divide in British society in the immediate aftermath of the vote, with many arguing that the elderly, as a result of their age, shouldn't be allowed to vote on matters that affect the long-term future of the United Kingdom.<sup>3</sup>



Prime Minister David Cameron resigned due to the failure of the “remain” camp, leading to a snap leadership election within the ruling Conservative party, which former Home Secretary Theresa May won comfortably.<sup>4</sup> As a “remain” supporter during the campaign,<sup>5</sup> she was ardent in her beliefs that the United Kingdom, under her leadership, would emerge stronger from these Brexit negotiations, which finalized in March of 2019,<sup>6</sup> assuming no deal had been concluded before then or that no extension was given to the talks. To strengthen the Conservatives’ position within the House of Commons on Brexit talks, and feeling that the Conservatives were far more popular than their eternal rival, Labour, May called a snap election in the summer of 2017. This was just as disastrous as Brexit

<sup>1</sup> Hunt, Alex, and Brian Wheeler. "Brexit: All you need to know about the UK leaving the EU." BBC News. November 13, 2017. Accessed November 25, 2017.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887>.

<sup>2</sup> Goulard, Hortense. "Britain's youth voted Remain." POLITICO. June 24, 2016. Accessed November 25, 2017.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/britains-youth-voted-remain-leave-eu-brexit-referendum-stats/>.

<sup>3</sup> Chesterton, George. "We should ban old people from voting." British GQ. September 11, 2017. Accessed November 25, 2017.

<http://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/article/eu-referendum-old-people-should-not-vote>.

<sup>4</sup> BBC Politics. "Theresa May becomes prime minister." BBC News. July 14, 2016. Accessed November 25, 2017.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-politics-36794339/theresa-may-becomes-prime-minister>.

<sup>5</sup> Euronews. "What is Theresa May's view on Brexit?" Euronews. July 12, 2016. Accessed November 25, 2017. <http://www.euronews.com/2016/07/12/what-is-theresa-may-s-view-on-brexit>.

<sup>6</sup> McClean, Paul. "Brexit timeline: key dates in UK's divorce with EU." Financial Times. June 14, 2017. Accessed November 25, 2017.

<https://www.ft.com/content/64e7f218-4ad4-11e7-919a-1e14ce4af89b>.

was for her party: they lost their majority in the Commons, and were forced to form a coalition government with the right-wing, pro-Brexit Democratic Unionist Party in order to retain their mandate to govern.<sup>7</sup> This has resulted in numerous divisions within the Conservatives, and threatens May's position as Prime Minister, for there are many MPs (Members of Parliament) who are ready to vote on a measure of no confidence as a result of her handling of the Brexit situation.<sup>8</sup> This is because many MPs believe that the way May's cabinet handled the negotiations -- trying to keep the benefits of staying in the European Union, but not pay many of its fees or taxes -- was simply absurd.<sup>9</sup>

Within the European Union, it is almost unanimously agreed upon that Britain is better off within the Union, and should rejoin it -- as a result of this, the most powerful nations of the Union, France and Germany, both wanted Britain to enjoy a "hard" Brexit, paying a high "divorce" bill to leave the Union, and not retaining many of the perks of the Union,<sup>10</sup> which is just what happened. Some of their sticking points were that Britain should not enjoy continued access to the European Common Market (a right of nations only within the European Union) and that the European Court of Justice should still have jurisdiction on British matters, in certain cases, seeing as Britain is a European nation.

That is not to say that every nation within the European Union is against Brexit. Hungary, for instance, under its hardline prime minister Viktor Orban, believes that Brexit should "serve as a lesson" for the bureaucrats in Brussels.<sup>11</sup> They are just one of many of the Eurosceptics who believe that the British people are better off outside of the European Union. Others include Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and Czech President Andrej Babis, as well as Marine le Pen and Frauke Petry, of France and Germany, respectively.

## **Organization of the European Union**

The European Union, like most other international organizations, is organized into numerous other smaller organizations. The most important of these bodies are the European Central Bank (ECB), the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Court of Justice, and the

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<sup>7</sup> Criss, Doug. "Non-Brit's guide to Britain's snap election." CNN. June 07, 2017. Accessed November 25, 2017. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/06/06/europe/british-snap-election-guide-trnd/index.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Watts, Joe. "Up to 40 Tory MPs now ready to sign letter of no confidence in Theresa May." The Independent. November 12, 2017. Accessed November 25, 2017. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-no-confidence-letter-conservatives-tories-boris-johnson-michael-gove-a8050516.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Oltermann, Philip, and Dan Roberts. "Angela Merkel attacks British 'illusion' of keeping benefits of EU." The Guardian. April 27, 2017. Accessed November 25, 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/apr/27/angela-merkel-attacks-british-illusion-of-keeping-benefits-of-eu>.

<sup>10</sup> Rothwell, James. "France and Germany adopt tougher Brexit stance on role of European Court of Justice in citizens rights." The Telegraph. October 16, 2017. Accessed November 25, 2017. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/16/france-germany-adopt-tougher-brexit-stance-role-european-court/>.

<sup>11</sup> Hunt, Darren. "'We'll be unrelenting' Hungary vows to continue fighting European Union bureaucrats." The Express. October 05, 2017. Accessed November 25, 2017. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/862588/Brexit-news-UK-Hungary-EU-Brussels-European-Union-latest-Jean-Claude-Juncker>.

European Commission. Members from these bodies will be present in the Committee, and will portray their appropriate viewpoints. In addition to this, prominent members of the British government, as well as the British political scene in general, will also be present.

### **The Current Situation**

It is April of 2019. Brexit talks have just concluded around a month ago, and the British people could not be more divided. More and more people stand against Brexit and are calling for British re-entry into the Union. The current Conservative-Democratic Unionist government finds itself extremely unpopular, and Labour is steadily gaining in popularity -- indeed, the Conservatives are beginning to be known as one of the most prominent causes of Britain's economic demise. Unable to access many of the resources of the European Economic Area, the British economy has practically stagnated, and growth is lower than ever. Moreover, British influence in European affairs has waned significantly, and the age of Britain being the dominant power in Europe -- one of them, at least -- is over, and it is generally seen now as a "middle power."

Aside from the British economy, a number of border issues were left in disarray. The border with Ireland has changed significantly -- initially being an open border, travellers from the United Kingdom to the Republic of Ireland border must now pass customs, a measurable difference from pre-Brexit Northern Ireland. The British border at Calais, much like the Irish border, is one where passports and other controls must be presented to authorities. yet as a result of Brexit, the Le Touquet agreement<sup>12</sup> was nullified, denying British authorities the ability to perform border searches in France -- searches must be done in the United Kingdom now, which many on the right believe is a threat to national security. Perhaps the most controversial of these border issues, however, is the status of Gibraltar. Despite "The Rock" having overwhelmingly voted to stay in the European Union, with the highest percentage of its population voting "remain" of any British voting precinct when voting,<sup>13</sup> it had to leave the European Union alongside the rest of the United Kingdom. Gibraltar has become an issue not of only borders, but also of national sovereignty, as the Spanish government believes that it is rightfully Spanish land, making it a thorn in Britain's side in any discussion to re-enter the European Union.<sup>14</sup>

In spite of most Britons wishing to rejoin the European Union, the process is not as easy as it sounds, for there are a number of protocols and criteria that Britain must first fulfill to even be

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<sup>12</sup> United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Foreign and Commonwealth Office. UK Treaties Online. *Treaty between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the French Republic concerning the Implementation of Frontier Controls at the Sea Ports of both countries on the Channel and North Sea*. By Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Government of the French Republic. Le Touquet, FR: Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 2003. Accessed December 14, 2017. <http://treaties.fco.gov.uk/treaties/treatyrecord.htm?tid=8012>.

<sup>13</sup> Groome, Imogen. "How did Gibraltar vote in the EU referendum?" Metro. April 03, 2017. Accessed December 14, 2017.

<http://metro.co.uk/2017/04/03/how-did-gibraltar-vote-in-the-eu-referendum-6550844/>.

<sup>14</sup> Tremlett, Giles. "Will the UK lose Gibraltar?" The Guardian. April 7, 2017. Accessed March 12, 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/07/will-the-uk-lose-gibraltar>.

considered to rejoin the European Union. These include the Copenhagen Criteria<sup>15</sup> and the Treaty of the European Union,<sup>16</sup> which stipulate the requirements to join the Union. Moreover, there are a plethora of voices within the European Union -- Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban being the most prevalent of these, along with prominent French and German politicians Marine le Pen and Frauke Petry -- that are completely against the idea of the European Union. Despite being in it, they may prevent British re-entry into the bloc on account of the supposed better state of Britain without the Union.

### Questions to Consider

1. How will the Irish border issue be solved?
2. How will issues involving the French border in Calais be solved? Should the Le Touquet agreement be re-implemented? Should a similar precedent be used to solve other border issues, where applicable?
3. How does the Gibraltar question get resolved? Is there an answer?
4. Should the Devolved Nations be able to rejoin the European Union on their own, assuming that the British government cannot negotiate for the entire United Kingdom to join again?
5. Will the United Kingdom be forced to join the Eurozone if it wants to rejoin the European Union?
6. Will the United Kingdom have to pay a re-entry fee, like it did with its divorce fee upon leaving the European Union?
7. What comes first: the economic well-being of the British people, or the cultural legacy of the United Kingdom?

### Members

#### - **The Right Honourable Theresa May MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**

The current (deeply) unpopular Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, May's government was the one responsible for a "hard"<sup>17</sup> Brexit that cost the nation dearly, not just in terms of access to the European Union's economic services, but also in terms of actual jobs<sup>18</sup> -- something that Labour and her own opponents within the Conservatives have pounced on. The Tories were largely responsible for digging the United Kingdom such a large hole, and they will probably have to be the ones to take them out of it as well -- but can they?

#### - **The Right Honourable Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Opposition**

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<sup>15</sup> European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations. "Conditions for membership." European Union Neighbourhood Policy. June 12, 2016. Accessed November 28, 2017. [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/conditions-membership\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/conditions-membership_en).

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> BBC. "Brexit: What are the options?" BBC News. June 12, 2017. Accessed December 21, 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-37507129>.

<sup>18</sup> Rankin, Jennifer. "London loses EU agencies to Paris and Amsterdam in Brexit relocation." The Guardian. November 20, 2017. Accessed November 28, 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/nov/20/london-loses-european-medicines-agency-amsterdam-brexit-relocation>.

A vocal supporter of rejoining the the European Union, Corbyn and May -- as well as Labour and the Conservatives in general -- seem to find themselves at odds with each other on virtually every Brexit-related matter. More often than not, however, Labour is unable to do much in the Commons, for they lack any sort of majority, though after the 2017 general election, Labour did gain 30 seats in the Commons, compared to a loss of 13 seats for the rival Tories,<sup>19</sup> easily the best result among all parties in the election. Being seen by many as a potential Prime Minister, barring any challenges within the Labour Party, it is reasonably possible for Labour to take power at the next General Election.

- **The Right Honourable Philip Hammond MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer**

Despite having voted to remain in the European Union, Hammond has made it clear that in his time as Chancellor that he would support the British exit out of the European Union, and that British workers would be protected.<sup>20</sup> Seeing as how the Chancellor wishes for the best for British workers and the common man, is the best the preservation of traditional British values which the right champions -- something Hammond has a strong opinion on, seeing as he holds certain traditional values, such as that gay marriage was bad for the Conservative party -- or will he do what he believes is better for the British worker?

- **The Right Honourable Amber Rudd MP, Secretary of State for the Home Department**

Knowing that the Home Office bears a heavy burden of Brexit responsibilities -- they are responsible for EU nationals residing in the United Kingdom -- Rudd has undertaken more work to make the situation for European Union citizens as nice as possible than perhaps any other cabinet minister, undertaking a massive study on the impact of Brexit on foreign nationals in the country.<sup>21</sup> Having campaigned under the Remain banner during Cameron's second ministry,<sup>22</sup> where she served as the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Rudd would almost certainly be in favor of Brentance.

- **The Right Honourable Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy**

As the Member of Parliament for Tunbridge Wells, the only constituency in the county of Kent that voted to remain in the European Union -- though not by a significant margin<sup>23</sup> -- Clark did indeed vote to remain in the European Union, for the fear of losing access to the European single market would, in his words, allow the European Commission to "favour EU members at the expense

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<sup>19</sup> BBC. "Results of the 2017 General Election." BBC News. June 8, 2017. Accessed December 21, 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/election/2017/results>.

<sup>20</sup> Watts, Joe. "Philip Hammond calls for different Brexit saying UK has an 'ardent wish' to remain at heart of Europe." The Independent. June 27, 2017. Accessed February 26, 2018. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/philip-hammond-brexite-uk-european-union-approach-hard-leave-eu-soft-theresa-may-stance-conservatives-a7810761.html>.

<sup>21</sup> MacShane, Denis. "Amber Rudd is the only Government minister taking Brexit seriously – it's time the rest of the Cabinet followed suit." The Independent. July 28, 2017. Accessed January 22, 2018. <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/brexit-list-uk-expats-europe-amber-rudd-home-office-funding-whitehall-theresa-may-a7864381.html>.

<sup>22</sup> BBC. "EU vote: Where the cabinet and other MPs stand." BBC News. June 22, 2016. Accessed January 22, 2018. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-35616946>.

<sup>23</sup> BBC. "Kent overwhelmingly votes to leave the EU." BBC News. June 24, 2016. Accessed February 21, 2018. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36616172>.

of British firms and British jobs” economically.<sup>24</sup> Without a doubt, Clark is strongly pro-Brexit, and will be one of the leading lights within May’s cabinet for re-entry into the Union, as what Clark has described -- rule changes to the detriment of British businesses in Europe -- has exactly occurred, as is evident with the economic stagnation that the whole of the United Kingdom has been experiencing.

- **The Right Honourable Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**

A vocal supporter of Prime Minister May,<sup>25</sup> Hunt did not see Brexit happening with anyone but her in charge. Being in charge of the National Health Service (NHS), Britain’s national health provided, the “Leave” campaign promised the NHS up to £350 million per *week* in extra funding<sup>26</sup> to improve coverage in an otherwise underfunded agency. This, unfortunately, was a lie.<sup>27</sup> Having made it clear that it was impossible for the United Kingdom to remain in any customs union, it’s difficult to point out exactly where Hunt stands on Brexit.<sup>28</sup>

- **The Right Honourable Liam Fox MP, Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade**

Being an influential member of the Cabinet with regards to monetary policy around the world and foreign transactions, during the Brexit period, Fox argued that the United Kingdom has to be excluded from any European Union customs union<sup>29</sup> in order to take advantage of international markets. Fox voted to leave the European Union during the 2016 referendum,<sup>30</sup> and does not seem to be a believer in Britain’s future within it.

- **The Honourable Jacob Rees-Mogg MP**

One of the many Conservative Members of Parliament opposed to May and in favor of Brexit, Mogg has repeatedly denigrated the European Union as unnecessary and such, once going as far as to say that it “does not understand our desire to rule ourselves according to our own democracy and

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<sup>24</sup>Clark, Greg, MP. "Greg's view on the EU Referendum." Greg Clark MP. February 25, 2016. Accessed February 21, 2018. Greg Clark, MP.

"[http://www.gregclark.org/local-news/gregs-view-on-the-eu-referendum/221.](http://www.gregclark.org/local-news/gregs-view-on-the-eu-referendum/221)"

<sup>25</sup> "No Brexit unless we back Theresa May, Jeremy Hunt says." BBC News. December 3, 2017. Accessed February 23, 2018. [http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-42213067.](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-42213067)

<sup>26</sup> Caudwell, John. "The Lack Of NHS Diagnostics Funding Is Causing Widespread Suffering." HuffPost UK. January 30, 2018. Accessed March 12, 2018.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/the-lack-of-nhs-diagnostics-funding-is-causing-widespread\\_uk\\_5a6f65bbe4b006be66080f81.](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/the-lack-of-nhs-diagnostics-funding-is-causing-widespread_uk_5a6f65bbe4b006be66080f81)

<sup>27</sup> Rob Merrick Deputy Political Editor. "Brexit: Vote Leave chief who created £350m NHS claim on bus admits leaving EU could be an error." The Independent. July 04, 2017. Accessed March 12, 2018. [http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-latest-news-vote-leave-director-dominic-cummings-leave-eu-error-nhs-350-million-lie-bus-a7822386.html.](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-latest-news-vote-leave-director-dominic-cummings-leave-eu-error-nhs-350-million-lie-bus-a7822386.html)

<sup>28</sup> BBC. "Brexit: Jeremy Hunt says UK will not stay in customs union." BBC News. February 23, 2018. Accessed March 12, 2018. [http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43167824.](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43167824)

<sup>29</sup> Watts, Joe. "Brexit: Liam Fox says UK will have to be outside any customs union after leaving EU." The Independent. February 02, 2018. Accessed February 26, 2018.

[http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-latest-updates-liam-fox-uk-customs-union-eu-leave-international-trade-a8191141.html.](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-latest-updates-liam-fox-uk-customs-union-eu-leave-international-trade-a8191141.html)

<sup>30</sup> BBC. "EU vote: Where the cabinet and other MPs stand."

never will.”<sup>31</sup> Moreover, he is generally opposed to many modern British ideals, such as gay marriage,<sup>32</sup> and can be seen as a traditionalist, perhaps even an isolationist with regards to the European Union and the British Isles.

- **The Right Honourable Arlene Foster MLA**

The leader of the Democratic Unionist Party of Northern Ireland, the junior partner in the current Tory-DUP coalition government in London, Foster -- and the rest of the DUP -- are generally the farthest right on the political spectrum currently in the Commons. Foster is categorically Eurosceptic and against British re-entry into the European Union -- she wrote to every European Union head of state in November of 2017 to argue that there will be no change in status of Northern Ireland during the Brexit process, resulting in the “hard” border that currently exists between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.<sup>33</sup> To that end, Foster is entirely against any prospect of British re-entry into the European Union.

- **The Right Honourable Sir Vince Cable MP**

A man who practically exemplified the Remain camp, Cable was extremely optimistic about Brexit not even happening, going as far as to say that there was a one-in-five chance of it not even occurring after Article 50 was triggered.<sup>34</sup> To his dismay, however, it did. Like the Liberal Democrats platform itself, he believes that Britain is far better off within the European Union -- as a result, Mr. Cable is an ardent supporter of British re-entry into the Union.

- **The Right Honourable Boris Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs**

It’s difficult to point out where exactly the Foreign Secretary is on Brexit. On one hand, he was reportedly celebrating like there was no tomorrow at the Vote Leave headquarters on the night that the Brexit vote took place;<sup>35</sup> per contra, he also supposedly wrote about how much better off the

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<sup>31</sup> Kirby, Will. “No one EVER regrets liberty!’ Jacob Rees-Mogg condemns Juncker’s claim UK will rue Brexit.” Express.co.uk. September 13, 2017. Accessed November 28, 2017. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/853849/brexit-news-uk-eu-jean-claude-juncker-jacob-rees-mogg-state-of-the-union-speech-latest>.

<sup>32</sup> Elgot, Jessica. “Jacob Rees-Mogg opposed to gay marriage and abortion – even after rape.” The Guardian. September 06, 2017. Accessed November 28, 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/sep/06/jacob-rees-mogg-opposed-to-gay-marriage-and-abortion-even-after>.

<sup>33</sup> Peck, Tom. “Arlene Foster writes to 27 EU leaders to categorically reject Northern Ireland staying in Customs Union.” The Independent. November 25, 2017. Accessed February 26, 2018. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/arlene-foster-brexit-customs-union-northern-ireland-dup-conference-a8075576.html>.

<sup>34</sup> Hartley-Parkinson, Richard. “There’s a one in five chance Brexit won’t happen, says Sir Vince Cable.” Metro. November 27, 2017. Accessed November 28, 2017. <http://metro.co.uk/2017/11/27/theres-a-one-in-five-chance-brexit-wont-happen-says-sir-vince-cable-7110688/>.

<sup>35</sup> Walker, Peter. “Boris Johnson ‘punched the air like Maradona’ after Brexit vote.” The Guardian. January 09, 2017. Accessed December 21, 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jan/09/boris-johnson-brexit-referendum-dominic-cummings>.

United Kingdom would be if it were to stay in the European Union.<sup>36</sup> Lately, however, him and Michael Gove, a fellow Cabinet member, have distanced themselves from May's policy of staying close to European Union regulations,<sup>37</sup> perhaps signalling the start of a trend of consistent pro-Brexiteering among the Cabinet.

- **The Right Honourable Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Defence**

Williamson shocked the British political scene after he went from being Chief Whip of the Tories all the way to Defence Minister -- without any prior ministerial experience, that is. Having landed such a pivotal job -- responsible for Britain's defence in this new era of defence spending cuts, and being one of the leading figures within the Cabinet -- Williamson divided the Tories, with many apparently being left in awe by the fact that they were passed up for him. On Brexit, the young cabinet minister's tone on the matter is rather ambiguous.

- **The Right Honourable Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Leader of the Scottish National Party**

Calling Brexit a "developing disaster"<sup>38</sup> and favoring no Brexit over a Brexit deal,<sup>39</sup> it is resoundingly clear where the SNP Leader stands on the issue of Brexit. A vast majority of Scots supported remaining in the European Union, and Sturgeon today remains one of the most influential figures of the Rejoin camp.

- **Luigi di Maio**

A recently-elected member of the Chamber of Deputies, the Italian Parliament, Maio serves as the chamber vice president. Being the leader of the Five Star Movement (Movimento 5 Stelle), an anti-establishment, populist party, the party is highly critical of the role that the European Union plays in daily Italian life.

- **Leo Vardakar TD**

The Taoiseach gave a very well-received speech at the European Parliament about Britain leaving the European Union, noting that the individual states of Europe are "small," and need to band together in order to survive the future.<sup>40</sup> Even though Prime Minister May and Vardakar aimed to hash out a deal that would not result in Northern Ireland remaining in the customs union,<sup>41</sup> this did not

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<sup>36</sup> Craig, Jon. "Boris Johnson's secret 'Remain' article revealed." Sky News. October 16, 2016. Accessed December 21, 2017.

<https://news.sky.com/story/boris-johnsons-secret-remain-article-revealed-10619546>.

<sup>37</sup> Ross, Tim. "Theresa May Faces New Brexit Revolt From Boris Johnson." Bloomberg.com. December 05, 2017. Accessed December 21, 2017.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-12-05/u-k-s-may-is-said-to-face-new-brexiteer-revolt-from-boris-johnson>.

<sup>38</sup> BBC. "Nicola Sturgeon says Brexit a developing disaster." BBC News. October 09, 2017. Accessed February 21, 2018. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-41550906>.

<sup>39</sup> BBC. "Nicola Sturgeon: 'No Brexit preferable to no deal'." *BBC News*, British Broadcasting Corporation, 8 Jan. 2018, [www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-42603500](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-42603500).

<sup>40</sup> Stone, Jon. "Brexit: Irish prime minister Leo Varadkar warns UK 'all European countries will be small on the world stage'." *The Independent*. January 17, 2018. Accessed February 26, 2018. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-latest-updates-leo-varadkar-uk-european-counties-parliament-ireland-pm-strasberg-world-stage-a8163586.html>.

<sup>41</sup> O'Carroll, Lisa. "Brexit: Varadkar and May to work on plan for frictionless Irish border." *The Guardian*. February 12, 2018. Accessed February 26, 2018.

happen, much to Arlene Foster's approval. Though Vardakar respects the British decision to leave the Union,<sup>42</sup> he would much rather have it rejoin, for it would mean a stronger, more stable Irish border -- by extension, a stronger, more stable Ireland.

- **French President Emmanuel Macron**

Perhaps the strongest supporter of the European Union in French politics -- though he wishes for significant reform to it nonetheless -- Macron believes that full British access to the common market without paying a hefty price is, to put it bluntly, "stupid."<sup>43</sup> As a result of this statement, it shouldn't exactly be difficult to point out where the French President stands on British re-entry into the bloc -- he believes that to enjoy the perks of the Union, you must actually be in the Union.

- **German Chancellor Angela Merkel**

Seeing Theresa May, her British equal, as ridicule-worthy,<sup>44</sup> Merkel is much the same as the French President with regards to Britain and the European Union. The Chancellor believes that Brexit "empowered" the European Union to do better<sup>45</sup> -- better, in relation to the British economy, is just what has been done. However, Merkel would not rule out British re-entry into the Union.

- **His Excellency Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission**

Being the head of the European Commission, Juncker wields enormous authority within effectively the entire European Union. Juncker is strongly in favor of British re-entry into the Union under Article 49 of the Lisbon Treaty.<sup>46</sup>

- **Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orban**

Easily the most prominent critic of the European Union within the Union itself, the Hungarian Prime Minister does indeed wish for a smooth British transition out of the Union, but due to his extreme Euroscepticism,<sup>47</sup> does not see British re-entry into the Union as a legitimate possibility -- at least a possibility that is good for the United Kingdom, that is.

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<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/feb/12/irish-pm-to-raise-brexite-border-concerns-in-talks-with-may>.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Watts, Joe. "Brexit: Emmanuel Macron says UK can have bespoke trade deal at a price." The Independent. January 20, 2018. Accessed February 26, 2018.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-emmanuel-macron-bespoke-trade-deal-theresa-may-a8169416.html>.

<sup>44</sup> Pasha-Robinson, Lucy. "Angela Merkel ridicules Theresa May's Brexit demands during secret press briefing." The Independent. January 29, 2018. Accessed March 09, 2018.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/angela-merkel-theresa-may-brexit-demands-press-briefing-davos-eu-talks-a8183436.html>.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Rose, Eleanor. "Jean-Claude Juncker says UK should rejoin EU after Brexit using Article 49." Evening Standard. January 17, 2018. Accessed March 12, 2018.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/brexit-news-jeanclaude-juncker-says-uk-should-rejoin-eu-using-article-49-a3742286.html>.

<sup>47</sup> Batchelor, Tom. "Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban praises Donald Trump's 'America First' nationalism." The Independent. January 23, 2017. Accessed March 12, 2018.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/donald-trump-nationalist-hungary-pm-viktor-orban-praise-america-first-a7542361.html>.

- **Alexander Gauland MdB, Leader of “Alternative for Germany” in the Bundestag**

Gauland is the co-leader of Alternative für Deutschland, and leads them in the Bundestag -- the German Parliament -- and is rather far to the right of the German political sphere. Indeed, he once argued that Germany should be proud of its soldiers in both world wars,<sup>48</sup> and that German national team defender Jerome Boateng -- one of the best centre-halves in the world -- would not be a good person to have as a neighbor.<sup>49</sup>

- **Sebastian Kurz, Chancellor of Austria**

Despite being the leader of a relatively conservative political party in Austria, Kurz is surprisingly not Eurosceptic. Indeed, he believes that the European Union must actually become stronger in the wake of Britain’s exit.<sup>50</sup> To this end, he would likely be a quiet voice of European integration in a right-wing environment filled with Euroscepticism.

- **His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Turkey**

Although Turkey itself is not in the European Union, it has long been considered a candidate state for entry into the bloc. The question is, how much does Erdogan himself -- a strongman in every regard within Turkey; a dictator, more-or-less -- believe in the Union? How did he feel about Brexit? How does he feel about Brentance?

- **Andrej Babis MP, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic**

Being the leader of a Eurosceptic party within the Czech Republic, it isn’t all that difficult to point out where Babis feels on the European Union as a whole -- and Brexit and Brentance, as a matter of fact.

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<sup>48</sup> Eggert, Nalina. "Storm over 'pride in WW2 soldiers' remarks in Germany." BBC. September 16, 2017. Accessed March 12, 2018. Storm over 'pride in WW2 soldiers' remarks in Germany.

<sup>49</sup> Oltermann, Philip. "German rightwing party apologises for Jérôme Boateng comments." The Guardian. May 29, 2016. Accessed March 12, 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/29/german-far-right-party-row-jerome-boateng-neighbour-comments>.

<sup>50</sup> Republic of Austria. Federal Ministry. Press Department. *Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz: “Brexit must bring about a policy change in the EU”*. By Sebastian Kurz. Vienna, AUT: Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, 2017.