



MEDIA WATCH

23/09/2016 - 30/09/2016

September 23, 2016

Noonan: UK must list its Brexit demands

BRITAIN must put its list of Brexit demands on the table as soon as it invokes Article 50 to leave the European Union, Finance Minister Noonan has warned.

Mr Noonan spoke at the Irish Embassy in London before meeting Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond to discuss Brexit negotiations.

It came on the same day as UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said that he expected Article 50 to be invoked early next year.

Mr Noonan said: "Brexit holds out a possibility of damaging the UK economy. And if it damages the UK economy, it damages the Irish economy.

"There's (EURO)1.2bn worth of goods crossing the Irish Sea every week, with 400,000 jobs depending on it, so we have common interests and I want to meet him to get an insight into the approach that the British government and he himself will adopt, after they invoke Article 50.

"Because I think there's an alignment of interests, and acknowledging the fact that we have separate interests as well, we may be able to help each other.

Insight "Then of the course there's the whole issue of Northern Ireland, the border and the peace process and so on. So we've a lot of issues to discuss."

Mr Noonan said he had "no particular insight" into when Article 50 would be invoked and believes it is a "matter for the British government", not the Irish government.

He said: "We understand that they're not going to do it this year, but there's speculation that they may do it early next year.

"Whenever they do it, they have to be clear with our colleagues in Europe about what they want.

"If there's a long ask-list, the rest of us need to know what their priorities are, as soon as Article 50 is invoked."

The Fine Gael minister confirmed that trade tariffs and cross-border trade were points of discussion with Mr Hammond.

He said: "We think it'd be pretty ludicrous to have a hard border within 40 miles of Dublin Airport, and it would be the only land border between the UK and the EU so we want to make sure things remain pretty much as they are and people can go north and south without hindrance."

Meanwhile, Boris Johnson spoke to Sky News about the anticipated time frame for Article 50, which would trigger the process of Britain leaving the EU.

The Foreign Secretary said he expected Article 50 would be invoked in early 2017 and Britain would "take back control" with a global free trade package and a deal on financial services.

"By the early part of next year, you will see an Article 50 letter which we will invoke and in that letter I am sure we will be setting out some parameters for how we propose to take this forward," he said.

Meanwhile, in Cork, Agriculture Minister Michael Creed said Ireland will consider a special free trade zone with the UK if Brexit results in a complex UK split from the EU and the Single Market.

But he warned: "I have said repeatedly that I just don't see any upside in Brexit for Ireland."

Source: The Irish Independent

September 27, 2016

Kenny to host all-Ireland talks on Brexit in November

Enda Kenny will host all-Ireland talks on the impact of Brexit within weeks.

The Taoiseach said the "all-island, all-Ireland conversation" in November will involve business people, members of civic society and political parties.

Details of the gathering will be revealed in the "near future", he told the Dail on its first day back after the summer break.

And he warned the process of Britain leaving the European Union could take a lot longer than some expect.

"I fear that this will run for quite some time," he said.

"It might not be as straightforward or as short term as many people think."

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Northern Ireland's largest political party, has signalled it will not take part in any all-island forum.

A party spokesman told the Press Association there was no need for new structures and that cross-border talks about Brexit could be carried out within existing arrangements.

Northern Ireland First Minister and DUP leader Arlene Foster rejected suggestions of an all-island Brexit forum at the last North South Ministerial Council meeting at Dublin Castle in July.

But under questioning from Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams in the Dail, Mr Kenny confirmed he was pressing ahead with the talks.

"It is my intention to convene an all-island, all-Ireland conversation about this, obviously to which business people, members of civic society and political parties will be invited," he said.

Mr Kenny said the outcome of June's referendum result had sparked a great deal of confusion and uncertainty and was a matter of the utmost seriousness and concern to Ireland's interests.

Mr Adams said the entire post-Good Friday Agreement architecture is under threat because of the "British government's insistence on dragging the people of the North out of the EU against their wishes".

A majority of voters in Northern Ireland backed remaining within the bloc.

"It is very important that we send a very clear message that the vote of the people of the North must be respected," he said.

He added: "For decades we have been lectured about respecting the majority vote in the North.

"Well here is a majority vote which says it wants to remain within the European Union and you as Taoiseach, in my opinion, have a duty and a responsibility to advocate this."

Source: The Belfast Telegraph

September 29, 2016

Brexit will not stop PSNI and gardaí co-operating - Tánaiste

Colm Kelpie Brexit Correspondent THE Brexit vote will not undermine or diminish the close cooperation between the PSNI and gardaí, Tánaiste and Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald has said.

Ms Fitzgerald pledged that neither paramilitary dissident groups nor criminals will be allowed to benefit from the outcome of the UK referendum last June.

"If the paramilitary groups who seek to thwart the wishes of the vast majority of the people on this island - paramilitary groups who parasitically feed off organised crime and fear - think they will somehow benefit from the outcome of the referendum, they can forget it," the minister told a cross-border seminar on organised crime yesterday.

"My message is simple. We will stop you. And we will defeat you."

Ms Fitzgerald said the Common Travel Area was key to the close relationships on the island and with Britain.

"The Common Travel Area is a central support to the close relationships on this island and, indeed, with Britain, with long-established and clear benefits that are enjoyed by communities on both sides of the border and beyond," said Ms Fitzgerald.

"I believe that it is an arrangement that is valued equally, North and South.

"It will be a priority for both administrations to retain its benefits in the years to come in the context of a new relationship between the EU and the UK."

Improved security on the island has been due to the close cooperation between the PSNI and gardaí, she added.

"There will be those who seek to exploit the advantages of a Common Travel Area," she said.

"The challenges in policing cross-border multi-jurisdictional criminal activities are acknowledged in the [cross-border crime threat] Assessment," the Tánaiste told the gathering in Enniskillen.

"But I want to be explicitly clear on one thing here today. We will not allow criminals or paramilitaries to benefit from Brexit."

Ms Fitzgerald said maintaining public safety and fighting organised crime is critically important.

She said the organised crime threat seen in Dublin in recent times was "unprecedented".

"The international impact of this activity has brought into sharp focus the real value of the international communities and of the partnerships that we develop across jurisdictions," she said.

She also noted the importance of cross-border cooperation in tackling rural crime. Earlier yesterday, the administrations on both sides of the island launched the latest cross-border policing strategy.

It covers rural policing, community relations, intelligence sharing, and emergency planning.

Source: The Irish Independent

September 30, 2016

'I want to see free movement across the Irish border post Brexit' Prime Minister Theresa May

Prime Minister Theresa May says she wants to see free movement across the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic following the UK's departure from Europe.

She told BBC Northern Ireland that she agreed with the Irish government and Northern Ireland Executive about not seeing a "return to the borders of the past".

Mrs May also committed to work "closely" with them to ensure free movement across the border.

She said she is in discussions with the Irish government at the moment over "how we can develop these ideas in ways that are going to ensure that we deliver on the intention of all parties".

The UK voted in June by a tight margin to leave the EU.

Some 51% voted to leave against 48% who voted to remain.

However in Northern Ireland a majority (56%) voted to stay in the EU.

Speaking during a visit to Northern Ireland in June Mrs May warned a Leave vote would end an open north-south border.

She said then that it was "inconceivable to suggest a Leave vote would not have a negative impact on the border".

"If we are out of the European Union with tariffs on exporting goods into the EU, there would have to be something to recognise that between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland," she said in June.

"And if you pulled out of the EU and came out of free movement, then how could you have a situation where there was an open border with a country that was in the EU and had access to free movement?"

However the Prime Minister has denied making a u-turn in her views.

"What I said was that of course if we leave and there is a land border with a country within the European Union, that does bring a change to that relationship across the border," she said.

"All parties are clear about the intent and will to ensure we have an arrangement that isn't a return to the borders of the past."

Source: The Belfast Telegraph