



The Centre for  
Cross Border Studies

# MEDIA WATCH

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20 July 2018 – 27 July 2018

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Prime Minister Theresa May ▼ says Brexit plan will deliver 'brighter future for all' on Northern Ireland visit;

Prime Minister Theresa May ▼ told a Belfast audience it was "now for the EU to respond" to her Government's Brexit white paper which she claimed will deliver a "brighter future" for all of the UK.

The Prime Minister was speaking at Belfast's Waterfront Hall on day two of her visit to Northern Ireland.

Theresa May's ▼ keynote address at Belfast's Waterfront Hall [Full speech]

May speaks of 'frustration and regret' over Northern Ireland political stalemate

Mrs May said the white paper set out a "principled and practical" Brexit.

She said the white paper represented a "significant development" of the UK's position.

"It is now for the EU to respond, not simply to fall back on previous positions that have already been proven unworkable, but to evolve their position in kind," she added.

"I firmly believe that we can complete what we have started."

The Prime Minister also reiterated her commitment that there would be no hard border in Ireland.

"In the Northern Ireland of today, where a seamless border enables unprecedented levels of trade and co-operation North and South, any form of infrastructure at the border is an alien concept," she said.

"The seamless border is a foundation stone on which the Belfast Agreement rests, allowing for the just and equal treatment for the identity, ethos and aspirations of both communities.

"Anything that undermines that is a breach of the spirit of the Belfast Agreement - an agreement that we have committed to protect in all its parts and the EU says it will respect."

**Source: The Belfast Telegraph**

**27 July 2018**

## UK warned Chequers plan might impede trade deal

The British Prime Minister's Brexit proposals would deny the UK the opportunity to join a new free trade agreement bringing together some of the world's fastest-growing economies, experts have warned.

The white paper setting out [Theresa May](#)'s plans for life after Brexit specifically states that the UK could "potentially seek accession" to the new Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) "on terms consistent with the future relationship with the EU".

However experts are warning that Mrs May's decision to seek a free trade deal with the EU on agricultural and manufactured goods would make CPTPP membership unlikely.

The CPTPP was signed earlier this year, after US President Donald Trump pulled the plug on its TPP predecessor by withdrawing the US just days after entering office in 2017.

Its 11 members include Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico and Singapore, with South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand among countries expected to join soon.

Eliminating tariffs and quotas between members and involving mutual recognition of regulations and rules on cross-border investment, it is seen as a swifter and more effective alternative to forging separate trade deals with individual member states.

In an essay for the Policy Exchange think tank, former Australian ambassador to the World Trade Organisation Geoff Raby warned that the Chequers deal would limit the UK's participation.

"By aligning UK policy to EU policy on agriculture and manufactured goods, the white paper will constrain the opportunities that the UK has to pursue an independent trade policy," said Mr Raby.

"Without being able to participate fully in the agricultural and manufactured goods dimension it is most unlikely that the UK would be able to join, but if it did it would not be able to get the full benefits of the CPTPP."

**Source: RTE**