



THE FIPRA BREXIT TEAM

DISCREET ASSISTANCE IN UNDERSTANDING
THE POLITICS OF BREXIT



Fipra is a network of independent political and regulatory advisers. Our team of constitutional experts and special advisers, together with our network of offices in every Member State, means that we have both the knowledge and the organisation in place to provide advice, analysis and intelligence on the Brexit process, its potential outcomes and political compromises.

Last June, in a UK Government-sponsored referendum, the people of the UK voted by a margin of 52% to 48% to leave the European Union (EU). The British Prime Minister, Theresa May MP, has made it clear that the UK Government intends to respect this vote, and has set March 2017 as the deadline for initiating withdrawal negotiations under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (see page 6 below).

At this stage, prior to the UK formally notifying the European Council (the EU institution composed of the Governments of each of the EU Member States) of its intention to withdraw, no formal negotiations are taking place – either about the terms of UK withdrawal or the future trading relationship between the UK and the EU. However, both the UK and the EU negotiators are preparing their positions.

At present, there is little consensus about what the future EU-UK relationship should look like, and the short window for concluding an agreement has created far-reaching political and commercial uncertainty. EU treaties will cease to apply to the UK two years after the UK has given formal notification of its intention to leave the EU, unless this period is extended by unanimous agreement of the European Council.

There is no precedent for anyone, let alone Europe's second largest economy, leaving the EU. Politically, most questions are open and will be for some time, although some options are more credible than others. As companies prepare for possible future scenarios, Fipra is in a unique position to help work out what those scenarios might be.

The head of our Brexit Team, **Lucinda Creighton**, ran the last Irish EU Presidency¹, and was, until recently, Minister for European Affairs in Ireland – a country that will be one of those most affected by Brexit. At Fipra, Lucinda is closely assisted by a **team of EU experts** including former senior members of the European Commission and European Parliament, and Dr Daniel Furby, a frequent public commentator on European constitutional questions, such as the accession of an independent Scotland to the EU.

1 The EU Presidency is responsible for the functioning of the Council of the European Union. The Presidency rotates among EU Member States. The EU Presidency is not an individual post, but rather a position held by a national government. Currently held by Slovakia, in 2017 it will be held by Malta and then Estonia.

The major policy decisions that will set the direction of the political deals to come will be taken by the European Council and in Member State capitals. **Fipra are the only group of public affairs advisers to have experienced political and public affairs advisers present in each Member State** and beyond, including in the countries of the European Economic Area, outside the EU. Our Brexit team is able to draw upon political intelligence and analysis gathered from across our network.

The European Commission, in accordance with guidelines provided by the European Council, will play an important role in negotiating with the UK. The Commission's negotiating team will be led by Michel Barnier – a former French Minister for Foreign Affairs and former European Commissioner. Any final agreement between the EU and the UK will also require the approval of the European Parliament, which will seek to influence the EU approach to the negotiations.

Our first-class EU Team in Brussels will be on hand to advise companies on their engagement with the EU institutions before and during the Brexit negotiations. This includes our large team of independent **Senior and Special Advisers**, who have specific public policy experience in individual sectors and industries, including financial services, food, transport and energy – to name but a few.

Fipra will be working with both in-house staff and our Special Advisers and, where appropriate, also with other analytical organisations such as the **London School of Economics**, to calibrate the political and practical feasibility of different outcomes. We aim to save our clients from needlessly expending effort and resources on unlikely or impossible scenarios, to plan ahead, and help them maximise the bottom line opportunities which Brexit may also bring.

We are able to run small briefings or full-scale in-house seminars, or just deliver short specific opinions. This in turn helps our clients to not only know what scenarios they may face, but also to prepare themselves to take advantage of them.

For more information, please contact our Brexit team on brexit.team@fipra.com.

Core Brexit Team



Lucinda Creighton
Special Adviser on Brexit

Lucinda was the Irish Minister for European Affairs from 2011 to 2013, encompassing the 2013 Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU. During the Presidency, Lucinda successfully led the negotiations on the seven-year EU budget, and represented the EU in trade talks with the United States. Lucinda is a Council Member of the European Council on Foreign Relations.



Dirk Hudig
Director, Fipra International

Dirk is the Head of Fipra's Brussels office and has three decades of experience in EU affairs across many sectors. A Dutch national, before joining Fipra he was formerly Secretary-General of BusinessEurope (1998-2001) – the principal EU confederation of European industry and employers' organisations. Dirk is also Chairman of the European Risk Forum on EU regulation.



Rory Chisholm
Director, Fipra International

Rory is the Head of the Fipra UK office in London and has worked on UK and EU political and regulatory affairs for over 20 years. He advises clients on a wide range of policy issues, including financial services, energy and transport – and he is also the head of Fipra's competition practice, advising on the public affairs aspects of mergers, anti-trust, state aid and other competition cases.



Daniel Furby
Policy Adviser, Fipra International

Daniel is a specialist in UK-EU relations. He has presented on EU trade policy in Westminster to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the EU. His reports for the Business for New Europe campaigning group on "Scottish Independence and EU Accession" received widespread UK media coverage. He holds a PhD on the UK and European integration from the University of London.

Brexit Special Advisers



Peter-Carlo Lehrell
Chairman of the Fipra Network

Peter-Carlo founded Fipra in 2000 and is Chairman of the Fipra network. He has guided some of the world's biggest and most successful companies through significant anti-trust issues, as well as advising them on general public affairs. Peter-Carlo has also worked in the European Parliament and held positions in the finance and insurance sectors.



Juan Prat y Coll
Special Adviser, EU and International Negotiations

Juan has many years of experience in international negotiations from both EU and Member State perspectives. He is a former Director-General for External Relations within the European Commission. He is also a former Spanish Ambassador to Italy and the Netherlands.



Peter Chase
Special Adviser, International Trade

Until earlier this year, Peter was Vice President of the US Chamber of Commerce with responsibility for the EU-US Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations. He previously worked for the US State Department for 15 years, specialising in economic and EU affairs.



Paul Vandoren
Special Adviser, International Trade

Paul is an adviser on EU and international trade policy. He served as a Director at DG Trade within the European Commission and then as the EU's Ambassador to Croatia during its accession to the EU. He is also an expert in international aspects of intellectual property rights.

Article 50 – Treaty on European Union

1. Any Member State may decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements.
2. A Member State which decides to withdraw shall notify the European Council of its intention. In the light of the guidelines provided by the European Council, the Union shall negotiate and conclude an agreement with that State, setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal, taking account of the framework for its future relationship with the Union. That agreement shall be negotiated in accordance with Article 218(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. It shall be concluded on behalf of the Union by the Council, acting by a qualified majority, after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament.
3. The Treaties shall cease to apply to the State in question from the date of entry into force of the withdrawal agreement or, failing that, two years after the notification referred to in paragraph 2, unless the European Council, in agreement with the Member State concerned, unanimously decides to extend this period.
4. For the purposes of paragraphs 2 and 3, the member of the European Council or of the Council representing the withdrawing Member State shall not participate in the discussions of the European Council or Council or in decisions concerning it. A qualified majority shall be defined in accordance with Article 238(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
5. If a State which has withdrawn from the Union asks to rejoin, its request shall be subject to the procedure referred to in Article 49.

To contact Fipra's Brexit team, please email: brexit.team@fipra.com
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For more information on our Brussels and UK teams,
our sectoral advisers or our colleagues in each of the
EU Member States please see

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