

8 October 2019



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Donald Tusk
President of the European Council
Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgique/België

Dear President Tusk

We write as Labour Members of Parliament who wish to see the British EU referendum result honoured without further delay.

We hope the Commission and the EU27 will engage with all earnest to reach an accommodation with the UK and we urge flexibility on both sides to reach the common goal of an orderly exit and continued co-operation as neighbours.

In this letter, we do not stand in judgement on the merits of the UK proposals regarding the operation of customs, regulations and trade across the Northern Ireland border. However, we believe that no party to these negotiations, or in the UK Parliament, wishes to compromise either the historic peace agreement or future co-operation across the island of Ireland.

For our part, we see more common agreement across parties than many would suggest. We believe a deal which provides for future co-operation with the EU, protects existing EU citizens' rights; workers' rights and environmental standards, are all aspects that have clear majority support in the Commons.

It is now over 1,200 days since the UK people made the decision to leave the European Union. The British people have become exasperated with parliamentary deadlock. If a new deal can be brought back to the Commons in the coming weeks that avoids a No Deal Brexit and ensures greater certainty during the UK's departure, we believe it serves Britain's national interest to approve it. ***Our votes will be decisive*** in determining the approval of that deal.

We hope the Commission and the EU27 will not be attracted to the option of further delay, which will solve nothing and add to public division and disenchantment with politics.



Therefore, we urge the Commission, EU27 and UK Government to work night and day, if required, to agree a deal so the UK Parliament can make a clear decision to close this chapter in the coming weeks. We can then move forward to positive negotiations in stage two.

This can only be to the mutual benefit of all our citizens and businesses and a strong future relationship between the UK and the European Union.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Sir Kevin Barron MP
Sarah Champion MP
Rosie Cooper MP
Jon Cruddas MP
Gloria De Piero MP
Jim Fitzpatrick MP
Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP
Yvonne Fovargue MP
Dan Jarvis MP
Stephen Kinnock MP
Emma Lewell-Buck MP
Justin Madders MP
Grahame Morris MP
Melanie Onn MP
Stephanie Peacock MP
Lucy Powell MP
Ruth Smeeth MP
Laura Smith MP
Gareth Snell MP