Beat: Politics

EU-UK talks: MEPs display unwavering support for the EU position

Differences remain substantial

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USPA NEWS - In a resolution adopted by a large majority on Thursday, European Parliament takes stock of the EU-UK negotiations on a new partnership so far and acknowledges the negotiating parties´ call to intensify talks in July. They regret that no real progress has been achieved in the talks after four negotiating rounds, and that differences remain substantial.

MEPs emphasise that a comprehensive agreement is in the interest of both parties. However, having the UK side cherry-pick certain policies and push for access to the single market after Brexit is “unacceptable“ for the EU, says the text, expressing deep concern over the British government´s insistence on only wanting to negotiate areas that are in the interests of the UK.

The resolution also reiterates Parliament´s full and unwavering support for the EU´s Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier in his talks with the British negotiators, based on the political mandate given to him by EU member states and Parliament. MEPs further call on the UK to respect its commitments set out in the Political Declaration, signed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and ratified by both the EU and the UK.

Withdrawal obligations

Strict implementation of the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland, and the faithful implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement, for the EU citizens in the UK but also on UK citizens´ rights in the EU, is a precondition to ensure the trust needed to conclude a deal on the future relationship, notes the text.

The text further emphasises that Parliament´s consent to any future trade agreement with the UK is conditional on the British Government agreeing to a level playing field (common rules and standards) in the area of, among others, environmental protection, labour standards, and state aid, and on the conclusion of a satisfactory agreement on fisheries. This is a necessity due to the UK's geographical proximity, level of interconnectedness and already high level of existing alignment and interdependence with EU rules. The British Government has so far not engaged in negotiations on the provisions ensuring equal competition, the resolution notes.

“The European Union and the United Kingdom have shown their willingness to significantly advance in the negotiations during the month of July. With its timely resolution adopted today, the European Parliament is expressing its readiness to conclude an ambitious and fair agreement, without compromising our principles and our objectives,“ said David McAllister (EPP, DE), Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs and the UK Coordination Group (UKCG), commenting on the plenary vote and the outcome of the EU-UK high-level meeting on 15 June.

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