

Statement in response to the European Council's adoption of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement

After the EU27 leader endorsement to the Brexit withdrawal agreement and the approval of the political declaration on future EU-UK relations earlier today, the President of EUROCHAMBRES, Christoph Leitl, made the following statement:

“EU27 Chambers welcome this significant and positive step towards ensuring an orderly Brexit. We are not popping champagne corks, as we would prefer that this whole lose-lose process were not happening. Nonetheless, avoiding a no deal Brexit is crucial in minimising the economic and commercial damage of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The EU27 leaders have done their part, now we urge the UK parliament to do likewise when it votes next month.”

On the Political Declaration on Future Relations, President Leitl commented:

*“A Withdrawal Agreement is of course just the end of the beginning. The United Kingdom will remain an important economic partner for many EU businesses after Brexit, so our member companies want to be able to trade with the minimum of friction. **EUROCHAMBRES** will seek to ensure close long-term economic relations between the EU and the UK in order to protect European living standards. While many aspects of the future arrangements remain unclear, Chambers believe that the political declaration paves the way for swift negotiations on long-term trading conditions.”*

Background documents:

- Statement after the United Kingdom's Cabinet approval of the Withdrawal Agreement text (14/11/2018): <http://bit.ly/2zqbuVW9>
- Press release: EU Summit - Brexit: EU27 businesses growing more concerned by the day (18/10/2018): <http://www.eurochambres.eu/Content/Default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=8029>
- Position paper: On Track for Trade-Oriented Brexit?' (17/09/2018): <http://www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=7990>

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