

Brexit deal vote: 'Mother of all parliaments' must put the economy first

Businesses from across the EU27 will be following tomorrow's vote attentively in the hope that, contrary to predictions, UK parliamentarians approve the Brexit deal and steer a course away from a highly damaging disorderly withdrawal. With less than 75 days until the UK by default leaves the EU and with only one deal on the table, this is the clear message from EUROCHAMBRES, the European association of Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

Mother of all Parliaments

After 2.5 years of uncertainty and disruption, EUROCHAMBRES President, Christoph Leitl, urged British parliamentarians to focus on limiting the damage to the economy, to job creation and to the competitiveness of Europe as a whole: *"The British Parliament is sometimes referred to as the 'Mother of all Parliaments'. We're looking to its members to show parental responsibility by approving the deal and steering us off a reckless course towards a disorderly Brexit"*.

Future relations

President Leitl also underlined that the deal leaves many options open for future EU–UK relations. *"We regret that the UK is leaving the EU, but the UK is not leaving Europe. The deal on the table provides ample scope to negotiate a future agreement that would ensure strong economic ties between the UK and the EU27 for many years to come, but that can only be pursued if an orderly Brexit is first secured."*

Chambers across the EU have for many months been helping companies – particularly SMEs - to prepare for Brexit. These measures have intensified in recent weeks as the chances of a disorderly 'no deal' Brexit grow. *"It is Chambers' responsibility to prepare companies for the possibility of a worst case 'no deal' scenario, which is now much too close for comfort. This is why the owners, managers, staff, suppliers and sub-contractors of thousands of businesses across the EU are hoping that the British Parliament will approve the deal tomorrow."*

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