

EURIS update 13.01.19

Next EURIS Members Meetings

- 16th January 1030 – 1430 members meeting at Rotherwick House (BEAMA/GAMBICA office).

Withdrawal Agreement Bill

- After passing the House of Commons last week, the Withdrawal Agreement Bill arrives in the Lords today for its second reading. Amendments to the Bill will be proposed later this week and opposition peers believe there are two areas where they may be able to get some movement — the provision for child refugees demanded by Labour peer Alf Dubs, and the role of parliament during the upcoming trade talks.

EU Trade Deal:

- Speaking at the weekend, former International Trade Secretary Liam Fox said that doing a trade deal with the EU before the end of the year was “achievable”, but would not involve “frictionless” access to the EU market: He said, “It’s achievable. The questions are not going to lie around issues of tariffs or quotas which you would normally get in a trade negotiation, that’s normally what takes up a lot of time, it will really be around the regulatory issues. It will be about access to the Single Market. What’s clear is that we will be outside the Single Market therefore you can’t have what is called frictionless trade. There will be some friction in that.”
- Also at the weekend, Irish Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Simon Coveney claimed that the British Government passing a law to prevent the extension of Brexit negotiations will not force the EU to rush into a deal, while acknowledging that the EU felt the end of 2020 deadline set by Boris Johnson was “ambitious, if not unrealistic”: He said, “When people talk about the future relationship, in the UK in particular, they seem to only talk about a future trade agreement, actually there’s much more to this than that - there’s fishing, there’s aviation, there’s data and so many other things. I know that Prime Minister Johnson has set a very ambitious timetable to get this done. He has even put it into British law, but just because a British parliament decides that British laws say something doesn’t mean that that law applies to the other 27 countries of the European Union and so the European Union will approach this on the basis of getting the best deal possible - a fair and balanced deal to ensure the EU and the UK can interact as friends in the future. But the EU will not be rushed on this just because Britain passes law.”

Labour leadership:

- Labour Leadership candidates have until 2.30pm today to secure the required 22 nominations from MPs and MEPs in order to proceed to the next stage of the contest.