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PRESSE 4
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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3594th Council meeting

General Affairs

Article 50

Brussels, 29 January 2018

President **Ekaterina Zaharieva**
Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria

P R E S S

CONTENTS¹

ITEMS DEBATED

Transition period after Brexit: negotiating directives	3
State of play of Brexit negotiations.....	4

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Transition period after Brexit: negotiating directives

The Council (Article 50), in EU27 format, adopted a new set of negotiating directives for the Brexit negotiations, which details the EU27 position regarding a transition period.

According to the EU position, during the transition period the whole of the EU acquis will continue to apply to the UK as if it were a member state. However, the UK, as already a third country, will no longer participate in the institutions and the decision-making of the EU.

These negotiating directives provide the Commission with a mandate, as the EU negotiator, to start discussions with the UK on this matter.

See the [press release](#).

State of play of Brexit negotiations

The Council was informed by chief negotiator Michel Barnier about the state of play of the negotiations with the UK. Michel Barnier updated ministers on the different work strands of this second phase, where the transition and the framework on a future relationship will be discussed while the work on withdrawal issues is completed.

Ministers reiterated the importance of completing the work on withdrawal matters and of respecting in full the commitments undertaken in December 2017 in the joint report and translating them into legal text. They also recalled the need to remain united in this new phase of the negotiations.

Concerning the future relationship with the UK, ministers hoped to get more clarity on the UK position by March 2018, when the European Council (Article 50) is expected to adopt guidelines on the matter.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none
