



Mr Donald Tusk
President of the European Council
European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
BE - 1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

15 October 2019

Dear President Tusk,

No Deal Brexit is a recipe for disaster and must be avoided

The European Council meeting will be a decisive moment regarding Brexit. A disorderly exit of the UK would be extremely harmful for all sides. It would cause massive damage for citizens and businesses in the UK and the EU alike. The negative consequences would not be limited to the exit date and would drag on, endangering the fruitful and positive future relationship we aim for.


The UK leaving without a deal would mean opening the door to further uncertainty. Nobody knows how long the EU and the UK will need to define a future relationship. In the meantime, citizens and companies will face the hard consequences of the UK becoming a third country, falling from the status of full integration into the single market to a relationship with the EU less close than almost all other countries in the world, with heavy tariffs and border controls. Access to each other's goods and services will become much more difficult and will cost more. Things that seem simple today like travelling will become complicated. A deal is therefore an absolute necessity.

BusinessEurope and its member federations therefore call on both sides to undertake all reasonable efforts to agree on feasible options that can ensure an orderly exit and rule out the disastrous scenario of no deal Brexit. The UK and the EU must ensure a smooth transition from the current to the future EU-UK relation, with a clear and stable framework that gives confidence to citizens and businesses.

Perpetuating uncertainty through another extension is far from ideal as it does not bring a definitive solution. However, if a deal is not reached in time and in view of the certainty of a disastrous no deal, a time-limited extension must be considered, provided the UK provides a clear path to a deal.

Last but not least, as a no-deal exit unfortunately remains a shockingly plausible scenario, preparations for such a scenario need to be vigorously stepped-up. Companies need to implement the necessary contingency measures and governments need to make sure that everything is done to mitigate the impact of a possible no-deal both in the EU and the UK.

Yours sincerely,



Pierre Gattaz