

# Explanatory note on the CSM Assessment Body referred to in Regulation (EU) N°402/2013 and in OTIF UTP GEN-G of 1.1.2014 on the Common Safety Method (CSM) for risk assessment

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□The main objectives of this note are to describe the roles and responsibilities of the assessment body and the way to acknowledge their compliance with the requirements defined in the CSM. In particular, the note is intended to help the Member States understanding the responsibilities set on them in Article 13 of the CSM and deciding on whether they opt for the accreditation or recognition of the assessment bodies or any combination of these two options.

The note contains only explanatory information of potential help for concerned users who directly or indirectly need to apply the CSM for risk assessment. It may serve as a clarification tool however without dictating in any manner mandatory procedures to be followed and without establishing any legally binding practice. The note provides explanations on the provisions contained in the CSM for risk assessment. It should be helpful for the understanding of the legal requirements described therein.

The note needs to be read and used together with the CSM for risk assessment in order to facilitate its understanding and application. It does not replace or otherwise amend the CSM.

[Explanatory note on the assessment body referred to in the CSM for risk assessment – EN](#)

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# **Press statement by Michel Barnier following the publication of the draft Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK**

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je suis très heureux de vous retrouver à un moment important. Le Collège des Commissaires vient d'approver cette proposition de texte sur l'accord de retrait que je vais maintenant vous présenter.

C'est aussi un moment important pour la négociation, je dirais presque même un moment clef ou charnière dans ce long processus complexe de cette négociation extraordinaire que nous voulons réussir.

Et donc je suis heureux de vous présenter maintenant ce projet d'accord qui vient d'être diffusé. C'est un texte qui comprend 168 articles, et donc un projet complet d'accord de retrait.

Je voudrais faire trois remarques avant de venir à la substance :

**1/ Si nous voulons réussir cette négociation, et je veux la réussir, nous devons accélérer.**

Le 30 mars 2019, dans 13 mois, le Royaume-Uni ne sera plus un Etat membre de l'Union européenne. C'est ce qu'il a voulu. Et ce jour-là, nous devrons avoir organisé son retrait de manière ordonnée.

Nous avons maintenant besoin de négocier sur la base d'un texte. Parce que le temps est court entre aujourd'hui et l'automne prochain, où nous devrons aboutir à un accord définitif sur ce projet de retrait ordonné. Je rappelle toujours qu'il faut garder un certain nombre de mois pour le temps de la ratification, du côté européen par le Conseil des ministres et par le Parlement européen, et aussi par le Parlement britannique. Et voilà pourquoi notre choix est maintenant de travailler et de proposer à nos partenaires britanniques de travailler sur la base d'un texte juridique qui apporte de la clarté.

**2/ Il s'agit d'un projet, dont nous allons maintenant discuter avec les Etats membres, en lien étroit avec le Parlement européen.**

Nous ne mettrons ce projet officiellement sur la table des négociations avec le Royaume-Uni que lorsque ce travail à 27 et avec le Parlement européen aura été terminé.

Dans le respect de notre engagement de transparence tout au long de cette négociation, nous venons de publier ce projet.

Et ainsi, chacun peut bien prendre la mesure des sujets sur lesquels nous devons nous mettre d'accord avec le Royaume-Uni. Et puis je pense que cette transparence est aussi un outil nécessaire dans le débat public sur le Brexit, partout en Europe. Mais désormais, grâce à ce texte, un outil de débat sur la base de principes juridiques, des faits, de solutions concrètes et réalistes. J'espère que ce document sera également utile pour votre propre travail.

**3/ Ce projet de texte ne contient aucune surprise pour nos partenaires britanniques :**

Il traduit juridiquement les engagements pris ensemble par l'Union et le Royaume-Uni en décembre dans le "Joint Report".

Il inclut les positions de l'Union déjà connues sur les autres sujets du retrait sur lesquels nous n'avons pas réellement pu progresser depuis décembre.

Il inclut la position de l'Union sur la gouvernance de l'accord de retrait.

Enfin, il inclut la position de l'Union sur la transition qui fait partie de l'accord de retrait, puisque je rappelle que la seule base juridique possible pour la transition, c'est l'article 50.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to develop briefly each of these points.

**I – First, our draft translates into a legal text our joint commitments.**

Nothing in here will be a surprise for those who have followed the negotiations.

The draft text ensures that:

- citizens' rights, our priority, will be protected as we had agreed – and we will be vigilant on the need to keep administrative procedures simple and affordable;
- all financial commitments undertaken at 28 will be respected by the UK and the EU;
- North-South cooperation on the island of Ireland will be protected and a hard border will be avoided.

A few words on Ireland:

Our text contains the legal commitments necessary for the protection of the rights of individuals, as well as for the protection of the Common Travel Area.

These points have been already agreed between the EU and the UK.

The withdrawal agreement must also contain a solution to avoid a hard border and to protect the Good Friday Agreement in all its dimensions.

This is a joint commitment by the UK and the EU.

The Joint Report lists in paragraph 49 three options for tackling the problem.

1. First, to deal with this through the agreement on the future relationship, if possible. Obviously, this solution will not be in place at the moment of withdrawal.
2. Second, the UK committed to proposing specific solutions to address the unique circumstances of the island of Ireland. We look forward to receiving these proposals.
3. Third, to maintain full alignment with those rules of the Internal Market and the Customs Union which, now or in the future, support North-South cooperation, the all-island economy and the protection of the Good Friday Agreement.

This is the backstop solution that we have to put in the Withdrawal Agreement. It is the only way to guarantee that our joint commitments will be upheld in all circumstances, as the Joint Report requires.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have applied imagination and creativity to find a specific solution to the unique challenge that Brexit poses for the protection of the Good Friday Agreement.

Two issues are key to avoid border checks:

- First, full alignment with Union law on goods, veterinary and plant health rules;
- Second, Northern Ireland has to be covered by the Union customs code.

Our approach is strictly focused on those areas where it is needed to avoid border checks.

Daily life around the border should continue as today.

As I have said before, already today Northern Ireland has rules in place that are different from the rest of the UK.

But let me repeat what I said in my last press conference: we stand by our commitment to discuss all three options set out in the Joint Report in parallel.

On all these issues, on behalf of the 27, I will continue the dialogue with the political leaders of Northern Ireland. I will meet Michelle O'Neill and Arlene Foster early next week.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

**II – Deuxièmement, notre projet de texte inclut nos propositions sur les autres sujets de la séparation.**

Là non plus, il n'y a pas de surprise, puisque nous avons traduit juridiquement les positions de l'Union exprimées dans nos "Essential Principles Papers", que vous connaissez.

- Sur plusieurs de ces sujets, les négociations ont effectivement commencé, sans que nous ne trouvions au moment où je vous parle un accord. C'est le cas pour Euratom, qui est un sujet important, ou pour la question des biens placés sur le marché. Il y en a d'autres.
- Sur d'autres sujets du retrait ordonné, comme la propriété intellectuelle ou les marchés publics, nous n'avons pas reçu de position britannique, et sur ces sujets-là les négociations n'ont donc pas pu commencer.

Nous espérons aussi progresser sur la gouvernance de l'accord de retrait, qui est un point clé.

Sur ce point, notre position n'a pas changé : nous pensons que la Cour de justice de l'Union européenne doit jouer un rôle pour l'interprétation et la mise en œuvre de l'accord de retrait, chaque fois que cet accord se réfère au droit européen.

C'est la position que nous avons intégrée dans notre projet de texte, avec des dispositions spécifiques déjà agréées dans le "Joint Report" pour la protection des citoyens.

Sur tous ces sujets importants, nous espérons que notre projet de texte permettra de faire avancer et d'accélérer les négociations.

Nous sommes convenus avec la partie britannique de nous retrouver toute la semaine prochaine pour un nouveau round de négociation.

**III – Troisièmement, je veux rappeler que notre projet de texte inclut notre proposition sur la période de transition** qui a été demandée officiellement par Theresa May au nom du gouvernement britannique, et sur laquelle les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement et le Parlement européen ont marqué leur accord de principe.

Sur la transition, les discussions techniques de cette semaine confirment, je veux vous le dire franchement, qu'il reste des divergences importantes sur plusieurs points, et je voudrais en citer deux :

Sur les droits des citoyens, notre priorité, le Royaume-Uni souhaite toujours traiter moins favorablement, à la fin de la période de transition, les citoyens qui seront arrivés au Royaume-Uni pendant la transition, par rapport à ceux arrivés avant la transition, c'est-à-dire avant le jour du retrait en mars 2019. Cela reste un sujet majeur pour nous, et aussi pour les Etats membres et le Parlement européen, puisque tout l'acquis de l'Union s'appliquera pendant la transition. Il me paraît juste, normal, de traiter les citoyens qui sont arrivés avant ou pendant de manière équitable ou égale. J'ajoute aussi que notre proposition devrait permettre du côté du Royaume-Uni un système plus simple à gérer sur le simple plan administratif.

Sur l'application des règles européennes pendant cette période courte, du 30 mars 2019 au 31 décembre 2020, le Royaume-Uni demande toujours à pouvoir s'opposer en cas de désaccord avec une nouvelle règle européenne qui entrerait en vigueur pendant la transition. Nous avons rappelé que les règles doivent être les mêmes pour tous pendant cette période. Nous ne prendrons aucun risque de divergence réglementaire pendant la transition.

Et compte tenu de ces désaccords, tels que je viens d'en rappeler deux, mais il y en a quelques autres, je répète simplement que, pour le moment, la transition n'est pas acquise. Et voilà pourquoi je pense que le prochain round de négociation est aussi sur ce point à la fois utile et important.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Nous allons maintenant discuter en détail, cet après-midi même au Coreper, de ce projet avec les Etats membres. J'ai déjà eu l'occasion d'en parler hier avec les ministres à l'occasion du Conseil affaires générales, et aussi dans la soirée avec les membres du *Brexit steering group* du Parlement européen.

Ces discussions évidemment auront lieu avec toutes les institutions avant que nous ne transmettions officiellement ce document comme un projet pour la négociation avec le Royaume-Uni.

J'espère ainsi que, grâce à ce document, grâce aux négociations que nous allons avoir, nous allons continuer d'avancer comme je le souhaite vers un retrait ordonné du Royaume-Uni de l'Union européenne.

Merci pour votre attention

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## **Speech: Reiterating the call for a 30-day ceasefire, without delay, in Syria**

Thank you Mr President.

And thank you also to Under-Secretary Generals Lowcock and Feltman for their clear and factual briefings and for reiterating to all of us on this Council the ongoing horror of the conflict in Syria, and in particular in Eastern Ghouta, because that is where it is clear the situation is most dire by a huge order of magnitude.

It was five days ago that we sat in this Council and all of us raised our hands in support of a 30-day ceasefire, which we hoped would provide some relief to Syria's people. This was a desperately needed step. A step that came too late for many. In Eastern Ghouta alone, Médecins Sans Frontières reported that at least 630 people were killed and 3,000 injured in the week before Resolution 2401 was agreed, with women and children representing

nearly 60 percent of the wounded and 50 percent of the deceased. We continue, as well, to condemn attacks on Damascus from Eastern Ghouta.

Let us recall the demands of our resolution. It called for at least a 30-day ceasefire, without delay, to allow for the delivery of humanitarian aid and medical evacuation.

Without delay means right now. Immediately. That there should be no delay. We all voted for these demands and we committed to use our influence to ensure this.

In response, Russia has declared a five-hour daily humanitarian window. That is not what this Council demanded, nor what Russia agreed to use its influence to ensure. A five-hour window has not delivered and cannot deliver any meaningful improvement on the ground. Under-Secretary General Lowcock has made clear that the United Nations cannot get humanitarian convoys in and out within that timeframe, as has the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Humanitarian pauses of a few meagre hours are no substitute for a sustained ceasefire, which is vital to ensure delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and medical evacuations. If Russia is able to deliver a five-hour pause, let it deliver a 24 hour one, as they agreed on Saturday.

Mr President,

Let us now take stock of the situation in Syria, and specifically in Eastern Ghouta where the situation is at its most desperate, and review if any real change has occurred in the past five days. Has the resolution been implemented? Has there been a ceasefire? Any delivery of humanitarian aid? Or any medical evacuations? Has the passing of this resolution bought any relief to the people of Syria?

The fighting has not stopped. All of the main armed opposition groups have committed to the full implementation of Resolution 2401. The Assad regime has not, and has in fact ignored the resolution we passed. Reports of attacks and airstrikes by pro-regime forces continue. 22 airstrikes reportedly took place even during Russia's so-called humanitarian pause.

And, as if it could not get any worse, there have been disturbing reports of use of chlorine gas. Doctors in Eastern Ghouta reported to the Syrian American Medical Society that 16 patients, including six children, were suffering from symptoms indicative to exposure to chemical compounds following an alleged regime attack on Sunday, only one day after the resolution was passed.

Since Saturday, not a single aid convoy has been able to access Eastern Ghouta to provide relief to the desperate civilians.

The World Health Organisation estimates that one thousand people are now in need of medical evacuation from Eastern Ghouta. None have been evacuated since the resolution was passed.

The consequences of the failure to implement the resolution are clear. The

casualties continue to rise. The horror continues. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights report at least 14 civilians, including three children, were killed on Sunday.

In short, in the words of one doctor from Eastern Ghouta, “nothing has changed.”

Mr President,

It is the responsibility of us all to ensure that Resolution 2401 is enacted in full.

In the words of my Foreign Secretary, “The Assad regime must allow the UN to deliver humanitarian aid, in compliance with Resolution 2401, and we look to Russia and Iran to make sure this happens, in accordance with their own promises.”

I implore all those with influence over the Syrian regime to act now to ensure that the ceasefire, which they supported in this chamber, is implemented in full and immediately.

To do anything less is an affront to this Council, this United Nations and the international system that we live by.

We will continue to monitor implementation of Resolution 2401 and commit to returning to this Council regularly until we see it respected.

Thank you Mr President.

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## **News story: Transport Secretary Chris Grayling commits to delivering a modern railway in the south-west resilient to extreme weather**

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has today (28 February 2018) committed to delivering a modern railway in the south-west that is resilient to extreme weather, in the [government's response to a report by the Peninsula Rail Task Force](#).

Improving the resilience of the South West Peninsula is part of the biggest overhaul of the Great Western route since Brunel started work on the line more than 175 years ago, with £5.7 billion being invested in modernising the line and improving journeys for passengers. Central to this vision are upgrades to stretches of railway that run close to the sea through Teignmouth

and Dawlish, safeguarding their future against damage as when storms washed away part of the line at Dawlish in 2014.

The government has already provided £15 million for Network Rail to design a long-lasting solution to this problem, in addition to the £40 million spent by Network Rail to repair the damage caused in the 2014 storm.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said:

We are investing in the biggest modernisation of our railway network since Victorian times, providing faster, more reliable and more frequent services for passengers across the country.

The 2014 storms caused devastation to Dawlish and huge disruption followed. It has been a key priority since I became Transport Secretary.

That's why we're investing in the infrastructure of the region – making it easier for people to get around and better connecting the south west to the rest of the country. And that's why sorting out the route through Dawlish is my number one national rail priority.

From the summer, passengers will be also able to take advantage of 29 Intercity Express trains running from London to Penzance. The new bi-mode trains will provide faster, more comfortable and more reliable services, adding an additional 1000 peak time seats compared to today.

Other improvements include:

- the start of a two-train per hour service between Plymouth and Penzance.
- the end of 'Pacer' trains
- free Wi-Fi on all GWR trains
- substantial car park extensions at stations across the peninsula including a completed scheme at Tiverton Parkway and further schemes at St Erth and Taunton
- investment of £9 million to update the Cornish sleeper service
- instructing GWR to examine how the line between Exeter and Okehampton could see the reinstatement of regular train services.

Elsewhere in the region:

- the government is investing more than £1.6 billion in upgrading the A303 near Stonehenge, linking the south-east and the M5 in the south-west to improve journey times, reduce congestion and improve air quality for millions of people, while also supporting 120,000 extra jobs and 100,000 new homes across the region
- local authorities will benefit from £1.3 billion funding to maintain local roads in the current funding period
- the government awarded more than £970 million in local growth funding to boost jobs and business in the area
- the government announced at the Budget to invest £79 million to build

- the A30 link road for St Austell
- the government is investing £60 million in a series of local road schemes, with funding from the National Productivity Investment Fund

## Rail media enquiries

Media enquiries  
020 7944 3021

Out of hours media enquiries  
020 7944 4292

Switchboard  
0300 330 3000