

Government must be realistic about the need for transitional arrangements for Brexit – Corbyn

Jeremy

Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, commenting on the European Council's draft negotiating guidelines, said:

"It's

welcome that Donald Tusk has softened the EU's opposition to talks on trade taking place before the terms of withdrawal are agreed.

"Both

sides must be realistic about the scale of the task ahead and the common need to avoid ending up without agreement. Securing a good deal for Britain's future

must be the Government's priority and we must be realistic about the need for transitional arrangements.

"The

European Council President has reiterated the need for a 'close partnership' in the future and it is essential to achieve that. But the Prime Minister's comments about trading off security cooperation and failing to guarantee the rights of EU citizens are not a good start.

"It's

unhelpful for either side to speculate over the scale of any payments. There are obligations on both sides, which must be fairly settled.

"Labour

is clear that we must fight for a deal which prioritises jobs, the economy and

workers' rights. And the Government must guarantee that dumping of regulations

covering environmental protections, social and employment rights will not happen. People didn't vote to live in a low wage tax haven which undercuts our

neighbours on standards and protections."

Ends