



## **Update on Brexit, Trade, Migration and UNGA**

Brussels, 2 October 2019

### **Brexit**

The European Commission's Chief negotiator Michel Barnier updated the College on the current situation concerning the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

The College reiterated that the EU wants a deal and that an orderly withdrawal is far more preferable than a 'no-deal' scenario. In order for there to be a deal, there should be a legally operational solution that meets all the objectives of the backstop: preventing a hard border, preserving North-South cooperation and the all-island economy, and protecting the EU's Single Market and Ireland's place in it.

### **EU Trade policy**

Commissioners were briefed by Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström on recent developments in EU trade policy, and more concretely, about ongoing discussions in the World Trade Organization regarding the Boeing and Airbus cases. A decision by the WTO on the Airbus case is imminent and the Commission will react in due course.

The EU's position on this matter is clear and coordinated with the Member States: we should avoid imposing tariffs on one another. This would be damaging to our economies, to global trade and the broader aircraft industry.

Both the EU and the U.S. have been found at fault by the WTO dispute settlement system for continuing to provide certain unlawful subsidies to their aircraft manufacturers.

This is why the EU has consistently told the US that we are ready to work with them on a fair and balanced solution for the respective aircraft industries.

The EU is still ready and willing to find a fair settlement. But if the US decides to impose authorised countermeasures, the EU will need to do the same.

### **United Nations General Assembly and Migration issues**

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The College was debriefed on the 74th United Nations General Assembly in New York, as well as on the outcome of the United Nations Climate Action Summit.

Finally, Commissioner for Migration Dimitris Avramopoulos informed the members of the College about the latest developments concerning the

different migration routes to Europe. In particular, he presented the results of the recent discussions of the Ministerial meeting in Malta on a temporary solidarity mechanism, which will be continued at the next Home Affairs Council scheduled for next Tuesday in Luxembourg.

Commissioner Avramopoulos also informed the College of his intention to visit Turkey and Greece this Thursday and Friday to discuss the migratory situation in the Eastern Mediterranean. He will be accompanied by the Ministers of Internal Affairs of Germany, Horst Seehofer, and France, Christophe Castaner.

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