



European Works Council Conference

**Gerry McCormack, Deputy General Secretary
SIPTU**



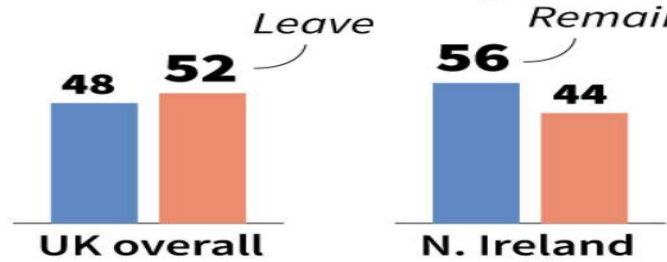
Brexit and Ireland

The Irish border

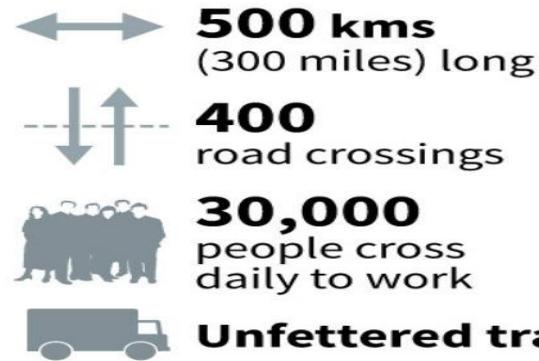
After Brexit, the border between N. Ireland and the Irish Republic will be the UK's only land frontier with the EU

Opposed to Brexit

N. Ireland voted to stay in the EU



Border



Migration



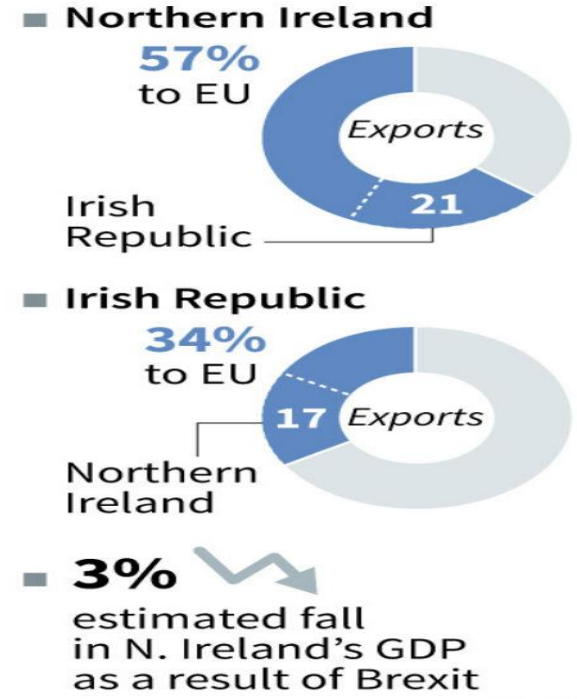
People born in N. Ireland have the right to take Irish (and thus EU) citizenship



Irish citizens have the right to reside in N. Ireland (and thus the UK)



Trade



Source: European Parliament © AFP

Post Brexit Scenarios



1. European Economic Area (EEA)
2. Customs Union (CU)
3. Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
4. World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Brexit will have negative impacts on the Irish Economy

Copenhagen Economics Report - DBEI February 2018

Post Brexit Scenarios



	EEA	CU	FTA	WTO
GDP Impact	-2.8%	-4.3%	-4.3%	-7%
Exports	-3.3%	-4.4%	-4.5%	-7.7%
Imports	-3.5%	-4.7%	-4.8%	-8.2%

Post Brexit Impact



Wages WTO Scenario - 6.5% and 8.7% **down**
 EEA Scenario - 2.6% and 3.5% **down**
Sectors negatively impacted

1. Agri-Food
2. Pharma-Chemicals
3. Electrical Machinery
4. Wholesale and Retail
5. Air Transport

Post Brexit Impact



- Almost 50% of our beef exports go to UK,
- About 22% of our dairy exports go to the UK, of which:
 - 41% is cheese, 26% is butter and 12% is Skimmed Milk Powder
 - Cheddar is the largest dairy export to the UK - 47% (81k tonnes) of Irish cheddar cheese is exported to the UK.
 - Some 47% of cheddar exported to the UK is of Irish origin.
- 99% of mushroom and 71% forestry products and more than 62% of prepared consumer foods are exported to the UK.
- Irelands population is 4.8 million - produce food for 33 million

Post Brexit Impact



1. Irelands exports to the UK worth €13 billion PA
2. Trade between the two islands worth €60 PA
3. Ireland is the UK's fifth largest trading partner
4. 50% of all the UK's exports Agri/Food and drink is to Ireland
5. Ireland has a massive trade deficit with the UK
6. Imports of raw materials for manufacturing
7. 12% of Irelands population is migrant

Impact on EWC's?



- Where are the negotiations now? - withdrawal agreement agreed!
- UK has transposed EU law into UK law
- After March - 2 year transition period where EU laws will remain
- Northern Ireland - Devolved Government has responsibility for Labour Law. N.I. institutions not working at the moment
- Northern Ireland Peace Process (Good Friday Agreement)
- Backstop Agreement

Impact on EWC's?



industriALL and EFFAT detailed documents on EWC's and Brexit Questions? - EU law - never happened before, other EEA countries
UK law - Tories will dismantle EU labour laws, Labour Party
Employers position - hostile at best- adding the UK as geographical scope of agreement, appoint reps in EU countries', new EWC's?
Unions position - EWC full rights for UK workers to remain
Northern Ireland Law - can retain EU laws as is.

Impact on EWC's?



Issues for Unions

UK EWC's will no longer be “legally housed” in the UK. 250 UK EWCs.
Where will they go?

Ireland? - English language and common law tradition - Management prerogative

UK workers no longer entitled to be on EWC's

UK union officials acting as experts? - Irish Labour Court

Will employers insist/have to set up a new SNB?

Impact on EWC's?



Recommendations

1. ICTU (Irish Congress of trade unions) to liaise with the British TUC to have common purpose and prevent employers from taking advantage of Brexit as it impacts on EWC's
2. European Confederations to jointly monitor the impact of Brexit on the UK and Ireland and perhaps host a joint conference of EWC and Union representatives from both countries



SIPTU

Manufacturing
Division

