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ITEMS DEBATED

State of play of Brexit negotiations

The Council, in EU27 format, was briefed by the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier on the state of play in the Brexit negotiations following the latest rounds of negotiation with the UK. Ministers had an opportunity to discuss the situation and possibilities for the way forward.

Ministers highlighted the importance of unity in the EU position and gave full support to the chief negotiator in these last stages of the process. Ministers also recalled the need for all elements of withdrawal to be resolved, including an operational and legally solid backstop for Ireland, the governance of the agreement, the protection of geographical indications, the arrangements for the sovereign base areas in Cyprus and the issue of Gibraltar.

On the negotiations concerning the framework for future EU-UK relations, ministers renewed their support to the chief negotiator and his team for the work carried out so far, which prepares the ground for the political declaration on future EU-UK relations which will accompany the withdrawal agreement.

European Council (Article 50) of October 2018

The Council took note of the agenda for October's European Council (Article 50) meeting. Ministers will continue preparations for the October summit at their next meeting on 16 October 2018 in Luxembourg.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

*none*