**Mock Council of the European Union, 17 November 2016, London**

Each School will play the role of one Member State of the European Union, or that of one of the main Institutions within the EU. Discussions will cover two topics likely to be on the agenda when the UK negotiates the terms of its EU exit with the other 27 Member States. Schools should decide which of their participants will cover which topic – one pupil per topic.

Given the more difficult nature of the role, two schools will represent the United Kingdom, with each school's participants working on only one of the two topics –two pupils from the same school covering only one topic.

One school will play the role of the media – in light of local knowledge, this should be based on UK national print or audio-visual media.

The negotiations will take place in two phases, a morning session and an afternoon session. The intention is for the morning session to represent discussions at the start of the negotiation period, shortly after the UK has submitted notification of its intention to leave the EU (the "Article 50 notification"); the afternoon session would then represent a further negotiation towards the end of the two-year period for finalising the UK's exit terms, with more pressure to come to a final agreement or to accept that no deal will be made.

**OPENING REMARKS (15m)**

* **Speakers to be confirmed**

**EARLY NEGOTIATIONS – MORNING (2h)**

Each of the thematic sessions will run as follows:

* **Opening 28-country plenary of 10-15 minutes**
	+ The European Commission and Council Presidency make opening presentations on the topic and the European Union interest
	+ The UK delegation makes a brief presentation of its position
* **EU-27 format meeting – 80 minutes**
	+ The UK is asked to leave the room and the discussion continues among the 27 remaining Member States. Discussions take place in two different rooms for each of the topics being discussed, one pupil from each school per topic representing their country
	+ The UK invites representatives of groups of countries[[1]](#footnote-1) to bilateral discussions of maximum ten minutes each, in order from Group 1 to Group 8 (the representative from each group of countries will be alerted it is their turn during the proceedings). Each Group should select in advance just one representative to attend the bilateral with the UK for each of the morning and afternoon sessions – different representatives should be chosen for each session. On the margins of the ongoing negotiations, the representative can brief the other(s) in the group of the outcome and the others can brief the representative of what (s)he has missed from the EU-27 discussions.
	+ Groups may decide to refuse the UK's invitation to a bilateral.
	+ Press may seek to speak to each Group's Representative on the way into and out of the bilateral with the UK. If the UK does not have a bilateral discussion running at any time, Press may seek to speak to the UK delegation. Press may also seek to speak to the UK delegation before the first and after the last bilateral.
	+ It may be advisable for the delegate attending the bilateral not to speak in the main EU-27 meeting until AFTER the bilateral with the UK, as there may be some key messages from that discussion to convey.
	+ The UK delegation and/or the Commission and Council Secretariat delegations may also seek to meet at any stage in the session – such meetings are not obligatory, should be brief and may be subject to the usual Press pestering.
* **Plenary closing session with all 28 Member States –15-20 Minutes**
	+ The Presidency will sum up the key issues discussed and the conclusions that can be drawn.
	+ The UK will outline its concerns and main points for further discussion
	+ For the afternoon session, this will be a final decision on terms for exit, which must be acceptable to both the UK delegation and a qualified majority of the EU-27 Member States.

**LUNCH SESSION (1h)**

* **Over lunch**, delegations may continue informal talks with the aim of reaching a deal in the afternoon session.
* **Press** should seek to produce a few headlines and a summary report of the morning's discussions, which might help to set the tone for the afternoon's discussions. This should be printed [printer available at the venue] and distributed to all delegations prior to the afternoon session. Press should also aim to produce headlines and a very brief summary immediately following the afternoon discussion, reporting (and commenting) on the final outcome.

**FINAL NEGOTIATIONS - AFTERNOON (2h)**

* **Opening 28-country plenary of 15 minutes**
	+ The European Commission and Council Presidency outline the results of the morning session
	+ Delegations have a chance to present any compromise proposals put together during the lunch break
	+ The UK delegation makes a brief presentation of its position
* **EU-27 format meeting – 40 minutes**
	+ The UK is asked to leave the room and the discussion continues among the 27 remaining Member States, similar arrangements to those in the morning. However, all participants will be present in the same room and discussions will run consecutively rather than in parallel. The UK can run two bilaterals (one on each topic) at any one time.
* **Plenary closing session with all 28 Member States – 60 Minutes**
	+ The Presidency will present the position of the EU27
	+ The UK will outline its concerns and final position
	+ The European Council must come to an agreement by QMV[[2]](#footnote-2) of the 27 and agreement of the UK [or not come to any agreement and allow / force the UK to leave with no deal]

**CLOSING REMARKS (10m)**

* **Speakers to be confirmed**

After which pressshould interview UK, Council, Commission and other leaving national delegation on the results and write an article summarising and commenting on the outcome of the discussions.

1. Groupings are necessarily somewhat arbitrary and groups of countries may not always share a single point of view. The schools in groups are encouraged to make contact with the other group members before the Mock Council to nominate a single representative and, if possible, define a single position for the discussion with the UK. Group 1: France and Germany; Group 2: Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg;

 Group 3: Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia; Group 4: Austria, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Slovenia,

 Group 5: Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece; Group 6: Ireland, Malta, Cyprus;

 Group 7: Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia; Group 8: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Qualified majority vote: 15 of 27 Member States representing 65% of the population of those Member States [↑](#footnote-ref-2)