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## **CARDIFF DECLARATION**

*Approved by the CPMR General Assembly, 19-20 October 2017, Helsinki (Finland)*

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The CPMR:

### **On the decision of the UK to leave**

1. Regrets but respects the decision of the UK to withdraw from the European Union.
2. Thanks the UK nations and regions for their co-operation and participation in the EU project to date, and for the strong cultural, social, economic and personal links that have been developed through EU-level co-operation over the past 40 years.
3. Notes that the UK's decision to withdraw from the EU will also impact on its membership of the European Economic Area, with implications for CPMR regions within the non-EU countries of the EEA.

### **Future co-operation**

4. Underlines that continued participation of the UK nations and regions in the CPMR post-Brexit is unquestioned and invites nations and regions in the UK that are not currently members to join the CPMR.
5. Underlines the importance of maintaining strong relations at sub-Member State level between the UK and the EU27 and the other European Economic Area (EEA) countries after Brexit.
6. Calls for future frameworks for co-operation between the UK and the EU to provide scope for direct engagement between the UK nations and regions with EU27 regions, including through the participation of the UK's devolved nations and regions in future EU programmes after Brexit.
7. Stresses the importance of maintaining strong cooperation in the Atlantic and North Sea regions (including the Channel), and the participation of the UK nations and regions in future EU Territorial Cooperation Programmes and in any future Macro-Regions in these areas.
8. Underlines our strong interest in seeing continued participation of the UK nations and regions in other EU programmes after Brexit, including the successor programmes to Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ and Creative Europe.

9. Similarly calls for future cooperation arrangements with the UK to enable good relations to be maintained with Norway and the other non-EU27 EEA countries.
10. Advocates, in the case of no agreement being reached on a post-Brexit co-operation framework with the EU27, that the European Commission open the possibility for the UK Devolved Administrations to participate directly in future EU programmes and co-operation;

### **Single Market and Customs Union**

11. Is very concerned about the implications that UK withdrawal from the Single Market and Customs Union would have on border arrangements, on goods transiting from Ireland to the UK and from the UK to mainland Europe, on cross-border workers, and the increased costs and time delays this would have on businesses and citizens.
12. Is equally concerned about the damaging effects that tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade would have on the economics of the UK and the European Economic Area, and the disproportionate impact of this on certain regions and sectors.
13. Supports the principle of robust transitional arrangements and customs arrangements to avoid the cliff edge scenario on 29 March 2019, and for full and unfettered access to the Single Market, predicated on the UK respecting the rules and principles of the Single Market.
14. Underlines the fundamental importance of high quality regulatory standards for the Single Market, including food and food safety, environmental protection, consumer rights, and the respect of workers' rights.

### **Protecting devolution**

15. Calls on the UK Government to fully respect and protect devolved powers and responsibilities in the EU Withdrawal Bill.

### **Brexit negotiations**

16. Encourages the EU and UK to swiftly agree proposals that would protect and respect the existing rights of UK citizens in the EU27 and of EU citizens in the UK.
17. Calls on the UK Government and European Commission to fully engage the Devolved Administrations, Local Government and regions effectively in the negotiations.
18. Highlights the importance of reaching agreement on the financial obligations of the UK to avoid jeopardising ongoing projects and activities involving the UK and EU regions, and impacting on the Multi-annual Financial Framework of the EU.

### **Territorial impact of Brexit**

19. Emphasises that Brexit will have a disproportionate territorial impact on regions across the EU27 and within the UK, and on sectors such as fisheries, marine renewable energies and offshore wind, connectivity between the Atlantic and North Sea ports (including the Channel), scientific research and maritime training.

20. Notes that this territorial effect has come out clearly from initial analysis by CPMR regions, looking at impacts on French regions along the Channel and Atlantic Coast, Spanish regions (including those areas with large populations of British ex-pats), in the North Sea region and the island of Ireland.
21. Makes special mention of Ireland, given the strong cultural, historical and economic links it has with the UK, where the impact of Brexit is anticipated to be disruptive and largely negative.

### **Mitigating the effects of Brexit**

22. Calls on the European Commission, in co-operation with the CPMR, to establish a Working Group to look at financial mechanisms that could be introduced at EU level to mitigate the negative impacts of Brexit on particular regions and sectors.
23. Supports the calls for the UK Government to commit to replace, through additional devolved funding, in the post-Brexit period, the EU funding that will be lost in the areas of regional development, agriculture and fisheries; and to provide additional targeted support to those communities most impacted by Brexit.

### **Future Multi-Annual Financial Framework**

24. Reiterates the commitment of the CPMR to a strong EU budget post-Brexit, underlining the central place of Territorial Cohesion at the heart of any future vision of the EU.
25. Calls for a far-ranging discussion about the financing of the future EU budget, to ensure that it is fit for purpose, and able to respond to the many challenges facing the EU27, including migration, unemployment, security, climate change and energy security, and the impact of Brexit.