

LANCASTER HOUSE OBJECTIVES

1. **Certainty** – *‘We will provide certainty wherever we can. It is why, as we repeal the European Communities Act, we will convert the ‘acquis’ – the body of existing EU law – into British law.’*
 - The EU Withdrawal Bill is currently making its passage through parliament to convert the ‘acquis’ into British Law.
 - And today’s joint report offers certainty on three crucial issues: citizens’ rights, the financial settlement, and Northern Ireland, so that we can offer reassurance and move to the next stage of negotiations.

2. **Control of our laws** – *‘So we will take back control of our laws and bring an end to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in Britain. Leaving the European Union will mean that our laws will be made in Westminster, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. And those laws will be interpreted by judges not in Luxembourg but in courts across this country.’*
 - The joint report confirms that we will take back control of our laws.
 - The rights of EU citizens here in the UK will be upheld by writing them into UK law, instead of reference to EU law enforced by the EU institutions, as the EU had argued for.
 - That law will be determined by our courts, and the EU will not be able to override them by making them refer questions to the European Court of Justice.
 - For a limited, non-extendable period (8 years), our courts will be able to choose to ask the ECJ for a legal view on a point of law that has not arisen before. But the decision on whether to refer to the ECJ will be for our courts and our courts alone and, having received the ECJ’s legal view, our courts will determine the case, so we will once again control our laws.
 - In short, the ability of our courts to ask the ECJ for a view will be voluntary, time limited and very narrowly defined.

3. **Strengthen the Union** – *‘Part of that will mean working very carefully to ensure that – as powers are repatriated from Brussels back to Britain – the right powers are returned to Westminster, and the right powers are passed to the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.’*
 - We have frequently engaged with the Devolved Administrations throughout the negotiations so far through the Joint Ministerial Committee on EU Negotiations.
 - As we set out in the White Paper on EU exit, ‘As the powers to make these rules are repatriated to the UK from the EU, we have an opportunity to determine the level best placed to make new laws and policies on these issues, ensuring power sits closer to the people of the UK than ever before. We have already committed that no decisions currently taken by the devolved administrations will be removed from them and we will use the opportunity of bringing decision making back to the UK to ensure that more decisions are devolved.’
 - And we have secured specific guarantees on Northern Ireland in the phase 1 joint report.

4. Maintain the Common Travel Area – *‘we will work to deliver a practical solution that allows the maintenance of the Common Travel Area with the Republic, while protecting the integrity of the United Kingdom’s immigration system.’*

- We have reached agreement with the EU in Phase 1 of negotiations that the Common Travel Area will be maintained.

5. Control of immigration – *‘Brexit must mean control of the number of people who come to Britain from Europe. And that is what we will deliver.’*

- We will be leaving the Single Market, and the principle of free movement of EU nationals into the UK will end.
- Those who enter the UK after the cut-off date will be subject to our future immigration regime.
- We will publish a White Paper on our future immigration policy in due course.

6. Rights for EU nationals in Britain, and British nationals in the EU – *‘We want to guarantee the rights of EU citizens who are already living in Britain, and the rights of British nationals in other member states, as early as we can.’*

- The Joint Report confirms that people will be able to go on largely as before on the basis of where they and their families have chosen to live their lives.
- As the Prime Minister outlined in Florence, EU citizens’ rights here will be upheld by writing them into our law. This will be done through the Withdrawal Agreement & Implementation Bill we will bring forward after we have completed negotiations on the agreement itself.
- The Withdrawal Agreement will enable families who have built their lives together in the EU or the UK to stay together. It will allow the spouses, children and elderly parents of those protected by the agreement, who live in a different country when the UK leaves the EU, to reunite as a family at any time in the future. This will not apply to future spouses or other relatives.

7. Protect workers’ rights – *‘That is why, as we translate the body of European law into our domestic regulations, we will ensure that workers rights are fully protected and maintained.’*

- As part of the EU Withdrawal Bill we are bringing all the workers’ rights enshrined in the *acquis* into UK law.
- We have committed not just to protect workers’ rights but to enhance them. As the Prime Minister said at the launch of Matthew Taylor’s review into modern working practices, ‘I am clear that the government will act to ensure that the interests of employees on traditional contracts, the self-employed and those people working in the “gig” economy are all properly protected.’

8. Free trade with European markets – *‘This agreement should allow for the freest possible trade in goods and services between Britain and the EU’s member states. It should give British companies the maximum freedom to trade with and operate within European markets – and let European businesses do the same in Britain... as it makes no sense to start again from scratch when Britain and the remaining Member States have adhered to the same rules for so many years.’*

- The European Commission has recommended that the European Council agree we have achieved sufficient progress and that we move to the second phase of the negotiations: our future partnership, including trade and security.
- As the Prime Minister said in Florence, we want this new economic partnership, would be comprehensive and ambitious. It would be underpinned by high standards, and a practical approach to regulation that enables us to continue to work together in bringing shared prosperity to our peoples for generations to come.
- She went on to say that we will discuss with our European partners new ways of managing our interdependence and our differences, in the context of our shared values. This means there will be areas which do affect our economic relations where we and our European friends may have different goals; or where we share the same goals but want to achieve them through different means. And there will be areas where we want to achieve the same goals in the same ways, because it makes sense for our economies.’

9. New trade agreements with other countries – *‘That means I do not want Britain to be part of the Common Commercial Policy and I do not want us to be bound by the Common External Tariff. These are the elements of the Customs Union that prevent us from striking our own comprehensive trade agreements with other countries. But I do want us to have a customs agreement with the EU.’*

- The Joint Report acknowledges that the UK will leave the internal market and the Customs Union. This will leave us free to do trade agreements with other countries.
- The Secretary of State for International Trade has established a number of working groups with key countries around the world laying the groundwork for future trading partnerships.

10. Best place for science and innovation – *‘So we will also welcome agreement to continue to collaborate with our European partners on major science, research, and technology initiatives.’*

- The Chancellor committed to guarantee funding for all successful Horizon 2020 bids from UK businesses and universities before the UK leaves the EU.
- The UK Government’s Future Partnership Paper ‘Collaboration on Science and Innovation’ described examples of extensive and effective collaboration between UK institutions and European partners, and set out the ambition to strengthen these links further.
- And as the Prime Minister said in Florence, we will want to continue ‘to take part in those specific policies and programmes which are greatly to the UK and the EU’s joint advantage, such as those that promote science, education and culture’.

11. Co-operation in the fight against crime and terrorism – *‘I therefore want our future relationship with the European Union to include practical arrangements on matters of law enforcement and the sharing of intelligence material with our EU allies.’*

- In her Florence speech, the Prime Minister stated that ‘the United Kingdom is unconditionally committed to maintaining Europe’s security’.
- She also proposed ‘a bold new strategic agreement that provides a comprehensive framework for future security, law enforcement and criminal justice co-operation: a treaty between the UK and the EU ... unprecedented in its breadth, taking in cooperation on diplomacy, defence and security, and development.
- We will now be able to move on to discussing this partnership as part of the second phase of negotiations.

12. Smooth and orderly exit – *‘Instead, I want us to have reached an agreement about our future partnership by the time the 2-year Article 50 process has concluded. From that point onwards, we believe a phased process of implementation, in which both Britain and the EU institutions and member states prepare for the new arrangements that will exist between us will be in our mutual self-interest. This will give businesses enough time to plan and prepare for those new arrangements.’*

- The European Commission has recommended that the December European Council agree we have achieved sufficient progress and that we move to the second phase of the negotiations: our future partnership, including trade and security, and an implementation period to ensure a smooth and orderly Brexit.
- As the Prime Minister said in Florence, ‘a period of implementation would be in our mutual interest’ so that businesses and public services only have to plan for one set of changes in the relationship between the UK and the EU.
- ‘How long the period is should be determined simply by how long it will take to prepare and implement the new processes and new systems that will underpin that future partnership... As of today, these considerations point to an implementation period of around two years.’
- We will look to agree an implementation period at an early stage of the second phase of negotiation.