**Forum:** ECOSOC

**Issue:** The question of Brexit with regards to the global economy

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**Introduction**

Brexit is about the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, currently led by Boris Johnson, leader of the Conservative Party.

In 2013, David Cameron, Prime Minister at the moment, first announced the idea of a referendum about the permanence or exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union. Such decision took place due to economic reasons, sovereignty, immigration, and political reasons, among others. The opposition to Brexit is mainly led by the Labour Party and its voters. The issue is currently being negotiated. Brexit officially took place in February 2020 after months of setbacks. During 2020 the EU and Britain signed an agreement, which was renewed later in the year, to protect business and companies from the Brexit situation.

**Definition of Key Terms**

**Brexit**

"Brexit is an abbreviation for "British exit," referring to the U.K.'s decision (…) to leave the European Union (EU).” (Kenton, W., 2020)

**Conservative Party**

“The major right-wing party, which developed from the Tories\* in the 1830s. It advocates a mixed economy, and encourages property owning and free enterprise.” (Dictionary.com, n.d.)

**Labour Party**

“A British political party, formed in 1900 as an amalgam of various trade unions and socialist groups, generally supporting the interests of organized labour and advocating democratic socialism and social equality.”(Dictionary.com, n.d.)

**Referendum**

“A general vote by the electorate on a single political question which has been referred to them for a direct decision.”(Oxford Languages, n.d.)

**Issue Overview**

**Historical Background**

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| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** |
| 1973 | Incorporation of the UK to the EU. |
| 2013 | First idea of Brexit implemented by David Cameron. |
| 2016 | The UK votes for Brexit. The High Court of London obliges the Government to consult with Parliament before executing Brexit. |
| 2017 | The United Kingdom activates Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, with which it begins negotiations with Brussels for its withdrawal from the European Union. |
| 2018 | Negotiations between the UK and EU started. |
| 2019 | Negotiations continue. Boris Johnson, Prime Minister, sets the date to leave the EU. |
| January 31 2020  December 31st 2020 | The United Kingdom leaves the European Union. Transition period begins.  The UK and the EU establish a new economic agreement |

**Major Countries and Organizations Involved**

* **United Kingdom:** The people of the UK decided, after 47 years of membership, to leave the European Union. This decision will bring multiple consequences at a political, social and economic level, which will have a worldwide impact.
* **European Union:** The European Union is a unified trade and monetary body of several members around Europe, which eliminates all border controls between them, allowing the free flow of goods and people. However, the UK has decided to ´divorce´ the EU, negotiations between the two parts are currently taking place.
* **Commonwealth of Nations:** The Commonwealth is a voluntary association between former British colonies, which, according to their experts, will be benefited by Brexit due to its new trade opportunities.

**Latest Events**

The UK left the EU on January 31st, beginning a transition period of one year, in which the EU regulations still apply, but the UK doesn't have a vote or voice within the EU´s parliament. Free trade between the EU and the Commonwealth remains until the new legislation, signed on December 31st 2020 expires or is renewed.

**Possible Solutions**

A possibility would be to establish an FTA (Free Trade Agreement) with the EU, which, financially speaking, would be as if the UK had never left because the flow of goods without tariffs between countries would remain, meaning that the UK is not really leaving the organization but rather keeping its benefits. Which would be a contradictory measure. Other ideas and possibilities include beginning trade negotiations with other countries, such as the United States.

**Useful reference material**

* Brexit timeline: key dates in the UK´s divorce from the EU <https://www.ft.com/content/64e7f218-4ad4-11e7-919a-1e14ce4af89b>
* Boris Johnson´s first announcement after winning the election of December 13th of 2019 <https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1205504122008375296?s=19>
* Causes of the vote in favour of Brexit <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Causes_of_the_vote_in_favour_of_Brexit>
* The impact of Brexit on Global Trade <https://www.pwc.nl/nl/brexit/documents/pwc-brexit-monitor-trade.pdf>
* The impact of Brexit on the least developed countries <https://www.un.org/ldcportal/the-impact-of-brexit-on-the-least-developed-countries/>
* Euroskepticism beyond Brexit <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2016/06/07/euroskepticism-beyond-brexit/>
* Trade opportunities for the Commonwealth post-Brexit <https://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/trade-opportunities-commonwealth-post-brexit>
* Brexit negotiations in 2019 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brexit_negotiations_in_2019>
* Consequences for the UK, EU and USA <https://www.thebalance.com/brexit-consequences-4062999>

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Amadeo, K. (n.d.). *Brexit Consequences for the U.K., the EU, and the United States*. Retrieved February 20, 2020, from <https://www.thebalance.com/brexit-consequences-4062999>