



## ***An Irish view on Brexit – Ambassador Geraldine Bryne Nason***

Ambassador: Well, I'm a committed European. I spent a number of years as Ireland's ambassador to the European Union, so I come from a point, really, with the Brexit result of sheer disappointment. And you ask me about the relations between Britain and Ireland, they've never been better in our history, and I hope that that won't change because of this. We don't agree with the result, but we respect it, of course. Every week Ireland exports one billion euros of product to the UK. It's a hugely important economic link. Our people live in the United Kingdom, we travel in and out of the United Kingdom with no border on the Irish island. We really hope we will continue to do that. I think both our governments and our colleagues in the European Union understand the intimacy of the link really between Britain and Ireland, and we're going to do everything we can as these negotiations on Brexit continue to protect that. We think there's too much at stake both on the island of Ireland--we worked together for a long time to create the peace that we all enjoy now. We wouldn't want to see that change. And also, both of our economies are very interlinked, so you know I'm very disappointed by the outcome, but I'm very much a glass half-full in terms of what the future holds. We will, we will find a way to make this work for both Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Rob: Ambassador, I'm very grateful for the few minutes you given me to hear what the Irish perspective is.

Ambassador: Delighted and if you ever want to talk about that again from Paris, I'd be happy to do that.

Rob: Thank you very much indeed.

Ambassador: A real pleasure. OK.



