



# Brexit, Trade Wars & Missing Judges: Implications for Global Trade Governance?

Gerhard Erasmus, Nairobi,  
22 March 2019.





# In this Presentation

- What is Brexit?
- Why did UK vote for Brexit?
- How does Brexit happen?
- What is a *Hard Brexit*?
- What is the *Irish backstop*?
- Why not simply go for WTO membership?
- Where does the Process Stand?
- What must happen till it is all over?
- Implications for us in Africa?
- Lessons

# EU Council Decision of 21 March 2019

- PM May's request: Extension to Art 50 until 30 June, time for vital legislation .....after she got her deal through the Commons next week.
- Refused. Britain will now stay a member state until 12 April if the withdrawal agreement is rejected by MPs at the third time of asking.
- "12 April is the new 29 March".
- The government will be able to seek a longer extension during that period if it can both "indicate a way forward" and agree to hold European elections.
- In the unlikely event that May's deal wins support of the Commons Tuesday, the UK will stay a member until 22 May to allow necessary withdrawal legislation to be passed.
- Pres Tusk: "What this means in practice is that, until that date, all options will remain open, and the cliff-edge date will be delayed. The UK government will still have a choice of a deal, no-deal, a long extension or revoking article 50."

# EU Council Decision of 21 March 2019

- Asked how long an extension could be on offer, the European commission president, [Jean-Claude Juncker](#), said: “Until the very end.”
- May urges MPs to back her deal to secure Brexit delay until 22 May.
- The French president, [Emmanuel Macron](#): EU had acted to protect its interests in response to a “vacuum” in Westminster.
- Macron’s trump Card: Does not want the chaos of a no-deal Brexit to erupt before the European elections on 26 May.
- The PM’s response: EU’s decision left MPs with a clear choice: either they back her deal next week and leave smoothly on 22 May; or return to Brussels with an alternative plan – either no deal or some unspecified alternative – in a fortnight’s time.
- A cross-party group of MPs now considering how best to allow parliament to force May towards a softer Brexit or no Brexit at all.
- A new amendment has been laid for debate on Monday by Tory MP Sir Oliver Letwin and Labour MP Hilary Benn that would give parliament the chance to vote on ways forward.

