

Beat: Politics

Informal meeting of 27 EU heads of state

Remarks by President Donald Tusk

Brussels, 29.06.2016, 19:24 Time

USPA NEWS - On Wednesday, the 27 heads of state or government met informally to discuss the political and practical implications of 'Brexit'. Remarks by President Donald Tusk after the informal meeting of 27 EU heads of state or government.

Good afternoon. Today 27 EU leaders discussed the consequences of the British referendum for Europe. It was a calm and serious discussion, as it is a serious moment in our common history. Certainly one issue is clear from our debate. Leaders are absolutely determined to remain united and work closely together as 27. We reconfirmed that Britain's withdrawal from the European Union must be orderly and there will be no negotiations of any kind until the UK formally notifies its intention to withdraw.

We hope to have the UK as a close partner in the future. It is up to the British government to notify the European Council of the UK intentions to withdraw from the EU. Leaders made it crystal clear today that access to the single market requires acceptance of all four freedoms, including the freedom of movement. There will be no single market "À la carte".

We also discussed the fact that too many people in Europe are unhappy with the current state of affairs and who expect us to do better. Many recalled that for decades Europe was bringing hope and that we have a responsibility to return to that.

As you know it was a first exchange of 27 leaders after the British referendum and so it would be too early to draw conclusions. This is why we have started a political reflection on the future of EU with 27 states and will meet on 16 September in Bratislava to continue talks. Thank you.

Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-8485/informal-meeting-of-27-eu-heads-of-state.html>

Editorial office and responsibility:

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Daren Frankish - EU

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Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619