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**Plenary Debate - Council and Commission Statements - Guidelines on the
framework of the Future EU - UK Relations**

Strasbourg, 13 March 2018

Now that we start moving toward the future relationship, it becomes even clearer that withdrawal of the UK from the European Union is not a one off event. It is a lengthy law driven process based on both legal and political grounds and with far reaching consequences for the life of people.

We are all involved: European institutions as well as all Member States in this process.

Yes, unity remains crucial, but also listening to each other. European Parliament will be providing consent at the end of the process, it has been involved from day one.

The Constitutional Affairs committee, AFCO, responsible for institutional consequences of withdrawal and consent procedure, will continue to be an open platform for hearings, debates, meetings with experts, citizens, all stakeholders concerned.

According to the Art. 8 of the Treaty on the European Union, the Union shall develop a special relationship with neighbouring countries, as close as possible, in the interest of all our citizens and businesses, and founded on the values of the Union and characterised by close and peaceful relations based on cooperation.

This week will bring the text of the Withdrawal Agreement, including Transition, agreed among the EU 27, endorsed by the European Parliament. European Council will decide next week on the additional guidelines on the Future Relationship.

We will vote on our expectations regarding the Framework of the Future Relationship in tomorrow's Resolution. Hopefully, all that will allow to enter into formal negotiations as soon as possible.

It is true that the clock has not stopped ticking. But there is still time for the UK to rethink its red lines.