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President Tusk, President Juncker, dear Jean-Claude, thank you indeed for your commitment to Europe, and especially for your comments regarding enlargement today. I will speak on Brexit and during the coming days the task of our House will be to evaluate the Withdrawal Agreement and work on our consent to it. We will have to cope with unpredictable outcomes of the complex process of voting in the British parliament, but it is clear that we will only give consent once the process of ratification in the UK has been finalised. This all has indeed a sense of déjà vu as we do not know today what majorities will emerge during various votes in the House of Commons, and what final result they might produce, and in particular it is difficult to judge today what can come out of the vote on the timetable motion.

It is regrettable indeed that once again we have to cope with a huge dose of uncertainty at this stage of this long journey. My hope is that, unlike the two extensions, the second of which is now coming to an end, the transition period which an orderly withdrawal will offer will be efficiently used to give us, as future close partners, the best possible agreement on unprecedented close future relationship.

Let me finish by underlining that negative coverage of EU citizens' rights in media, confusing announcements on freedom of movement, use of a secondary level legislation, also what we learned during our hearings with citizens, all that signals the risk that those rights might not be respected in the future. We should remember

therefore that EU citizens' rights in the UK are set out in their Withdrawal Agreement which would be subject to the formal ratification.