

## Article 1

# U.K. and Ireland retailers warn of 40% tariffs on food in no-deal Brexit

A no-deal Brexit could lead to tariffs of 40% or more being imposed on food imports, driving up prices in shops and squeezing household budgets across the U.K. and Ireland, retail organizations from both countries have warned.

With mounting fears that the U.K. could leave the European Union without an agreement in a little over a month, the British Retail Consortium (BRC), Northern Ireland Retail Consortium (NIRC) and Retail Ireland, issued a joint warning that this outcome could lead to delays at borders and shortages of fresh meat, fish, fruit and vegetables.

The scheduled withdrawal on 29 March comes at a time in the year when the U.K. imports a lot of fresh, out-of-season, produce – 90% of the lettuce consumed in Britain, 80% of tomatoes and 70% of soft fruits come from, or arrive via, Europe.

Increased tariffs, the devaluation of sterling and new regulatory checks would drive up the cost of fresh food and drink, which would be passed on to consumers, the retail bodies warned.

If the U.K. leaves the EU without a deal, both fall back on the World Trade Organization's most favored nation tariffs, which means import duties on everyday food items, including 40% on beef, 21% on tomatoes and 15.5% on apples.

Andrew Opie, director of food and sustainability at the BRC, said: "We cannot easily find an alternative to imports through Calais where there are frequent ferry sailings and the Channel tunnel.

"The volumes of fresh produce imported through there are enormous, for example at peak periods there are approximately 130 lorries a day passing through with just citrus fruits."



## Article 2

### Brexit to be delayed?

Last week, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Theresa May, postponed the Brexit plan vote to 12 March. This is a mere 17 days before the official divorce date.

Over the weekend, reports surfaced that a postponement of Brexit is on the table. This delay would be an option for May to prevent a no-deal scenario if Parliament vetoed the Brexit plan.

According to the British newspaper, The Telegraph, 10 Downing Street has plans for May to ask the European Union for a two-month delay. With this, the Prime Minister wants to avoid a no-deal scenario. She would also keep the British Members of Parliament onboard for her plans.

According to The Guardian, another British newspaper, the EU is not expecting a postponement of two months. This would mean Brexit would occur in the summer. The EU has little confidence that the British government would manage to get Parliament onboard again.

The EU would prefer a delay of 21 months. Brexit would then move to the end of the initially determined transition period. The UK and the European Union would then also have more time to negotiate their future relationship.

Two months or just under two years - at the moment, it has not yet even been confirmed that there will be a delay. According to the British media, the pressure on Prime Minister May is being stepped up to accept the postponement of Article 50.

Liens articles : <https://www.freshfruitportal.com/news/2019/02/22/u-k-and-ireland-retailers-warn-of-40-tariffs-on-food-in-no-deal-brexit/>

<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9075510/brexit-to-be-delayed/>

