



LIECHTENSTEIN-INSTITUT

23 January 2018

Effects on EEA countries: The Liechtenstein Perspective

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Brexit – What will be the likely effects on the EEA?

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Why does Brexit matter for Liechtenstein?

– Five selected statements

Brexit ...

- is an example for the vulnerability of politics by populism which all politicians have to keep in mind.
- will stimulate the debate on the EU's future as well as on alternative models of integration.
- might affect the functioning of the EEA.
- endangers the rights that Liechtenstein nationals and businesses have acquired in the UK based on the EEA.
- forces Liechtenstein and the UK to redefine the access to their markets.



Liechtenstein's relations with the EU

- Multilateral agreements (e. g. EEA Agreement)
- Bilateral agreements (e. g. tax compliance)
- Trilateral agreement Switzerland – Liechtenstein – EU (e. g. agriculture)
- Agreement Switzerland – EU that apply to Liechtenstein (e. g. customs security)

- EEA Agreement is the most important agreement between Liechtenstein and the EU.
- Liechtenstein's aim is to preserve its proper functioning and the integrity of the single market.



Liechtenstein's relations with the UK

- Liechtenstein nationals residing in the UK – UK nationals living in Liechtenstein or commuting to Liechtenstein
- Economic ties
 - UK an important trading partner for both exports and imports – but not as important as Switzerland or some EU states such as Germany or Austria
 - Several Liechtenstein companies have a branch in UK – effects of Brexit concern nearly all aspects of their business
- UK most popular country for Liechtenstein students in Erasmus+ programme

- Economic risks rather low but difficult to calculate
- UK and LI want to maintain scope of existing relations



Concluding remarks: effects on Liechtenstein

- Increased interest in the EEA and Liechtenstein's tailor-made arrangements from research and politics
- So far no (or just slightly) increased politicisation of the EEA – instead: credible commitment to the EEA (at least from political elite)
- Increased awareness of interdependencies between EEA states and linkages between different policies
- Effects of Brexit on the Swiss – EU relations crucial for Liechtenstein





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**Thank you very much
for your attention!**

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