

Beat: Politics

## PDT MACRON ADMITS THAT THE TOPICS OF FISHERIES AND NORTH IRELAND PROTOCOL

### ARE AN ISSUE BETWEEN THE UK & EU

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**USPA NEWS** - On the occasion of the closing press conference of the G20 Italy Summit, French President Emmanuel Macron delivered elements of his meeting (One on One) with UK's PM Boris Johnson, which took place on the morning of October 31, on the sidelines of the G20 Italy, in Rome, off cameras and away from the press. "The discussion was a frank, calm, demanding discussion, because agreements were signed which must be respected, respecting the constraints and the sovereignty of each. But I think we need to be able to move forward because many of our compatriots, on both sides of the channel and more broadly in Europe, are waiting for us. But I insist on one point. He also recognizes that the dispute between UK and France, on these subjects of fishing and the Northern Ireland protocol is a question between UK, and the European Union: "When we talk about fishing, when we talk about the Northern Irish Protocol, it is not a bilateral issue, it is a question between the United Kingdom and the European Union. And it is a question of respecting the agreements that have been signed. » he reaffirmed. President Macron then justifies, using the sporting quote of "The ball is in their court" "...

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The dispute between the French and the British is not confined to fishing licenses (90% attributed by the UK to French fishermen according to the French rating, and 98% according to the British rating) which would only be the face visible from the iceberg, which will have frozen the relations between these two allied countries, and historically long-standing friends, because other more thorny subjects, such as that of the protocol of Northern Ireland and that of the migrants from Calais (dimension French Channel). « The Prime Minister underlined the need to agree solutions rapidly to safeguard the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and reduce disruption to families and businesses in Northern Ireland. » (Source : 10 Downing Street) All of this results directly from the first consequences of post-Brexit (signed on January 1, 2021, after four years of negotiations), and therefore falls under the arbitration of the European Union, even if each of the two countries has any the legitimacy of defending one's own national interests.-----

One would wonder and question and, even regret, what there was no trilateral meeting between the two countries in question, namely with the leaders of UK and France as well as the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von Der Lyen (Who is present at the G20 Italy and met UK's PM Boris Johnson, alone) ... to orchestrate the exchange and negotiation between the two heads of state who seem to get bogged down?-----

This is how at the end of a bilateral meeting, between UK 's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and French President Emmanuel Macron, on their own, would've been held in Rome for about thirty minutes this morning, without any their advisers, and no journalist, or photographer ... The result was a deaf language, drowned out by two versions (official communication from 10 Downing Street) and indications from officials of the Elysee, with blurring gaps the message, made incoherent. At this stage of the negotiations and given the unprecedented nature of this meeting, we are only able to publish the official British press release, because the Elysee has not published any, on the French side. We shall transcript, some statements of President Macron's answer to the journalists, during the press conference closing the G20 Italy Summit.

**PDT MACRON ADMITTED THAT THE TOPICS OF FISHERIES AND THE NORTH IRELAND PROTOCOL ARE AN ISSUE BETWEEN UK & EU-----**

French President Macron said during the press conference, held in Rome, as he was wrapping up the G20 Italy Summit, recognized that the dispute with the UK, amid, fishing licences, is much more complex than it appears, and is also concerning migration and the North Ireland protocol "When we talk about fishing, when we talk about the Northern Irish Protocol, it is not a bilateral issue, it is a question between the United Kingdom and the European Union. And it is a question of respecting the agreements that have been signed. As such, the European Commission is by our side, like all the European States, moreover, and we are always in solidarity, like France, moreover, has always been in solidarity with Ireland when it comes to was based on the Northern Irish protocol. »He highlighted."In a very clear, obvious way, the second element that links us to the British and which is not linked to Brexit, finally dependent on Brexit, are migration issues. On this subject, we are all confronted with extremely worrying phenomena, but we all have both a duty of efficiency and of humanity. France has done a lot in recent years under the mandate of my predecessor and mine, to avoid terrible situations. And you know, the emotion that there is still today in several situations that there are in Calais, of people who are in situations of great distress, but who do not want to seek asylum in France, who absolutely want to join the British field. On this subject, there has been a rise in tensions which has been the subject of much internal debate in the British, a political debate with practices and choices that we cannot accept and which consist in pushing populations back into the open sea. , which does not correspond to international humanitarian law. We have explained ourselves several times on this subject with Boris JOHNSON. We cooperate very strongly within the framework of the agreements which are, here too, ours, the Touquet agreements, and we keep our agreements with many requirements. We want to improve cooperation with other European states, but that is a second subject. " He continues on the thorny subject of the Protocol of North Ireland : " On the Northern Irish protocol, Prime Minister JOHNSON told me of the political difficulties he had in implementing what he himself had signed. I respect this situation and when we talk about the Northern Irish protocol, we are talking about a situation which is eminently flammable and dangerous. And we are talking about a subject which, I remind you, a few decades ago, was a subject of war or peace on our continent. In this matter, it is the European Commission which negotiates, but I proposed to Prime Minister JOHNSON that he make us a proposal which submits in a very concrete way what he proposed as an amendment, as an evolution, so that we can moving forward. "

**« MY WISH IS TO AVOID RETORSION MEASURES » PRESIDENT MACRON SAID-----**

President Macron added during his press co-financing while responding to a journalist from Le Monde, (Philippe RICARD) and Samy SFAX from French TV Broadcast Cnews acknowledged : "Then there is a third subject which are the subjects related to the Brexit. And that is not bilateral. It is not personal. And I want to repeat here, that is what I said earlier to the Prime Minister, there is nothing personal. France is a country which has a great history with the United Kingdom and which alongside this history has a geography. We are the closest country to UK, and therefore we want to cooperate. We want to do things together, we have these bilateral relations. Myself, it is a country that I know well and that I love, as I believe Prime Minister Boris JOHNSON loves France. We speak our reciprocal languages. The British people, in a sovereign way, have decided to leave the European Union. For four years, we discussed an agreement, a withdrawal agreement, and then an agreement on the future relationship. Ten months after the discussion of this agreement, several points are still not applied because of the British side. We cannot say nothing. It's just a matter of trust and credibility. And the two points today, which are indeed, which are the subject of tensions on fishing and the subject of the Northern Irish protocol. The first point is a point that seems technical, which may seem minor to many people. Finally, we talk about the lives of women and men who depend on their work, who spend days and nights at sea to be able to feed their families and all at once, because an agreement is not respected, we say: "You can't live any longer. You can no longer live off your job, it's over. So, on that, you have to be serious, I don't want any escalation, but you have to be serious. We have been working for 10 months. Licenses have been granted, I welcome that, to some of our fishermen. Many more licenses have not been granted for reasons that are still not understood. There are methodologies on some licenses that are not always fixed. He ends by recalling the revised sanctions with regard to the UK, (which would take effect on November 2, 2021): "The French Government and the European Union, rightly, have started to say: if you stick to this approach, there will be retaliatory measures. "While moderating" My wish is not that we go towards retaliatory measures because it does nothing for the fishermen. It is rather that we find an agreement so that our fishermen can make a living from their work. This is what they aspire to. And therefore, what we took note of with Prime Minister JOHNSON, is that we were going to make a proposal for a method. What can we, in the very short term, settle as proof of mutual goodwill? And then, what will it take, perhaps several weeks to settle, to be able to move forward? So that's what I call de-escalation and that's what we said face to face earlier.

**"WE HAVE GIVEN THE PM JOHNSON'S TEAMS A DOCUMENT ACTING A METHOD: THE BALL IS IN THE BRITISH COURT » PRESIDENT MACRON CONFESSED-----**

President Macron then justifies, using the popular (Tennis) sporting quote of "The ball is in their court" "We have given to the teams of

Prime Minister JOHNSON, a document documenting this method. Now the ball is in their court. If the British do not make any obvious move, the measures which are planned from November 2 will have to be put in place because it will be an end of inadmissibility. The ball is in the British court. We gave them a proposal. And so if the British keep telling us and acting like they don't want to implement a deal, which has been signed, or started to move, I will regret it. But we cannot fail to respond and defend our fishermen. This does not only concern France. Belgian fishermen, for example, on many vessels, are very concerned and also many other European countries: the Danes, the Germans, the Dutch, etc. Other fishing topics may take a little longer. "thus concluded President Macron, in response to questions on the dispute between France and the UK, concerning among other things fishermen's licenses, since the end of Brexit.

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