

19 September 2019

Dear stakeholder/beneficiary,

You may have seen recent media commentary which implied that a 'no-deal,' in the current UK withdrawal negotiations, will lead to an end of EU PEACE funding in the region. I am contacting you to provide further reassurance that this is not reflective of the current situation. Arrangements are in place, supported by the EU, UK and Irish Governments, providing for the continuation of the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes until 2023, even in the advent of a 'no-deal' scenario.

The European Commission ratified this position in a European regulation (2019/491) which was formally approved by the European Parliament in March, of this year, and received extensive support and commitment from all the partners involved. The UK Government provides its support through a funding guarantee. These together guarantee that the current programmes will be continued until their natural conclusion in 2023 (see link to the regulation below):

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.LI.2019.085.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2019:085:TOC>

As regards a future programme, the EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework for 2021-2027, published in May 2018, included provision for a PEACE PLUS Programme. The new PEACE PLUS Programme will include both PEACE and INTERREG activities building on the work of previous and current programmes which have contributed to social, economic and regional stability.

All three parties, the EU, the UK and the Irish Government have given their commitment to the PEACE PLUS Programme and this position has not changed.

The development of the content for the programme will be subject to an extensive and robust consultation process. We have already commenced the planning process for this with Government Departments in Northern Ireland and Ireland along with a range of other key stakeholders.

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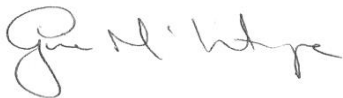
Bilfawst
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We are planning to hold public consultation events in each county in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. It is anticipated that these events will start at the end of this year and continue on into early 2020. As with the previous consultations, held for past programmes, they will give all stakeholders the opportunity to feed into the programme development process.

Further information on these events will be available on our website www.seupb.eu and social media channels over the coming weeks. If you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact us via email:

communications@seupb.eu

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina McIntyre', written in a cursive style.

Gina McIntyre

CEO

Special EU Programmes Body