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BREXIT

FEVS calls for a close partnership with the UK

Paris, 29 January 2020 - Following the ratification of the withdrawal agreement by the European Parliament today, the United Kingdom will become a third country on the 1st of February 2020. FEVS now expects the European Union and the UK to build a close partnership that definitively secures the trading environment between the two parties.

Three and a half years after the referendum of 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union will become a reality. The ratification of the withdrawal agreement opens a transition period that keeps the regulatory and legal environment as it stands until 31 December 2020 at least.

"With over €1.3 billion in exports, the UK is the second client of French wines and spirits. France is also one of the main importers of UK spirits. Therefore, the 1st of February 2020 will open a new chapter in this historic and fruitful relationship we share with our British clients and consumers" notes Antoine Leccia, President of the FEVS.

"The transition period provided by the withdrawal agreement offers legal security to our companies for the next eleven months. But the rules and disciplines that will secure the economic and business environment in a sustainable way, beyond 31 December 2020, still need to be defined".

"The risk of a "Hard Brexit" has not yet been excluded. Clock is still ticking to lay the foundations for a close and balanced partnership for all operators."

"FEVS is ready to play its full part in the negotiations that are opening up and to write a new page in our relationship with the United Kingdom" concludes Antoine Leccia.