I welcome the opportunity you are providing to submit comments on the impact of Brexit negotiations on Scotland. I propose to set out my personal experience as a native Scot currently based in Edinburgh, and professionally active as a performer throughout the EU.

Having benefitted as a working-class student from the full student grant, I graduated in 1972 from Aberdeen University with an Honours degree in modern languages. I had also had the privilege of spending a year's study at Zürich University. My father having served in the first world war and my older siblings in the second, I grew up acutely aware of the fragility of international relations and the need for constant contact between the nations of Europe as the UK attempted to wean itself off the presumptions of Empire. The eventual success of the UK's application to join the common market and our growing, if patchy, integration into the community was for me stimulating and exciting. Since school age, I have thought of myself as first of all a Scot, then as a European.

After some years as a secondary school teacher in Scotland, I attended a theatre school in France, and I have built up a career as a performer in Europe over the past 35 years, sometimes based in the UK, sometimes in France, sometimes in Germany and sometimes in Switzerland, but fulfilling contracts throughout most other European countries.

I have been able to contribute taxes to the fiscal authorities in the UK, Germany, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Italy, Spain. I have also contributed at various times and on a regular basis to the national insurance and pension funds of the UK, Germany, France and Switzerland. This means that at my age (69) I am entitled to modest pension from each of these countries. I am also able and keen to continue pursuing my professional activities in Europe. I work free-lance on a contract basis, and as a performer am liable to be asked to take part in revivals of previous productions. This means that I need to be extremely flexible in responding to requests, and cannot operate in a situation where work permits and visas and the inevitable antiquated trappings of bureaucracy are re-introduced. After 2 years of floundering on the part of the UK government, I have not the faintest idea as to what Brexit will mean for me - common sense, and memories of the past tell me that it bodes ill.

- I do not know if I will be able to continue receiving my pensions
- I do not know whether I will be able to fulfil contracts which I have entered into and which straddle the Article 50 exit date
- I do not know whether I will be financially responsible for the losses that my employers may incur
- I do not know whether I am free to continue applying for and accepting offers of work
- I do not know whether it will be possible to operate foreign-held bank accounts

Obviously the answers to these questions are dependent not only on the UK, but as M. Barnier rightly points out, the UK is the party choosing to leave.
The Brexit project - a phantom miasma arising from discontent and resentment at a state of affairs for which the UK government bears the main responsibility - is essentially reactionary, and bears some of the hallmarks, in a microcosm, of the attempted re-establishment of the "old order" at the Congress of Vienna. Apart from lies and chicanery (see the activities of http://ukineuchallenge.com /http://britishineurope.org) and unsubstantiated assertions, those favouring Leave have produced no clear vision of what they hope to achieve and no costed programme.

Meanwhile the younger generations are in all probability about to be robbed of their freedom of movement and their career chances.