### Scenario Explanation – Relevant to Everyone

On Monday, we will be giving our presentation on Executive Politics. After our presentation, we will engage the class in an exercise. This will revolve around a scenario whereby the UK has “crashed out” of the EU and is refusing to “pay up” its contribution to the budget through to 2020. An emergency procedure has been put in place, and the Commission must steer an emergency budget through the institutions. Everyone is being assigned a role to play in this scenario. In this procedure, the Commission is the agenda setter. The Council must vote unanimously to adopt the budget. The Parliament may offer an opinion – but this is no weak tool in itself! The Parliament’s opinion gives (or takes) legitimacy to the entire process (and remember – elections are coming up in May!).

Stage 1 of the procedure will involve each of the three institutions bargaining internally, to come up with their priorities. A list of possible priorities is attached (although you are welcome to introduce new ones based on the preferences of your role). Further detail can be found below in your role description and in the relevant institution “card” (which will also be distributed in class). If a priority preference has not been allocated to you, you are free to determine your entire list of priority preferences (keeping in mind who you are and what your party/government desires most).

Stage 2 will involve interinstitutional bargaining, whereby the Commission (led by Juncker) has to create a budget priority list naming the top-5 priorities.

Stage 3 will involve a Parliament and Council vote on the “budget” (priority list). If the Commission has done its job right, it will secure a favourable (though non-binding) opinion from the Parliament and unanimity in the Council while also achieving some of its own objectives.

### Role Descriptions

**Jean-Claude Juncker**

Throughout, you will serve as a consensus builder. In stage 1 you must corral your Commissioners and determine a list of the Commission’s preferences. In stage 2, you must dispatch your Commissioners to the Parliament and the Council representatives to ascertain their preferences (you may bounce between the two groups). When you delegate, keep in mind the anticipated preferences of the Parliament and Council and their make-up, and the nationalities/priorities of your Commissioners. After stage 2, you and your group must come up with a top-5 priority list. In stage 3, you will present this to the Parliament and Council in the hopes of winning both of their approval.

**Frans Timmermans**

You are the Vice-President of the Commission (and also the S&D spitzenkandidat for the May election!). Your priority issue is “Social Europe.” In stage 1, you will be involved in the Commission’s internal bargaining led by Darren Litter as Jean-Claude Juncker. In stage 2, you will be dispatched by your President to one of the other two institutions along with 2 other Commissioners to represent the Commission in the interinstitutional bargaining process. Between stage 2 and 3, you will report your findings back to Juncker who must then draw up a list of the top-5 priorities and hope to get them passed in both institutions in stage 3.

**Federica Mogherini**

You are a Commission Vice-President and High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Your priority issues are “EU as a Global Partner” and EU-level “Security.” In stage 1, you will be involved in the Commission’s internal bargaining led by Jean-Claude Juncker. In stage 2, you will be dispatched by your President to one of the other two institutions along with 2 other Commissioners to represent the Commission in the interinstitutional bargaining process. Between stage 2 and 3, you will report your findings back to Juncker who must then draw up a list of the top-5 priorities and hope to get them passed in both institutions in stage 3.

**Jyrki Katainen**

You are the Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment, and Competitiveness. Your priority issue is “Growth.” In stage 1, you will be involved in the Commission’s internal bargaining led by Jean-Claude Juncker. In stage 2, you will be dispatched by your President to one of the other two institutions along with 2 other Commissioners to represent the Commission in the interinstitutional bargaining process. Between stage 2 and 3, you will report your findings back to Juncker who must then draw up a list of the top-5 priorities and hope to get them passed in both institutions in stage 3.

**Julian King**

You are the Commissioner for the Security Union. Your priority issue is “Security.” In stage 1, you will be involved in the Commission’s internal bargaining led by Jean-Claude Juncker. In stage 2, you will be dispatched by your President to one of the other two institutions along with 2 other Commissioners to represent the Commission in the interinstitutional bargaining process. Between stage 2 and 3, you will report your findings back to Juncker who must then draw up a list of the top-5 priorities and hope to get them passed in both institutions in stage 3.

**Marianne Thyssen**

You are the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills, and Labour Mobility. Your priority issue is “Social Europe.” In stage 1, you will be involved in the Commission’s internal bargaining led by Jean-Claude Juncker. In stage 2, you will be dispatched by your President to one of the other two institutions along with 2 other Commissioners to represent the Commission in the interinstitutional bargaining process. Between stage 2 and 3, you will report your findings back to Juncker who must then draw up a list of the top-5 priorities and hope to get them passed in both institutions in stage 3.

**Gunther Oettinger**

You are the Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources (and German!). Your priority issue is “Growth.” In stage 1, you will be involved in the Commission’s internal bargaining led by Jean-Claude Juncker. In stage 2, you will be dispatched by your President to one of the other two institutions along with 2 other Commissioners to represent the Commission in the interinstitutional bargaining process. Between stage 2 and 3, you will report your findings back to Juncker who must then draw up a list of the top-5 priorities and hope to get them passed in both institutions in stage 3.

**Antonio Tajani**

You are the President of the European Parliament and an EPP MEP from Italy. You are one of two EPP MEPs in this process, alongside Manfred Weber. In stage one, you will be involved in and lead the European Parliament’s internal bargaining process. In stage 2, you and your fellow MEPs (who you hope to unite behind you) will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, you along with your fellow MEPs will issue an opinion by majority vote in favour or against the Commission’s budget proposal. Make sure to identify 1 or 2 relevant priorities, considering your political ideology and your nationality responsibility.

**Manfred Weber**

You are the leader of the EPP and an EPP MEP from Germany. You are also the EPP’s spitzenkandidat in the upcoming elections. You are one of two EPP MEPs in this process, alongside Antonio Tajani. In stage 1, you will engage in the Parliament’s internal preference formation bargaining process. In stage 2, you and your fellow MEPs will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, you and your fellow MEPs will issue an opinion by majority vote in favour or against the Commission’s budget proposal. Make sure to identify 1 or 2 relevant priorities, considering your political ideology and ambitions.

**Udo Bullmann**

You are the leader of the S&D and an S&D MEP from Germany. You are one of two S&D MEPs in this process, alongside Nessa Childers. In stage 1, you will engage in the Parliament’s internal preference formation bargaining process. In stage 2, you and your fellow MEPs will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, you and your fellow MEPs will issue an opinion by majority vote in favour or against the Commission’s budget proposal. Make sure to identify 1 or 2 relevant priorities, considering your political ideology.

**Nessa Childers**

You are an S&D MEP from Ireland. You are one of two S&D MEPs in this process, alongside Udo Bullmann. In stage 1, you will engage in the Parliament’s internal preference formation bargaining process. In stage 2, you and your fellow MEPs will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, you and your fellow MEPs will issue an opinion by majority vote in favour or against the Commission’s budget proposal. Make sure to identify 1 or 2 relevant priorities, considering your political ideology.

**Guy Verhofstadt**

You are the leader of the ALDE in the European Parliament and an MEP from Belgium. You are the sole ALDE MEP in this process. In stage 1, you will engage in the Parliament’s internal preference formation bargaining process. In stage 2, you and your fellow MEPs will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, you and your fellow MEPs will issue an opinion by majority vote in favour or against the Commission’s budget proposal. Make sure to identify 1 or 2 relevant priorities, considering your political ideology.

**Nigel Farage**

You are the sole representative of the Eurosceptic right-wing of the European Parliament, which is set to gain considerably in the elections in May. In stage 1, you will engage in the Parliament’s internal preference formation bargaining process. In stage 2, you and your fellow MEPs will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, you and your fellow MEPs will issue an opinion by majority vote in favour or against the Commission’s budget proposal. Make sure to identify 1 or 2 relevant priorities, considering your political ideology. You may act solely as an obstructionist, if that’s your opinion of Farage.

**Gabriele Zimmer**

You are the leader of the GUE/NGL in the European Parliament and an MEP from Germany. You are the sole GUE/NGL MEP in this process, and sole representative of alternative left (beyond S&D) groups in the EP. In stage 1, you will engage in the Parliament’s internal preference formation bargaining process. In stage 2, you and your fellow MEPs will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, you and your fellow MEPs will issue an opinion by majority vote in favour or against the Commission’s budget proposal. Make sure to identify 1 or 2 relevant priorities, considering your political ideology.

**Paschal Donohoe - Ireland**

You are the Irish Finance Minister, representing your government in budgetary deliberations on the Council. Your priority issue is “Brexit compensation”, to burden-share the impact of the crash-out across the EU. In stage 1, you will engage with your fellow EU finance ministers to determine the Council’s priorities in the negotiation process. In stage 2, your group will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, your group will vote on the budget and, to pass it, it must be carried unanimously. Therefore, you and the members of your group are a significant obstacle to the Commission as veto players.

**Olaf Scholz - Germany**

You are the German Finance Minister, representing your government in budgetary deliberations on the Council. Your priority issues are for you to determine, although fiscal prudence will be a top priority as Germany is the largest contributor to the budget. You will be less favourable towards compensatory measures than many of your colleagues (as it is German money!). In stage 1, you will engage with your fellow EU finance ministers to determine the Council’s priorities in the negotiation process. In stage 2, your group will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, your group will vote on the budget and, to pass it, it must be carried unanimously. Therefore, you and the members of your group are a significant obstacle to the Commission as veto players.

**Bruno Le Maire - France**

You are the French Finance Minister, representing your government in budgetary deliberations on the Council. Your priority issues are for you to determine, although you will be considerably more pro-European in your outlook than many of your colleagues. In stage 1, you will engage with your fellow EU finance ministers to determine the Council’s priorities in the negotiation process. In stage 2, your group will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, your group will vote on the budget and, to pass it, it must be carried unanimously. Therefore, you and the members of your group are a significant obstacle to the Commission as veto players.

**Giovanni Tria - Italy**

You are the Italian Finance Minister, representing your government in budgetary deliberations on the Council. Your priority issues are national-level “Security” and “Asylum Seekers” resettlement (or at least compensation). In stage 1, you will engage with your fellow EU finance ministers to determine the Council’s priorities in the negotiation process. In stage 2, your group will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, your group will vote on the budget and, to pass it, it must be carried unanimously. Therefore, you and the members of your group are a significant obstacle to the Commission as veto players.

**Teresa Czerwińska - Poland**

You are the Polish Finance Minister, representing your government in budgetary deliberations on the Council. Your priority issue is “Security.” In stage 1, you will engage with your fellow EU finance ministers to determine the Council’s priorities in the negotiation process. In stage 2, your group will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, your group will vote on the budget and, to pass it, it must be carried unanimously. Therefore, you and the members of your group are a significant obstacle to the Commission as veto players.

**Maria Jesus Montero - Spain**

You are the Spanish Treasury Minister, representing your government in budgetary deliberations on the Council. Your priority issue(s) are for you to determine, although issues such as “Security” and “Asylum Seekers” compensation would be important for your government. In stage 1, you will engage with your fellow EU finance ministers to determine the Council’s priorities in the negotiation process. In stage 2, your group will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, your group will vote on the budget and, to pass it, it must be carried unanimously. Therefore, you and the members of your group are a significant obstacle to the Commission as veto players. In this scenario, you will act in the capacity of council president.

**Wopke Hoekstra** - **Netherlands**

You are the Dutch Finance Minister, representing your government in budgetary deliberations on the Council. Your priority issue(s) are for you to determine, although “Brexit Compensation” and “Asylum Seekers” would be important for your government. In stage 1, you will engage with your fellow EU finance ministers to determine the Council’s priorities in the negotiation process. In stage 2, your group will negotiate with the Commission. In stage 3, your group will vote on the budget and, to pass it, it must be carried unanimously. Therefore, you and the members of your group are a significant obstacle to the Commission as veto players.