**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE 31.03.2019**

**BREXIT - THE ANSWER!**

**COMPROMISE AND RECONCILIATION**

**A MULTI-OPTION REFERENDUM, A PEOPLE’S ‘INDICATIVE VOTE’**

**A TRULY INCLUSIVE, PLURALIST AND *VERY* *DEMOCRATIC* SOLUTION**

Asking parliament, “What is your favourite music, Bach or Bruch?” will produce a majority… but it might not be the correct favourite. What about “Bach or the Beatles?” Or maybe it’s better to have a short list, and in a pluralist democracy, the choice of options should always be done independently.

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New Zealand had a five-option poll in 1992; the world’s first multi-option plebiscite was in 1894.

So why don’t we have a non-binary referendum, a ‘*preferendum’*? Task Mr Speaker or, as in NZ an Independent Commission, to draw up a short list of options, something like:

No deal

Ken Clarke’s idea

Theresa May’s deal

Remain

Call them ***A, B, C*** and ***D.***

And, in one poll, let the people cast their preferences; (NZ used one preference in a two-round vote).

Those who want to engage in reconciliation and vote for more than one preference may do so. Those who want to stick to their one and only option may do so. But…

+ he who casts only a 1st preference gets his favourite 1 point;

+ she who casts a 1st and a 2nd preference gets her favourite 2 points (and her 2nd choice 1 point);

and so on;

+ so those who cast all four preferences get their favourite 4 points, (their 2nd 3, their 3rd 2, etc.).

The difference is always one point. A voter’s 1st (or whichever) preference, if cast, always gets 1 point more than their 2nd (or whichever plus one) preference, regardless of whether the latter has been cast or not. There’s no weighting. It’s all very fair. The methodology – proposed in 1884 by Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll), one century earlier by Jean-Charles de Borda and by Ramón Llull in 1199; none of them knew about their predecessor(s) – is called the Modified Borda Count, MBC.

An outcome – the option with the most points – is guaranteed. And, if its score is good, it might even be the consensus.

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