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BREXIT: RETROSPECTIVE AND FUTURE OUTLINES

June 23, 2016 was an unprecedented day in the history of the European Union – a referendum was held on British withdrawal from the EU, which was supported by 51.9% of the population. The main arguments of Brexit supporters are the emancipation from political guidelines of Brussels, suspension of financing the economically backward countries of the EU and reduction of migration flows.

Retrospectively, Brexit was not an easy decision for British people because the vote outcomes turned out to be inhomogeneous in different parts of the United Kingdom. While England and Wales voted for Brexit, Scotland and Northern Ireland citizens were against the separation from the EU. Such situation has led to internal conflict in Great Britain and threat of its disintegration. It is interesting that Brexit was supported stronger by people over 50 years old whereas British youth expressed the opposite opinion.

The UK Government refers to Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which fixes the right of Member States to the voluntary withdrawal from the Union. However, this right can be implemented in case of support of qualified majority in the European Council and ratification of all the EU member states. Moreover, this article does not regulate trade regimes after disintegration, therefore, separate agreements on the regulation of goods and capital movement must be signed. So at the moment British government negotiates about the conditions for further cooperation with the EU in order to protect national economy since 60% of foreign trade turnover of Britain is accounted for Europe.

Currently, British government wants to ensure that the country can take advantage of their own preferential trade agreements. It means that the United Kingdom will not be bound by the EU's Common External Tariff or participate in the Common Commercial Policy. However, British economy will benefit from European Free Trade Area like Norway or Switzerland. Also an important issue that must be taking into account is that 75% of GDP is produced in services, not in goods.

Apparently, Great Britain will remain a part of the EU until at least 2018. The Prime Minister, <u>Theresa May</u>, announced an intention to start a formal withdrawal in March, 2017. This decision was already accepted by British Parliament last year. Some British politicians suggest to delay any active actions till autumn and make decisions after French and Dutch national elections. These countries are likely to follow UK and leave the European Union. However, european politicians can not allow Great Britain to stay as a part of union till 2019 when elections to European Parliament are scheduled. The UK has a significant influence on UK policy as this country has 10% of voting rights in the Parliament.

Summing up, position of the United Kingdom on the world arena will depend on negotiation results with the European Union and conditions of UK withdrawal. Nevertheless, Brexit outcomes have international impact as Great Britain is deeply integrated to the global economy. Despite the pessimistic forecasts, British GDP showed 0,6% growth within last 6 months. Unfortunately, British pound appeared to be more sensible and reached 30-year minimum. Such a plunge endangers future position of London as a main financial center of Europe.

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CYCLONE GLOBAL NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM

NASA has successfully launched an entire constellation of CYGNSS (Cyclone Global Navigation Satellite System) satellites from a rocket that itself was launched from an airplane.

It was decided to use the L-1011 Stargazer carrier. It's an airplane that reaches the flight altitude of 12 kilometers. There, the Orbital ATK Pegasus XL rocket detaches from it. Next stage – a freefall of a rocket for about five seconds, with a further activation of the main engine, that then carries the rocket with several satellites in it to the Earth orbit.

After 14 minutes of the flight the Pegasus rocket sends its precious cargo to do its work. All this process takes place at the height of 508 kilometers from the Earth surface.

The useful cargo of a rocket is a special delivery capsule, where the satellites were stored. On a certain altitude, the satellites detach from a mother ship and start to execute their functions.

It's worth mentioning, that the project took the agency \$157 million. Despite the humongous budget, contributed by the Congress' special commission, NASA couldn't have completed that project. That's why the agency needed the help of the partners. They were the Michigan and the South-West San-Antonio institutes.

Initially, the entire launch sequence was planned on Monday. But it needed to be postponed until Thursday, because of the hydraulic detach system failure and the unpleasant weather conditions.

Eight of the CYGNSS satellites are now working on meteorological and climatic researches of several regions of our planet. For example, the devices will help to predict the hurricane and tropical cyclones' intensity with a precision, that's been never seen before. The satellites will only spectate the area of the tropical hurricanes, monitoring of the other areas is not incorporated into their program.