**PRESS RELEASE**

**EMBARGOED: 0001am, Tuesday, 6th November, 2018.**

**BREXIT**

Imagine a parliament of only 12 MPs. They discuss the options (as aired on BBC *Today,* Monday 12):

May’s ‘Chequers’ plan.

WTO or ‘no deal’.

The EU’s proposals.

‘remain’.

No one option commands a majority. If put to a straight majority vote – “May’s, yes-or-no?” “‘no deal’, yes-or-no?” etc. – every option fails.

In that case, take two at a time. And assume the dozen have the following preferences.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Preferences | The Voters | | |
| 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 1st | *EU’s* | *no* | *May’s* |
| 2nd | *no* | *May’s* | *remain* |
| 3rd | *May’s* | *remain* | *EU’s* |
| 4th | *remain* | *EU’s* | *no* |

First question, “May’s or ‘no’?” and ‘no’ wins by 9 to 3.

So the next question is “EU’s or ‘no’?” and EU’s wins by 8 to 4.

So finally, it’s “EU’s or ‘*remain’*?” which ‘*remain’* wins by 7 to 5.

But hang on! All twelve of them prefer May’s to ‘remain’ by 12 to 0.

**IN ANY MULTI-OPTION DEBATE, MAJORITY VOTING**

**WILL SOMETIMES GIVE NO ANSWER, AND SOMETIMES THE WRONG ANSWER.**

To preçis the dictionary: “Democracy is synonymous with majority rule,” but “in votes between three or more options, this poses a difficulty,” and “the best interpretations of majority rule are the Borda and Condorcet rules.” (*Oxford Concise Dictionary of Politics*, 2003, p 139.)

**THEREFORE, ANY MEANINGFUL VOTE ON BREXIT SHOULD BE PREFERENTIAL!**

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