**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE 26.11.2018**

**THE DE BORDA INSTITUTE CALLS ON SINN FÉIN\* TO ALLOW THEIR MPs IN**

 **THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO VOTE FOR A SECOND REFERENDUM**

|  |
| --- |
| **BREXIT****SINN FÉIN - ABSTAINING ON BREXIT?**To abstain is not to do nothing. By abstaining, Sinn Féin will help whoever is the winner. For Sinn Féin to campaign against Brexit and yet abstain in the House of Commons is the height of political hypocrisy. |

**CATALONIA**

**CATALANS AND BASQUES VOTE IN MADRID PARLIAMENT**

On 1st June 2018, both Catalan**§** and Basque\* Nationalist parties voted in a crucial vote of no confidence in Madrid. The vote was ‘yes’ by 180 to ‘no’ 169 with 1 abstention. If these Nationalist parties had abstained, the result would have been 156 ‘yes’ to 169 ‘no’, and the decision would have been the complete opposite.

§ = ERC (9 votes) and PDeCAT (8) = 17 votes

\* = PNV (5 votes) and EH Bildu (2) = 7 votes

|  |
| --- |
| **BACK TO BREXIT**So why can’t Sinn Féin act honestly? Brexit is not just a question of “British affairs”. It affects us all! |

Peter Emerson

Director, the de Borda Institute

36 Ballysillan Road

Belfast BT14 7QQ

[www.deborda.org](http://www.deborda.org/)

pemerson@deborda.org

07837717979

02890711795

\* In an e-mail dated 5.6.2018, Sinn Féin said it would require a “specially convened Party conference”. Well, there is still time, just.