**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE – 22.9.2020**

**IF** (With apologies to Rudyard Kipling)

If the Brexit vote had been more logical,

and not a binary choice, yes or no;

If the ballot had been multi-optional:

“in EU?” “EEA?” or “WTO?”

If voters voted ‘yes’ for what they wanted,

and none had voted only (‘leave’ or) ‘no’,

the Euro Union would remain undefiled

and – which is more – we would have peace, my child.

If all things Brexit had been more rational,

hold first the debate, and *before* the vote;

If options all, like Norway, were on t’table

and everyone knew well, just what was what;

If the choice – say of five – multi-optional,

with each to vote for what they actually *want,*

the most acceptable ’d be our agreed end.

Then – which is more – we would have peace, my friend.

If only the commission electoral

had ballots advised multi-optional;

If a board, impartial, can examine all

and then the people vote, preferential:

“Oh that one is the best, this one too is wise,”

Each votes, their ideal and their compromise;

Our collective will could be consensual

and – which is more – a result fair to all.

If – which is more – referendums, parliaments,

votes weren’t based on binary arguments;

If always all options, all available,

were on ballot short listed, optional,

Politics could be less adversarial,

debates – and votes! – could be preferential,

power could be shared...

…so better might we strive

to stop climate change, Covid… and survive.

|  |
| --- |
| ***DEMOCRATIC-DECISION-MAKING***  ***Consensus Voting for Civic Society and Parliaments,*** 2020, (Springer, Heidelberg)  will be presented to the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins in Áras an Uachtaráin, not as first planned on Friday 2nd October but, Covid permitting, at some later date. Details to follow shortly. |

Peter Emerson

Director, the de Borda Institute

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

36 Ballysillan Road Belfast BT14 7QQ 07837717979