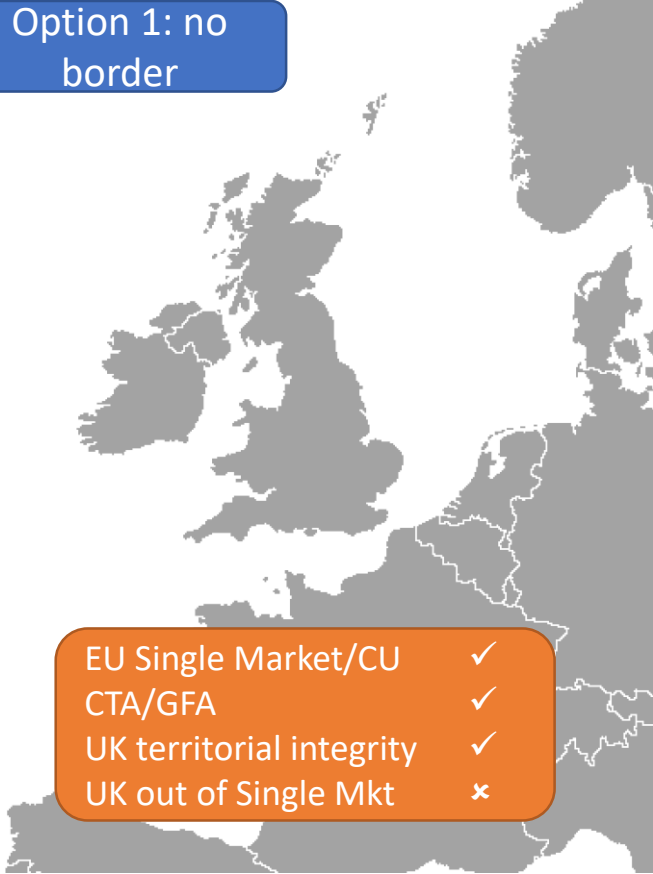


Why the Irish border question is so tricky to resolve

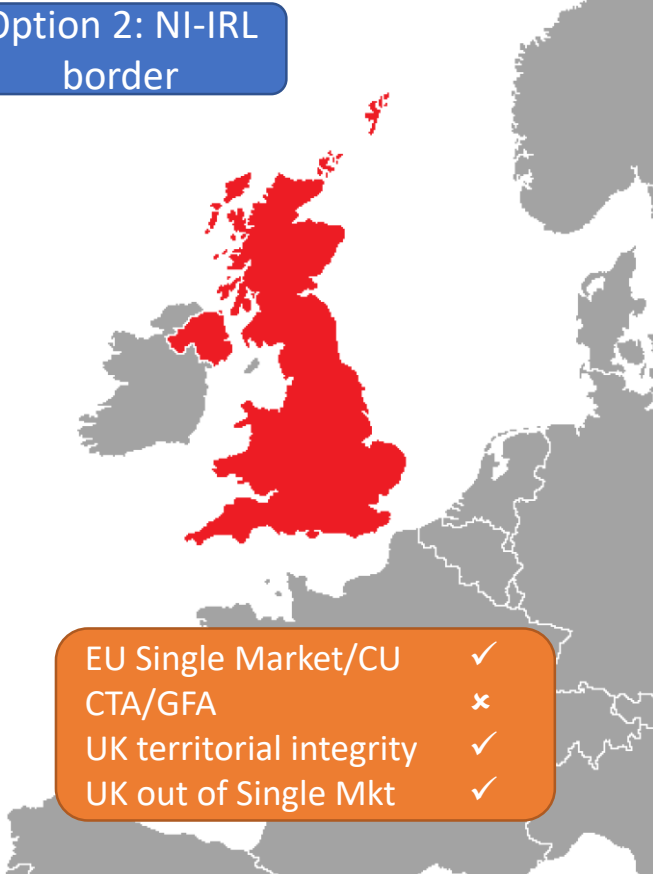
Dr Simon Usherwood

One of the most intractable issues in Brexit talks is the nature of the border between the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Both countries are committed to keeping an open border, both for the purposes of the Common Travel Area between the two and for the Good Friday Agreement. However, the UK is also committed to the territorial integrity of the country, and Ireland is committed to full membership of the EU's single market and customs union, both of which the UK rejects. No option exists that simultaneously meets all these commitments.

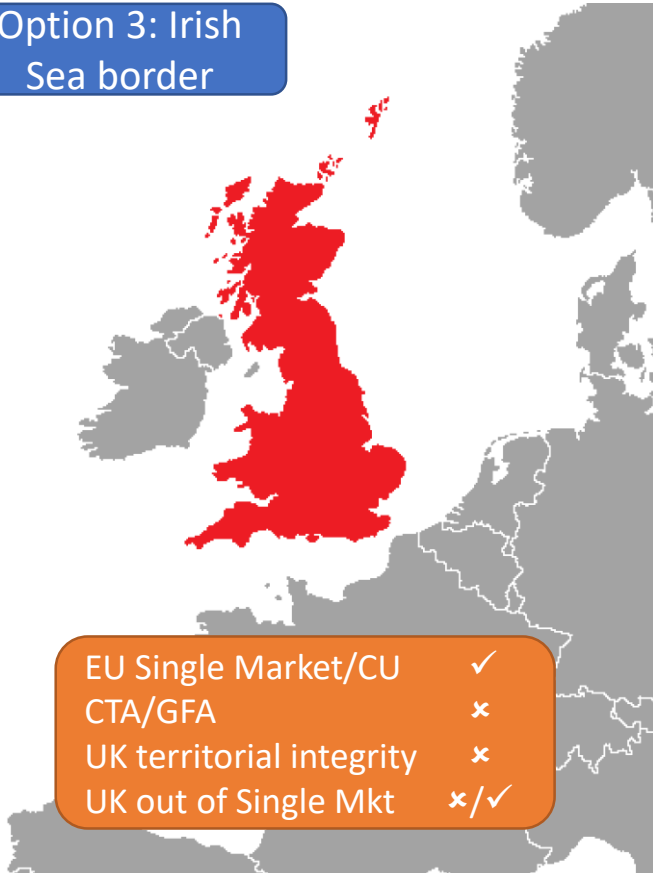
Option 1: no border



Option 2: NI-IRL border



Option 3: Irish Sea border



Option 4: Channel border

