

Brassil asks DUP for a second referendum

KERRY TD John Brassil has urged DUP leader Arlene Foster to back calls for a second referendum on Brexit.

He said because of the DUP's unique position as powerbrokers in the British Parliament, she could use her influence to give the people a second say on such a crucial matter as EU membership.

"That is the very simple solution to this whole mess," the Fianna Fail TD said at the Killarney Economic Conference.

"I would ask you, as a person of influence, to go ahead and demand it," he said to the former First Minister.

"I really believe that the British people voted on something that they didn't realise the consequences of. The debate was more about migration and NHS waiting lists than it was about what Brexit actually meant and now, 18 months down the road, the people realise the potential consequences," he said.

"There is nothing wrong with putting the question to the people again now that they know what they are voting on," Deputy Brassil insisted.

Ms Foster, in response, said there were many reasons why people voted to leave the European Union and, in her opinion, it was a sovereignty issue.

"To be clear, my party has never been in favour of the European Union. Right from the very beginning we have campaigned against it," she said.

"I totally disagree with you on the second referendum. I would never advocate that. Where do you stop? We would be on a never-ending cycle of referendums," she told the Kerry Fianna Fail TD.

Junior Minister, Brendan Griffin, Deputies Michael and Danny Healy-Rae, Senators Mark Daly and Paul Coghlan and Mayor of Killarney, Cllr Niall Kelleher, were also in attendance at the conference in the Brehon Hotel.