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The frontier between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland has become a major sticking point in talks about Britain's exit from the European Union.

By Andrew Testa and Megan Specia

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PETTIGO, Ireland — Along the winding open border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, Cuilcagh Mountain trail rises into a steep wooden stairway that comes to a halt at a lookout deck.

Tourists scale the steps and pause here to gaze over a landscape dotted with lakes, rivers and farmland, the two nations indistinguishable.

Driving from the Republic of Ireland, which has been independent for almost a century, into Northern Ireland, the only way to know you've crossed into the United Kingdom is the change in signs from kilometers to miles.

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