During a jobs announcement in Waterford, when asked by reporters if he thought there was any possibility of Brexit not going ahead, he said: "Well, I still hope that it won't happen."

The Taoiseach added that Brexit "is a British policy, not an Irish one".

"When it comes to my work in Brussels, working with other European prime ministers and presidents, it's part of my remit to keep the door open, not just to the European Union, but also to the single market and also to the customs union, should they decide to go down that route.

"That, I think, would be the best outcome for Ireland and Northern Ireland and Britain," Mr Varadkar was quoted in the Irish Times as saying.