

# What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement? (26 May 2017)

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Article 50 states that if no agreement is found by the end of two years after notification, then a member state leaves in any case. Why might this happen?

The Risk	Why might it happen?	Likelihood of preventing agreement	Change since April
UK government is unclear on objectives	Conservative manifesto is opaque on detail of any Art.50 deal, but some public statements suggest confusion on possible options, leading to unrealistic objectives	Medium	Rising
Disagreement over sequencing of agreement	The UK would like to join together exit negotiations with talks on a new relationship, while the Commission says the former must be concluded before moving on. A referral to CJEU under Art.218(11) might ensue.	Low-Medium	No change
Non-ratification by an EU27 assembly	The Commission mandate now limits Art.50 negotiations much more clearly, so much less risk of requiring unanimous adoption (or involvement of sub-national assemblies)	Low	Falling
European Parliament refuses to accept agreement	EP appears to be closely coordinating with European Council, but will block any agreement not resolving citizens' rights.	Low	No change
UK Parliamentary revolt	As a deal becomes clearer, Parliament might to impose requirements on government, call a vote of confidence, or reject final deal, although presumed increased Tory majority makes this less likely	Low	No change
Insufficient negotiating capacity	The UK remains well below recruiting targets for negotiators, so might simply lack staffing to produce an agreement of sufficient scope and detail	Low	No change
Radical hardening of UK position	The UK might announce it has no intention of seeking an agreement at all, and refuses to negotiate	Very Low	Falling
EU27 fail to agree position	Commission mandate confirms EUCO track, with no sign of substantive disagreements	Very Low	Falling
Tory party revolt	If Tory backbenchers feel Theresa May isn't fulfilling their ideas on Brexit, they might seek to remove her from the leadership. Presumed success & increased majority in General Election makes this much less likely	Very Low	No change