

What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement? (22 June 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 failure to secure majority in General Election casts doubt on Brexit policy	Medium-High	Rising
UK Parliamentary revolt	Failure to secure a Parliamentary majority leaves the Conservative government exposed to no confidence votes and/or amendments to legislation. However, the latter does not necessarily mean agreement with EU less likely	Medium	Rising
Tory party revolt	May's failure in General Election has fundamentally compromised her position and a leadership challenge will occur before long. However, still broad commitment to Art.50 process.	Low	Rising
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
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	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
Disagreement over sequencing of agreement	The UK has now cleaved to Commission's proposal following the first meeting of principals on 19 June	Low	Failing
EU27 fail to agree position	Commission mandate confirms EUCO track, with no sign of substantive disagreements	Very Low	No change
Radical hardening of UK position	Opening of negotiations underlines UK commitment to process	Very Low	No change