

What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement? (27 July 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	Continuing public and private differences within Cabinet, reinforced by uncertain position of Theresa May	Medium-High	No change
UK Parliamentary revolt	Uncertainty over Labour's position makes it hard to coordinate opposition	Low-Medium	Falling
Tory party revolt	Conservatives appear to have a temporary truce, given difficult Parliamentary position and risk of another General Election	Low-Medium	Rising
European Parliament refuses to accept agreement	EP continues to reiterate its intention to block any agreement not resolving citizens' rights.	Low	No change
Non-ratification by an EU27 assembly	The Commission mandate 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	Very Low	Falling
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	Confusion over UK positions as likely to result in softening as in any hardening	Very Low	No change