

# Scenarios for October

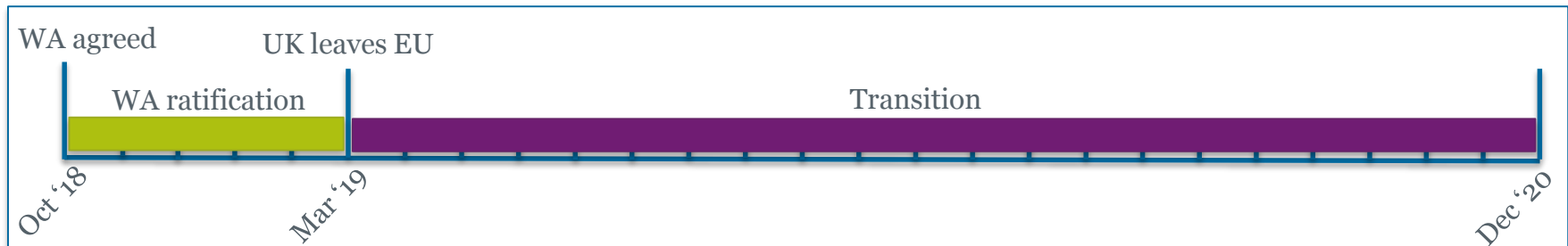
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## Some context

- 18-19 October European Council (EUCO) is flagged for final decision on Art.50 Withdrawal Agreement (WA)
- Current planning and timetable is based on this being the point of decision
- Much can happen beforehand (esp. around March European Council), but useful to map out range of possibilities for October
- Scenarios are not exhaustive and can run into each other, but do map out ideal types
- In each scenario, will consider: what happens when; why it might happen; what consequence it would have, and; the kind of rhetoric one might hear



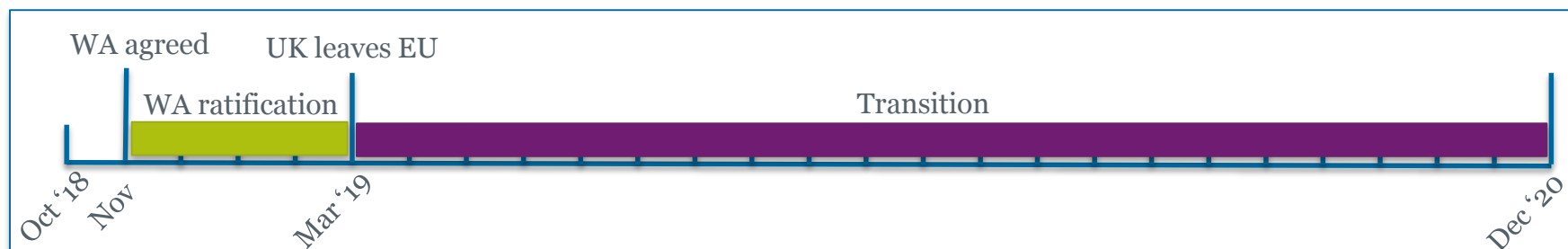
## Scenario 1: 'Glidepath'



- Why might it happen?
  - Current mutually-agreed plan
- Consequences:
  - Agreement on WA
  - Prompt move to Future Relationship negotiations in March 2019
  - Reduced time-pressure on transition period
  - Maintenance of working EU-UK relationship
- Rhetoric:
  - “...positive partnership...constructive base...common ground...”



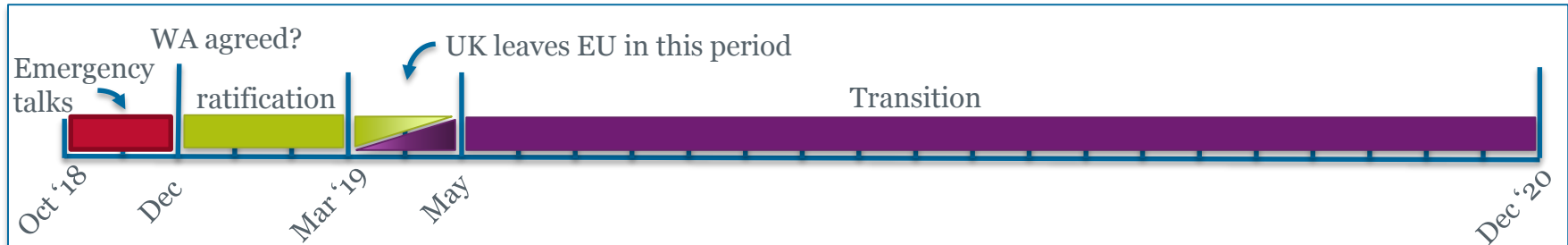
## Scenario 2: 'Teething difficulties'



- Why might it happen?
  - Too many technical difficulties to resolve at October EUCO, so push back to emergency EUCO in November
- Consequences:
  - Agreement on WA
  - Reduced time for ratification
  - Prompt move to Future Relationship negotiations in March 2019
  - Maintenance of working EU-UK relationship
- Rhetoric:
  - "...important technical points of clarification...constructive atmosphere...important to keep to timeline..."



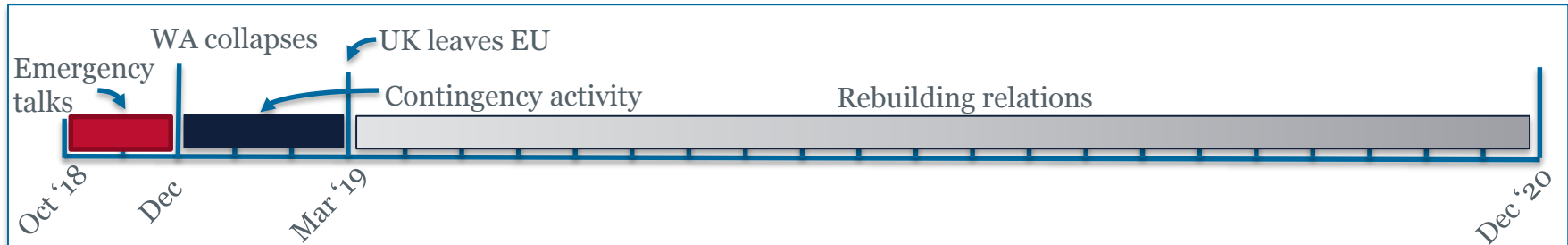
## Scenario 3: ‘Major problems’



- Why might it happen?
  - Substantial blockages at October EUCO, so push back to 18-19 December EUCO, or even emergency January meeting
- Consequences:
  - Eventual agreement on WA
  - Probably insufficient time for ratification, so need to discuss Art.50 extension “for ratification purposes only”
  - Delayed start to Future Relationship negotiations and increased time pressure on transition period
  - EU-UK relationship put under strain
- Rhetoric:
  - “...Continued commitment to Art.50/WA...essential to have functioning relationship...Fundamental points of disagreement...”



## Scenario 4: 'Collapse'



- Why might it happen?
  - Complete impasse at October EUCO, and/or no movement by December EUCO, leading to party/ies rejecting WA in principle
- Consequences:
  - No WA, so UK leaves without an agreed relationship with EU
  - Contingency operations kick in, mainly on unilateral basis (maybe some joint work on critical activities)
  - Efforts to enforce Dec 2017 Joint Report commitments on Irish dimension and citizens' rights
  - Extreme compromising of EU-UK relationship, making it hard in short-/medium-term to get back around table
- Rhetoric:
  - "...complete disregard for our positions...absolutely no scope for rescuing WA...collapse of any trust..."



- October European Council will be a critical point, but not the very last chance for finding WA agreement
- Any delay to 'glidepath' will mean significant knock-on effects for remainder of process, either on timings or on substantive progress
- Period prior to October will be essential in laying groundwork for 'glidepath', especially March and June EUCOs

