

# What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement? (24 May 2018)

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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 Apr
Tory party revolt	Backbench remains uncertain about course taken, but has not acted upon public statements. Continued flashpoints on Irish dimension and future customs arrangements	Medium	No change
UK government is unclear on objectives	Some efforts to work up alternative detailed plans, but still little sense of overarching policy direction or balance. Probably now insufficient time to produce options for June European Council	Medium	Rising
Radical hardening of UK position	The argument over customs arrangements seems to be heading towards the more distant 'MaxFac' option, which might blow back into Art.50 itself. However, also talk of longer transitions.	Low-Medium	Rising
European Parliament refuses to accept agreement	Despite various concerns on citizens' rights and the Irish border, the EP continues to be broadly supportive	Low	No change
EU27 fail to agree position	EU continues to hold broadly-agreed line, including on future relationship	Low	No change
UK Parliamentary revolt	Increasing activity, especially in Lords, mostly pointing towards softening terms, instead of a no-deal	Low	No change
Non-ratification by an EU27 assembly	Commission Phase 2 mandate continues approval process without major issues and no sign of breaking ranks	Very Low	No change
Insufficient negotiating capacity	Despite short-staffing and high staff turnover in DExEU, no sign this will hinder ability to reach agreement on planned schedule.	Zero	No change
Disagreement over sequencing of agreement	Sequencing is no longer an issue on either side, as they move into Phase 2	Zero	No change