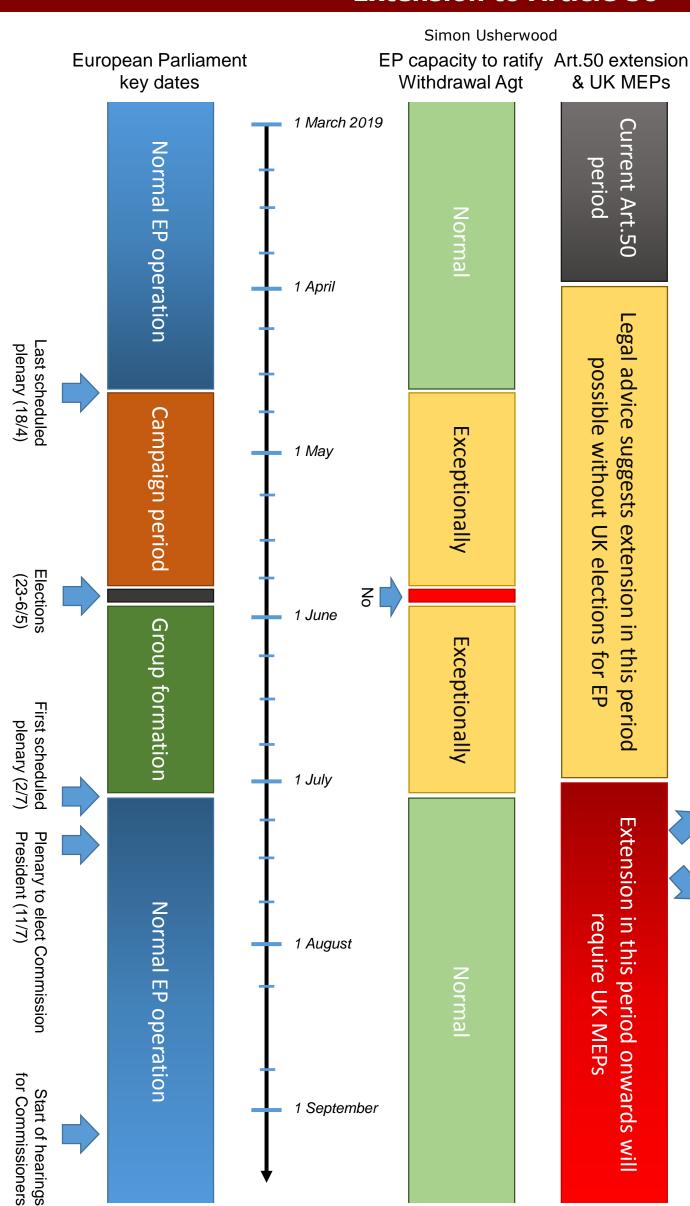




Navigating the European Election Issue in an Extension to Article 50



The European Parliament (EP) is an important actor in the Art.50 process, as it has to approve any Withdrawal Agreement. As European elections draw closer, the issue of an extension to Art.50 will have to take account of the EP.

The EP's political groups form post-election, with requirements on minimum numbers of MEPs from a minimum number of member states. The size of groups also affects allocations of senior offices and funding in the EP.

Issues if UK still in EU on 2 July and no UK MEPs

- Failure to meet treaty obligations on representation of citizens (court cases v.likely)
- No UK involvement in EP group formation; selection of EP officers; etc.

Issues if UK still in EU on 2 July and <u>UK MEPs</u> are present

- UK MEP involvement in group formation; EP officer selection; Commission confirmation; etc., when might be leaving shortly after
- MEPs elected in 14
 states to re-allocated UK
 seats left in limbo