

Two Approaches to the post-Brexit relationship

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The maximalist relationship

Starting point: Retain all current elements of EU membership, minus voting and representation rights

Key process: UK decides what it wants to step out off from current list

Key mechanism: Establish UK-EU standing committee. UK notifies committee of intent to withdraw from specific provision; EU27 advise on any knock-on consequences; streamlined approval/ratification process

Advantages: Relatively simple/quick to establish. Maintains close relationship and open line of communication. Relatively high level of market access. Potential for reversal of decisions, to suit contingent needs

Disadvantages: Inter-linkage of competences liable to cause problems (esp. Free mvt of people). Relatively untransparent process

The minimalist relationship

Starting point: Full break with all current EU membership elements

Key process: UK decides what it wants to join in with

Key mechanism: UK internal debate to establish future EU relationship in the round; single negotiation to agree text; one-off ratification

Advantages: One-off negotiation, post Art.50. Single text allows for package deal and trade-offs to keep all sides on-side. Scope for clear national ratification processes (inc. referendums)

Disadvantages: Much slower. Unclear transitional situation. Relatively inflexible. More chance of being blocked in ratification