

What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement?

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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
Non-ratification by an EU27 assembly	If the final text is mixed, then all 27 parliaments, plus some sub-national ones, will have to ratify. One or more might see an opportunity to secure local benefits in return for approval, as with Wallonia and CETA	Medium
European Parliament refuses to accept agreement	The EP is keen to have an active role in negotiations, so might block progress unless it gets this. In addition, it might take a less flexible line on UK participation in EU programmes post-membership	Low-Medium
UK government is unclear on objectives	To date, the UK's position has been negatively constructed, so it might be unsure as to what it wants to have, and so cannot reach a conclusive position	Low-Medium
Disagreement over scope of agreement	The UK would like to join together exit negotiations with talks on a new relationship, while the Commission says the former must be concluded fully before moving on. A referral to CJEU under Art.218(11) might ensue.	Low-Medium
UK Parliamentary revolt	As a deal becomes clearer, Parliament might to impose requirements on government, call a vote of confidence, or reject final deal	Low-Medium
Tory party revolt	If Tory backbenchers feel Theresa May isn't fulfilling their ideas on Brexit, they might seek to remove her from the leadership	Low
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
EU27 fail to agree position	The EU27 have very diverse interests in Brexit talks, which might preclude the ability to fix a negotiating mandate for the Commission	Low
Radical hardening of UK position	The UK might announce it has no intention of seeking an agreement at all, and refuses to negotiate	Low