

What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement? (28 February 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 Jan
UK government is unclear on objectives	Cabinet discussions continue, but 'three basket' model is underdeveloped and focuses on process rather than destination	Medium	No change
Tory party revolt	Backbench remains uncertain about course taken, but has not acted upon public statements. However, less acquiescence than in earlier talks of talks, as decisions loom	Medium	Rising
EU27 fail to agree position	EU still needs to find consensus on preferred end-state for new relationship, but no major disputes yet	Low	No change
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
Radical hardening of UK position	Despite very broad commitment to Article 50 and a deal within Cabinet, moves to settle a common position raise risk of hardening, to accommodate key figures.	Low	Rising
UK Parliamentary revolt	Limited activity, mostly pointing towards softening terms, instead of a no-deal	Low	Falling
Non-ratification by an EU27 assembly	Commission Phase 2 mandate continues approval process without major issues and no sign of breaking ranks	Very Low	Falling
Insufficient negotiating capacity	The UK remains short-staffed at DExEU, even with increasing input from Number 10. No evident impact to date.	Very Low	Falling
Disagreement over sequencing of agreement	Sequencing is no longer an issue on either side, as they move into Phase 2	Zero	Falling