

# What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement? (27 September 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 August
Tory party revolt	Open conflict around the Chequers plan, with implicit threats to May's leadership	Medium-High	No change
UK government is unclear on objectives	Chequers remains an incomplete plan for the future relationship, while no substantive proposals for unblocking outstanding Withdrawal Agreement issues has been tabled	Medium-High	No change
EU27 fail to agree position	EU continues to hold broadly-agreed line, although some signs that frustration with UK might generate additional guarantees for specific interests	Low-Medium	Rising
Radical hardening of UK position	Uncertainty about next steps in negotiations continues to encourage Tory factions to push Number 10	Low-Medium	No change
UK Parliamentary revolt	Increasing levels of confusion, as opposition parties indicate willingness/intention to vote against most forms of the Withdrawal Agreement, subject to content and possible referendum stage	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
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	No longer an issue, given limited agenda around outstanding Withdrawal Agreement problems	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