

# What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement? (25 October 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 Sept.
Tory party revolt	Focus shifting from Chequers to elements of Withdrawal Agt, including extension of transition period and Irish dimension. Balanced by stronger internal voices against last-minute disruption	Medium-High	No change
UK government is unclear on objectives	Failure to accept provisional compromises on Withdrawal Agt text ahead of October European Council highlights continued indeterminacy of Number 10	Medium-High	No change
EU27 fail to agree position	Continued frustration with UK, but resolution of Gibraltar protocol indicative of containment of localised issues (bar Ireland)	Low-Medium	No change
Radical hardening of UK position	Despite persistent resistance by Number 10, still a chance that looming ratification battles require a final push for some last-minute concessions from EU	Low-Medium	No change
UK Parliamentary revolt	Continuing uncertainty about how both government and opposition parties will vote on ratification	Low-Medium	No change
European Parliament refuses to accept agreement	Minimal comment from EP of late, suggesting broad support for text and/or unwillingness to be responsible for blocking agreement	Low	No change
Non-ratification by an EU27 assembly	No sign at all of issues arising from move into final phases, so highly unlikely to become an active dimension	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