

What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement? (29 November 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 Oct.
Tory party revolt	Conclusion of Withdrawal Agt & Political Declaration has produced very deep unease in party, with many public statements on intention to vote down package. Doubtful that alternative with majority support exists	High	Rising
UK Parliamentary revolt	No obvious path for ratification, given both opposition and Tory rebel positions. However, no obvious majority for any alternative path	Medium-High	Rising
UK government is unclear on objectives	Success in concluding negotiations removes a major barrier, but still unclear if May will seek renegotiation in case of defeat on the 'Meaningful vote'	Low-Medium	Falling
Radical hardening of UK position	Given the difficulty of ratification, government may push for some last-minute concessions from EU in a renegotiation	Low-Medium	No change
EU27 fail to agree position	Resolution of outstanding issues marks an important step forward, but issues in run-up to November European Council highlight internal disagreements, which might matter in renegotiation scenario	Low	Falling
European Parliament refuses to accept agreement	All signs on the finalised text appear positive, so no sense that this will be an issue	Very Low	Falling
Non-ratification by an EU27 assembly	Successful containment of issues in run-up to sign-off suggest this will remain a very marginal issue	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