

# What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement? (20 December 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 Nov.
Tory party revolt	As the confidence motion demonstrated, MPs are highly unlikely to support the Withdrawal Agreement at present, even if there is no consensus about alternative models	High	No change
UK Parliamentary revolt	No obvious path for ratification, given both opposition and Tory rebel positions. However, no obvious majority for any alternative path	High	Rising
UK government is unclear on objectives	May might seek renegotiation in case of defeat on the 'Meaningful vote', but EU has been very forceful about discounting the viability of this option	Low	Falling
Radical hardening of UK position	Possible move to pursuing no-deal outcome, but very unlikely given current situation in Parliament	Low	Falling
EU27 fail to agree position	UK disarray has continued to reinforce EU unity on Withdrawal Agreement, including renegotiation	Very Low	Falling
European Parliament refuses to accept agreement	No sign that this will be a problem at all, unless renegotiation occurs	Very Low	No change
Non-ratification by an EU27 assembly	Highly unlikely at this stage	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