

# What might stop a negotiated Article 50 agreement? (28 March 2019)

Simon Usherwood

Article 50 states that if no agreement is found by the end of the period of negotiation, then a member state leaves in any case. Why might this happen?

The Risk	Why might it happen?	Likelihood of preventing agreement	Change since Feb.
Tory party revolt	Some more signs of support for Withdrawal Agreement following May's announcement to resign soon, but still a number of MPs unwilling to give ground	High	No change
UK Parliamentary revolt	First round of Indicative Votes highlighted blockage in Parliament. DUP still implacable on Withdrawal Agreement	High	No change
UK government is unclear on objectives	Discussion seems to have moved on from renegotiation, but still no clarity on how to manage UK ratification	Low	No change
Radical hardening of UK position	Indicative Votes on 27 March highlight tendency towards softer Brexit, so this remains the more likely direction of travel	Low	No change
EU27 fail to agree position	Some disagreement about extension, which is likely to increase with time.	Low	Rise
European Parliament refuses to accept agreement	No sign that this will be a problem at all, unless complications as a function of elections in May	Very Low	No change
Non-ratification by an EU27 assembly	Almost inconceivable at this stage	Zero	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