

Brexit timeline: *What has happened and where to next?*

Everyone, especially those in business, needs to know what is the Brexit timeline. It is impossible to be precise because no Member State has ever left the EU, Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union has never been invoked, some of the problems appear intractable and there is a great deal of uncertainty about type of Brexit will eventually emerge. Nonetheless, it is useful to bear in mind the broad contours of a timeline and hopefully this timeline helps businesses plan:

Dates	Event
23 June 2016	Voters in the UK and Gibraltar decide that the UK should leave the EU
17 January 2017	Theresa May, the UK Prime Minister, sets out her vision for Brexit in a speech at Lancaster House in London
29 March 2017	UK communicates its intention to leave the EU by triggering Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union
29 March 2017	Donald Tusk, the President of the European Council, issues a statement on the triggering of Article 50, noting that the Union will act as one and preserve its interests
30 March 2017	David Davis, the UK's Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, presents the UK Government's White Paper entitled Legislating for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union to Parliament
18 April 2017	Theresa May, the UK Prime Minister, announces a general election to be held on 8 June 2017 with a view to securing a larger Conservative majority facing into Brexit negotiations
27 – 29 April 2017	The Council of the European Union publishes and adopts "Guidelines Following The United Kingdom's Notification Under Article 50 TEU", outlining the EU's negotiating strategy
7 May 2017	The second round of voting in French Presidential Elections sees Emmanuel Macron of En Marche! claim victory over Marine Le Pen of the National Front
22 May 2017	The Council authorises the opening of Article 50 negotiations and nominates the European Commission as the EU negotiator
8 June 2017	The United Kingdom general election results in the Conservatives making a net loss of 13 seats, while opposition party Labour gain 30 seats. Theresa May forms a minority government with the support of votes from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party
19 June 2017	First round of Brexit negotiations launched by Secretary for Exiting the EU, David Davis, and European Commission Chief Negotiator, Michel Barnier, with a focus on five main issues: i. citizens' rights; ii. the financial settlement; iii. the Northern Irish border; iv. the structure of the negotiations; v. other separation issues
1 July 2017	Estonia takes over Presidency of the European Council (it was meant to have been the UK but it has relinquished EU Presidency given its Brexit negotiations)
13 July 2017	UK government introduces into the House of Commons the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill 2017-19 (what used to be called informally the "Great Repeal Bill")
22 September 2017	Theresa May, the UK Prime Minister, sets out a revised vision for Brexit in a speech in Florence, Italy
24 September 2017	German federal election is held, with Angela Merkel's party loses some support and needs to form a coalition government
9 November 2017	Theresa May indicates a willingness to increase the size of the financial settlement for leaving the EU
4-7 December 2017	Brexit negotiations stall as the issue of a Northern Irish border fails to be agreed upon
8 December 2017	Jean-Claude Juncker and Theresa May announce that the European Commission will report to the European Council that "sufficient progress" has been made on citizens' rights and the Northern Irish border to allow the talks to proceed to Phase 2

Approximate Date	Possible Event
14-15 December 2017	The European Council will decide, on the basis of the Commission report, if talks can proceed to Phase 2
1 January 2018	Bulgaria assumes European Council Presidency
January – March 2018	If Phase 2 negotiations proceed, David Davis has set a deadline of the end of March 2018 for the conclusion of transitional agreements. Phase 2 will focus on: i. drafting a Withdrawal Agreement; ii. drafting Transitional Arrangements; and iii. discussing the future relationship between the EU and the UK (the EU follow its “guidelines” on its approach to future relations with the UK). The Irish border will also remain an issue to be discussed
1 July 2018	Austria assumes European Council Presidency
30 September 2018	Date set by EU’s chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, to conclude terms of the UK’s exit from the Union – the agreement would still need to be ratified
October 2018 - March 2019	Possible Brexit Deal which would then require consent by UK (simple majority in UK Parliament), consent by the European Parliament (absolute majority) and the EU-27 (by super qualified majority – 20 of the 27/65% of the population)
1 January 2019	Romania assumes European Council Presidency
29 March 2019, 23:00 hours (UK time)	UK departure from the EU scheduled to be completed but there would then be transition/ implementation
June 2019	European Parliament Elections are scheduled to take place
1 July 2019	Finland assumes European Council Presidency
1 January 2020	Croatia assumes European Council Presidency
1 July 2020	Germany assumes European Council Presidency