

State of play of negotiations with the UK

Since June 2017, the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) have held four rounds of Brexit talks, focused on the first phase priority issues: citizens' rights, the financial settlement and the situation on the island of Ireland. The European Parliament is due to vote a resolution prior to the October European Council (EU-27) meeting, which is set to consider whether 'sufficient progress' has been achieved to move negotiations onto the second phase, on the future EU-UK relationship.

The fourth round of Brexit talks: main results

The fourth round of [Article 50](#) negotiations took place from 25 to 28 September. That followed [talks in August](#) where 'no decisive progress' had been achieved, in particular on the financial settlement and [citizens' rights](#), although some advances were made on the Common Travel Area and the Good Friday Agreement, according to the EU negotiator, Michel Barnier. It also came after the [speech](#) by the UK Prime Minister, Theresa May in Florence on 22 September, which the EU side considered to mark a more '[constructive and realistic](#)' approach from the UK and as having helped to [unblock](#) discussions. The UK made new [proposals](#) in line with the speech, leading to some progress in the latest round. Barnier [concluded](#) that 'sufficient progress' on the principles of orderly withdrawal still required 'weeks or months', and that on many points the EU still awaits concrete proposals from the UK.

Citizens' rights. The UK proposed, inter alia, to incorporate a withdrawal agreement fully into UK law, giving citizens the right to invoke its provisions directly in UK courts, taking into account the case law of the European Court of Justice (CJEU). The EU welcomed this, but disagreement remains on the CJEU's role in adjudicating disputes. Other points of contention include family reunification and the export of social security benefits.

Financial settlement. The UK promised to honour the financial commitments it has undertaken during its EU membership, but refrained from listing them at this stage. The EU position is that all commitments made by the EU-28 (with the UK) must be paid for by the EU-28. The EU also rejected any link between discussions on the financial obligations and those on the future EU-UK relationship.

Ireland. The negotiators started drafting joint principles on preserving the Common Travel Area.

Other separation issues. Discussions advanced on several topics based on the respective position papers, in particular on Euratom issues.

In her Florence speech, May also requested that the EU agree an 'implementation period' of around two years after the March 2019 withdrawal date, during which market access would continue 'on current terms'. If the EU [decides](#) such a period is in the Union's interest, [discussions](#) would take place on the basis of a new mandate, but Barnier emphasised that the three priority issues still need to be settled. The UK further proposed a future relationship based on a bespoke trade agreement (enforced through a 'strong and appropriate' dispute-resolution mechanism) and a 'bold' strategic agreement on security, law enforcement and judicial cooperation.

The European Parliament

On 5 April 2017, the EP adopted a [resolution](#) on the negotiations with the UK, setting out the EP's priorities for the talks, given that the main concerns are citizens, the integrity of the Single Market and the EU's fundamental freedoms, the financial settlement, the issue of Northern Ireland and its peace process. On 3 October, the EP is set to adopt a new resolution on the state of play of Brexit talks. It will serve as input to the European Council meeting of 20 October, which will assess progress in the negotiations and decide whether a second phase, on the future EU-UK relationship, can start. The [draft motion for resolution](#) calls on the European Council to postpone its assessment on whether 'sufficient progress' has been made, unless the fifth round of talks scheduled for the week of 9 October delivers a breakthrough in all three main areas of discussion. EP consent is required to conclude an eventual withdrawal agreement.

