

Brexit: plans in place to mitigate impact of no deal



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If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the effects will be felt by people and companies across Europe. The EU has adopted measures to mitigate the impact of a disorderly withdrawal.

The EU has repeatedly stressed that it favours an orderly withdrawal of the UK from the Union. It concluded a withdrawal agreement with the UK to ensure the two parties can continue to collaborate on various issues to their mutual benefit. Nevertheless the EU has adopted measures to reduce the impact of a possible no-deal Brexit.

These measures cannot replicate the advantages of being part of the EU. They are temporary, unilateral measures. Some will require the UK's reciprocity in order for them to come in force.

Long-term solutions depend on future discussions between the EU and the UK.

See below for the measures preparing the EU for a no-deal Brexit:

Visas

Brits will be able to [enter the EU without a visa](#) for short periods provided the same applies to people from the EU travelling to the UK.

Aviation

UK airlines would be able to provide services to EU countries provided EU companies are also able to do so to the UK, for seven months after it leaves. As the UK was granted an extension earlier this year and is now due to leave at a later date, a new [proposal](#) provides for contingency measures to be extended.

Rail services

The validity of rail safety authorisations would be extended to ensure the continuity of [rail services](#) between the UK and the EU, provided the UK does the same.

Road transport

[Freight transport and bus and coach operators](#) from the UK would be able to provide [services](#) between Britain and the EU, provided the UK provides equivalent access to EU companies.

Social security

EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU would keep [social security benefits](#) acquired before the withdrawal.

Education, research and agriculture

UK researchers, students and farmers should continue to get [EU support](#) in 2020, provided the UK pays its share into the EU budget. The measure includes programmes such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ and agriculture and regional policies.

Peace process in Northern Ireland

Funding for bilateral [peace programmes in Northern Ireland](#) would continue until at least 2020 to help support the peace and reconciliation process started by the Good Friday agreement.

Fishing

If the UK agrees to full reciprocity of access to [fishing](#) waters, an easy procedure is in place for companies to obtain authorisation to fish. Quota swapping would still be allowed until these measures end on 31 December. A new [proposal](#) provides for contingency measures to be

extended to cover 2020.

If the UK does not agree, EU firms banned from UK waters could be eligible for compensation from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

Defence

EU firms will still be able to export certain items used for [civilian and military purposes](#) to the UK.

EU citizens in the UK

Depending on their circumstances, EU citizens living in the UK may need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme before 31 December 2020 if they wish to stay. For details, check this [UK government website](#).

British citizens in the EU

British citizens living in the EU need to check with the authorities of the country in which they live as arrangements vary.

Help with impact

EU countries severely affected could receive financial aid from the EU Solidarity Fund, under a [proposal](#) that still needs to be approved by the Parliament and the Council before it can enter into force.

Under a separate [proposal](#), workers in the EU who have been made redundant as a result of Brexit could receive support from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund. This was [approved by Parliament](#) on 22 October.

IN SOME AREAS: NO SPECIAL MEASURES IN PLACE

In many areas, no special measures are in place to replace existing relation with the UK in case of a no-deal. This could lead to additional costs and extra paperwork and it would be a good idea to check with relevant authorities of your country or region.

Driving licences

Driving licences issued by one EU country are automatically recognised by other member states. When the UK leaves, this will no longer apply to British licences. EU nationals wishing to drive in the UK will need to check with UK authorities if their licence is valid, while Brits will need to check with the national authorities of each EU country in which they wish to drive. International driving licences are valid across the UK and EU.

Pets

The EU pet passport, which allows your pet to travel with you to another EU country, will no longer be valid in the UK. It is likely more paperwork will be needed when taking your pet to or from the UK.

Medical treatment

Under EU rules, people benefit from access to healthcare during a temporary stay in another member states using the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). These rules will no longer apply to the UK. Both EU nationals travelling to the UK and Brits visiting EU countries should check whether their insurance covers the costs of medical treatment abroad. If not, they should consider taking out private travel insurance.

For additional information about travelling to and from the UK, check out this [website from the European Commission](#).

Parliament's role

Apart from the rules relating to residency, all of these measures can only come into effect with the European Parliament's approval.

Any agreement reached by the EU and UK - including the withdrawal agreement and any agreement on future relations - must be agreed by the Parliament before it can enter into force.

Next steps

None of these temporary measures can replace actual agreements. Only once the UK has left the EU, can the EU and the UK, as a third country, look at future relations and decide whether to conclude deals to ensure they can continue to work together on issues ranging from trade to security, migration and defence. The political declaration attached to the withdrawal agreement, if ratified by the UK, gives the general framework for the future relationship.

Find out more

[Brexit preparedness website](#)

[Fact sheets on no-deal Brexit](#)

[European Commission implements "no-deal" contingency action plan in specific sectors \(19 December 2018\)](#)

[Commission communication on addressing the impact of a no-deal Brexit \(10 April 2019\)](#)

[Q&A](#)

[Press release: final Commission call to all EU citizens and businesses to prepare for the UK's withdrawal on 31 October 2019 \(4 September 2019\)](#)

[Brexit preparedness list for companies](#)

[Timeline for key EU measures](#)

[UK government website on Brexit preparations](#)