

BREXIT & ARTICLE 50

THE KEY DATES

23 JUNE 2016

23 January 2013

Cameron commits to EU vote

Following years of Euroscepticism and mounting pressure, David Cameron commits to calling a referendum if the Conservatives win the 2015 general election.

13 July 2016

May takes office

Theresa May becomes prime minister of the UK.



November 2016

Legal challenge

The government's right to invoke Article 50 without consulting parliament is successfully challenged in the high court. The court rules that parliament must vote on whether Article 50 can be triggered. The government's subsequent appeal is rejected by the supreme court in January 2017.

2 February 2017

White paper on Brexit

A white paper outlining the negotiation strategy and plan for leaving the EU is published by Brexit secretary David Davis.



8 February 2017

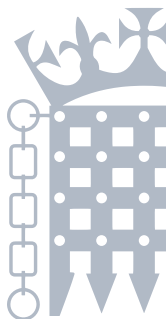
Third reading debate

Another debate on the bill takes place, followed by a final vote in the Commons. The bill passes by 494 to 122 votes.

20 February 2017

Lords debate the bill

The bill starts passing through the House of Lords. If peers vote to amend it, it returns to the Commons. The bill could move back and forth between the houses.



9-10 March 2017

EU summit (trigger time?)

If the bill has passed in time, Theresa May could trigger Article 50 during the EU summit in Brussels.



31 March 2017

Deadline to trigger Article 50

Theresa May has said she plans to trigger Article 50 by the end of March. Doing so will begin the two-year negotiation period for the UK's exit from the EU.

23 June 2016

Britain votes to leave

The vote to decide whether the UK should leave or remain in the EU takes place. The UK votes to leave the EU by 51.9% to 48.1%.



2 October 2016

Trigger date announced

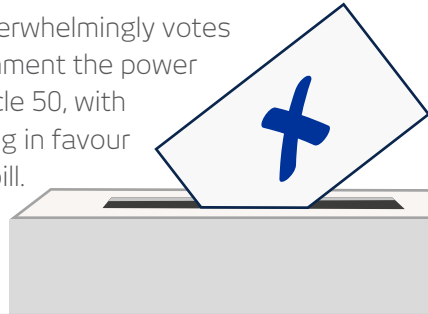
Theresa May tells the Tory party conference that she will trigger Article 50 in March 2017.



1 February 2017

Parliamentary vote

Parliament overwhelmingly votes to give government the power to invoke Article 50, with 498 MPs voting in favour of the Brexit bill. 114 MPs vote against.



6-7 February 2017

Committee stage

During the Commons committee stage, MPs can propose amendments to the Brexit bill. No amendments are made, however.

9-20 February 2017

Parliamentary recess



7 March 2017

Deadline to pass Brexit bill

The government wants the Lords to approve the Brexit bill by 7 March. 'Royal assent' must then be obtained before it becomes law.



March 2019

Britain leaves the EU

If Article 50 is triggered in March 2017, the UK should leave the EU by the end of March 2019, although there is the possibility of extending negotiations if all 27 EU member states agree to it.



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