



European Parliament to vote on UK's EU exit just two weeks prior to 'Brexit day'

03 September 2018

An influential MEP has suggested that the European Parliament (EP) expects to vote on Britain's EU exit agreement just two weeks before the country formally leaves the bloc on 29 March 2019. Chair of the EP's constitutional affairs committee, Danuta Hubner MEP, highlighted that the protracted bilateral negotiations have left little time for the ratification of a deal. According to Hubner, this would mean that should the EP vote against any EU-UK deal put before them (the EP has a final say on any future deal) the UK could leave the EU without an accord.



Barnier reportedly describes PM's Chequers Proposal as "dead"

5 September 2018

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier has reportedly revealed to British MPs he believes Theresa May's Chequers agreement – the government's blueprint for future relations with the EU – is "dead". According to Labour MP Stephen Kinnock, Barnier made the comments during his meeting in Brussels with the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee. EU Exit Secretary Dominic Raab, appearing before the committee following their Brussels briefing with Barnier, expressed his reservation over the veracity of the alleged comments; however, a European Commission spokesman has not yet fully responded to a press query

asking for clarity on the issue.

Raab made further reports to the committee that the Commission had responded positively to many of the Chequers proposals, stating that perceived EU equivocation over Chequers could be attributable to "... a slight nervousness that the UK might do rather well and establish a competitive advantage on leaving the EU".



PM could appeal directly to EU leaders at Austrian summit

5 September 2018

According to a spokesman for the UK government, it is possible that UK Prime Minister Theresa May could seek to bypass EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier and appeal directly to national leaders in an effort to resolve the current impasse in bilateral negotiations, which currently stem from disagreement over the Northern Ireland/Ireland 'backstop' solution and what a future financial relationship could look like. EU 28 leaders will congregate in Salzburg on 20 September for talks, which will "...obviously be an opportunity for further engagement between the PM and the 27". The spokesman moreover confirmed that the PM will use the summit to persuade the leaders that her Chequers proposals constitute a viable plan for an orderly EU Exit agreement to be ratified later in the year.

'No-deal' EU Exit would necessitate cross-Whitehall budget cuts, reveals leaked paper

6 September 2018

A leaked official document – describing arrangements dubbed 'Operation Yellowhammer' – has revealed elements of the UK Government's contingency planning preparations for a 'no-deal' EU exit. The document, pictured in the hands of Treasury minister John Glen, contained instructions from the Treasury to Whitehall departments, suggesting a focus on 'internal prioritisation' should the economy experience disruption in the wake of a 'no-deal' scenario.

Although the government has made available some £1.5bn to enable long-term 'no-deal' contingency planning, Chancellor Philip Hammond has stipulated that should the UK leave without a deal, departments would have to self-fund the immediate costs associated with any additional administrative burden. However, a Treasury spokesman later confirmed that "...there is no question of anyone [in ministerial departments] being asked to re-prioritise funding from other projects".

Scottish business and public to be consulted on post-EU Exit trade policy

5 September 2018

International Trade Minister George Hollingbery MP announced that Scottish businesspeople and members of the public will be afforded an opportunity to shape international trade policy post-EU exit through a detailed consultation exercise.

A roundtable meeting will be organised by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry between its members and the minister, in addition to an online survey being published concurrently, which will remain open until 26 October. The Minister commented “For the first time in over 40 years we will be able to determine the terms of our trade...now is the time for everyone to get around the table and have a constructive debate that puts the needs of the Scottish people first”. The online consultations are available [here](#).



Dates for the diary



- 7 September 2018: **House of Commons International Trade Select Committee launches inquiry into the impact of UK-EU trade agreements on wider UK trade policy**
- 12 September 2018: **DEFRA consultation on ‘Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations’ White paper closes**
- 20 September 2018: **Informal Summit of EU28 leaders takes place in Salzburg, presided over by rotating Austrian Council presidency**



Further information



- House of Commons Library publishes note on EU Exit negotiations and fisheries policy
- European Council President Donald Tusk tweets video pledging to ‘manage Brexit’
- BBC Guide: ‘All you need to know about the UK leaving the EU’
- Raab and Robbins give oral evidence before European Scrutiny Committee

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