



## BRIEFING PAPER

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# Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union

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## Summary

In a referendum held on 23 June 2016, the majority of the UK electorate voted to leave the European Union.

On 29 March 2017, in writing to European Council President Donald Tusk, the Prime Minister formally triggered Article 50 and began the two-year countdown to the UK formally leaving the EU (commonly known as “Brexit”).

This paper provides a timeline of the major events leading up to the referendum and subsequent dates of note, looking ahead to expected events as the UK and EU negotiate Britain’s exit.

# 1. Events leading up to the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016

## Key events

**17 December 2015:** The [European Union Referendum Act](#) receives Royal Assent, providing for a referendum on the UK's future membership of the EU.

**22 February 2016:** The Prime Minister announces the EU referendum date – 23 June 2016.

23 January 2013 In a speech at Bloomberg, Prime Minister David Cameron discusses the future of the European Union and declares he is in favour of an in-out referendum in the future on the basis of a new settlement for the UK in the EU.

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14 April 2015 Launch of the [Conservative Party Manifesto](#) for the 2015 General Election.  
  
This pledges "Real change in our relationship with the European Union" and commits to "hold an in-out referendum on our membership of the EU before the end of 2017."

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25-26 June 2015 Meeting of the [European Council](#). Here, the Prime Minister sets out his plans for an in-out referendum. It is the first step in the negotiation process and the European Council agrees to return to the issue in December.

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15-16 October 2015 European Council meeting.

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19 October 2015 The Prime Minister makes a [statement](#) to Parliament on the previous week's European Council meeting. He sets out the four things he needs to achieve for the UK's renegotiation package in the areas of economic governance, competitiveness, sovereignty and social benefits and free movement

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10 November 2015 David Cameron delivers a [speech](#) on Europe to Chatham House, setting out the case for EU reform and reaffirming his commitment to an EU referendum before the end of 2017.  
  
In a [letter to Donald Tusk](#) the Prime Minister sets out the four areas where he is seeking

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reform as part of negotiations on the UK's membership of the EU.

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17 December 2015 The [European Union Referendum Act](#) receives Royal Assent. This provides for the holding of a referendum in the UK and Gibraltar on whether the UK should remain a member of the EU.

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2 February 2016 Donald Tusk [writes](#) to Members of the European Council on his proposal for a new settlement for the UK within the EU.

The European Council publishes its [Draft Decision](#) concerning a 'New Settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union'.

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3 February 2016 The Prime Minister gives a statement to the House of Commons on the progress made regarding the [UK-EU renegotiation](#).

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18-19 February 2016 European Council meeting.

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19 February 2016 Following the meeting of the European Council, David Cameron gives a [statement](#) outlining his negotiations to secure a deal giving the UK special status in the EU.

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22 February 2016 The Prime Minister announces the EU referendum date – 23 June 2016 – after securing a deal on Britain's membership of the EU.

The government publishes [The best of both worlds: the United Kingdom's special status in a reformed European Union](#).

In the House of Commons, David Cameron makes a [statement](#) on the UK's new special status in the EU and announces the date of the referendum.

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11-13 April 2016 Published by the Government on 6 April, an [EU referendum leaflet](#) is delivered to every household in the UK, setting out the case for remaining in the EU.

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## 2. Referendum – General Election

### Key events

- 23 June 2016:** UK holds referendum on its membership of the EU, with the majority of voters choosing to leave the EU (51.9% of the vote versus 48.1% voting to remain).
- 24 June 2016:** Prime Minister David Cameron announces his intention to resign.
- 13 July 2016:** Theresa May becomes the new UK Prime Minister.
- 2 October 2016:** In her Party Conference speech, Theresa May announces a 'Great Repeal Bill' and confirms Article 50 will be triggered before the end of March 2017.
- 3 November 2016:** High Court gives its judgment in the Gina Miller case, finding in favour of the claimants. The Government announces it will appeal against the decision.
- 17 January 2017:** Prime Minister gives her Lancaster House speech, setting out the Government's 'Plan for Britain' and the priorities that the UK will use to negotiate Brexit.
- 24 January 2017:** Supreme Court rejects the Government's appeal of the Gina Miller case.
- 26 January 2017:** Government publishes *European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill*.
- 2 February 2017:** Government publishes its Brexit White Paper, formally setting out its strategy for the UK to leave the EU.
- 16 March 2017:** *European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act* received Royal Assent.
- 29 March 2017:** Prime Minister triggers Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.
- 30 March 2017:** Government publishes the Great Repeal Bill White Paper.
- 18 April 2017:** Prime Minister calls a General Election – to be held on 8 June 2017.

23 June 2016                      The UK holds a referendum on its membership of the EU. The question posed to the electorate: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

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24 June 2016                      Result of the referendum is announced, with the majority of voters choosing to leave the EU. The referendum results are:

Remain:	16,141,241	(48.1%)
Leave:	17,410,742	(51.9%)

In a [statement](#) outside 10 Downing St, Prime Minister David Cameron announces his resignation, though will stay in office until a new leader is in place, which should be by the Conservative Party Conference in October. EU leaders and the Netherlands EU Presidency release a [statement on the outcome of the UK referendum](#).

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27 June 2016	David Cameron gives a statement to the House of Commons on the <a href="#">outcome of the EU Referendum</a> .
28-29 June 2016	European Council meeting, the first since the referendum. Following the meeting on 28 June, the Prime Minister <a href="#">gives a statement and answers questions</a> .
29 June 2016	David Cameron makes a statement to the House of Commons on the first <a href="#">EU Council meeting since the referendum</a> .
13 July 2016	Theresa May becomes the new UK Prime Minister. David Davis is appointed Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union.
20 July 2016	Speaking to the President of the European Council, Theresa May suggests that the UK relinquishes the rotating Presidency of the Council, scheduled for the second half of 2017.
13 August 2016	Chancellor Philip Hammond <a href="#">guarantees EU funding</a> beyond the date the UK leaves the EU.
1 September 2016	Writing in the Belfast Telegraph ahead of a trip to Northern Ireland, David Davis insists " <a href="#">We don't want a hard border post Brexit... we remain open for business</a> ."
5 September 2016	David Davis makes a statement to the House of Commons, explaining the work of the Department for <a href="#">Exiting the European Union</a> .
8 September 2016	In an <a href="#">Irish Times article</a> , David Davis insists Ireland will not have to choose between having a strong commitment to the UK or to the EU – it can and should have both. Theresa May holds her first formal bilateral meeting with European Council President Donald Tusk to discuss the UK's withdrawal from the EU.
2 October 2016	In her <a href="#">speech to the Conservative Party Conference</a> , the Prime Minister announces a 'Great Repeal Bill' to repeal the European Communities Act 1972. In the same speech the Prime Minister confirms that she will trigger Article 50 before the end of March 2017 and declares:



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"It is not up to the House of Commons to invoke Article 50, and it is not up to the House of Lords. It is up to the Government to trigger Article 50 and the Government alone".

David Davis announces that the Government plans to repeal the 1972 European Communities Act (ECA).

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4 October 2016	The High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland hears a legal challenge to Brexit. The question for the court is whether the UK Government needs the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly to leave the EU.
10 October 2016	David Davis makes a statement to the House of Commons on the <a href="#">next steps in leaving the EU</a> .
13 October 2016	Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland and SNP leader, announces that a Scottish independence referendum bill will be published for consultation. She later says that a second referendum on Scottish independence is likely by 2020.
13, 17-18 October 2016	The High Court hears the Gina Miller case: judicial review proceedings challenging the legality of the UK Government's proposed use of prerogative powers to give notice of intention to leave the EU under Article 50.
20-21 October 2016	European Council meeting. At the end of the session, Theresa May gives a <a href="#">statement</a> regarding the subjects covered in the meeting and takes questions.
24 October 2016	The Prime Minister gives a Statement to the House of Commons on the previous week's meeting of the <a href="#">European Council</a> .  Theresa May chairs her first <a href="#">Joint Ministerial Committee meeting</a> with Devolved Administration leaders, with 'exiting the EU' being a major theme of the meeting.
28 October 2016	The High Court in Northern Ireland <a href="#">rules</a> in favour of the UK Government, following the court case heard on 4 October.
3 November 2016	The High Court gives its judgment in <a href="#">R (Gina Miller &amp; Dos Santos) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union</a> .  The Court finds in favour of the claimants and

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rules the Government cannot, according to the UK's constitutional law, use prerogative powers to give the notice required by Article 50 TEU to withdraw from the European Union. The Government says it will [appeal](#) against the decision and is granted permission to "leapfrog" the Court of Appeal and go directly to the Supreme Court.

The Government maintains its intention to stick to the March 2017 timetable for Article 50 to be invoked.

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7 November 2016	David Davis gives a Statement to the House of Commons on the <a href="#">process for invoking Article 50</a> .
24 November 2016	Alex Ellis, the current British Ambassador to Brazil, is appointed Director General at the Department for Exiting the European Union and will take up his position in January 2017.
5-8 December 2016	<p>The UK's Supreme Court hears the Government's appeal against the High Court ruling that Parliament must vote on whether Article 50 can be triggered.</p> <p>For the first time ever, the Supreme Court sits <i>en banc</i>, meaning that all sitting justices hear the case.</p>
7 December 2016	<p>The House of Commons vote on respecting the outcome of the referendum is passed by a large majority.</p> <p>MPs also call on the Prime Minister to commit to publishing the Government's plan for leaving the EU before Article 50 is invoked.</p>
3 January 2017	Sir Ivan Rogers, the UK Permanent Representative to the EU, resigns.
4 January 2017	Sir Tim Barrow is appointed as <a href="#">UK Permanent Representative to the EU</a> , taking up the role the following week.
17 January 2017	<p>David Davis gives a statement to the House of Commons on the '<a href="#">New Partnership with the EU</a>'.</p> <p>In a speech at Lancaster House the Prime Minister sets out the government's 'Plan for Britain' – the plan for leaving the EU – which includes 12 priorities that the UK Government</p>

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will use to negotiate Brexit: [The government's negotiating objectives for exiting the EU](#).

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19 January 2017

The Prime Minister writes in *The Times* Scotland on her plans for the whole of the UK to benefit post-Brexit: "[I want an exit that will work for all of us](#)"

Writing in *The Sun*, Theresa May explains how the Government's plan for exiting the EU fits into her wider plan for a better Britain: "[We will create a fairer society](#)".

Addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos, Theresa May speaks about her plans for Brexit and a Global Britain: [Davos 2017: Prime Minister's speech](#).

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24 January 2017

The Supreme Court [rejects](#) (by a majority of 8 to 3) the Government's appeal against the November 2016 High Court ruling and states that Ministers "require the authority of primary legislation" in order to give the Article 50 notice.

On the devolution questions raised, the Court unanimously holds that the UK Parliament is not legally required to seek consent from the devolved legislatures.

Responding to the Supreme Court's ruling, the Government issues the following statement:

"The British people voted to leave the EU, and the government will deliver on their verdict – triggering Article 50, as planned, by the end of March. Today's ruling does nothing to change that.

It's important to remember that Parliament backed the referendum by a margin of 6 to 1 and has already indicated its support for getting on with the process of exit to the timetable we have set out.

We respect the Supreme Court's decision, and will set out our next steps to Parliament shortly".

David Davis gives a statement to the House of Commons on [Article 50](#), in response to the judgment by the Supreme Court.

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26 January 2017

With legislation a requirement following the Supreme Court's ruling, the Government publishes a draft Bill that will allow the UK to start the process of leaving the EU: [The](#)

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[European Union \(Notification of Withdrawal\) Bill.](#)

The Bill is very short, with only one operative clause:

**1. Power to notify withdrawal from the EU**

(1) The Prime Minister may notify, under Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union, the United Kingdom's intention to withdraw from the EU.

(2) This section has effect despite any provision made by or under the European Communities Act 1972 or any other enactment.

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30 January 2017	Writing in the <i>Irish Times</i> , the Prime Minister sets out the Government's commitment to the UK's relationship with the Republic of Ireland: <a href="#">I want Ireland and the UK to have a stronger relationship after Brexit.</a>
1 February 2017	The European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill passes its Second Reading in the House of Commons by <a href="#">498 votes to 114.</a>
2 February 2017	The Government publishes its Brexit White Paper, formally setting out its strategy for exiting the EU: <a href="#">The United Kingdom's exit from, and new partnership with, the European Union.</a>  Following publication of the Brexit White Paper, David Davis gives a <a href="#">statement</a> to the House of Commons.
6 February 2017	The Prime Minister gives a statement to Parliament on issues discussed at the informal <a href="#">European Council</a> in Malta: migration, America and Brexit.
7 February 2017	UK ministers hold the first meeting of a new forum dedicated to discussing the implications of <a href="#">Brexit for the Overseas Territories.</a>
8 February 2017	The European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill passes its <a href="#">Third Reading</a> in the House of Commons, by 494 votes to 122.  The Bill now moves to the House of Lords.

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17 February 2017	To coincide with a visit to Downing Street by French Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, Theresa May writes in French newspaper Le Figaro: " <a href="#">We have voted to leave the EU, but not Europe</a> " (English translation).
1 March 2017	Ministers hold the second meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council to discuss <a href="#">Gibraltar's priorities</a> as the UK prepares to exit the EU.
9-10 March 2017	The Prime Minister meets EU leaders at the European Council in Brussels.
13 March 2017	Parliament passes the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill.
14 March 2017	Theresa May gives a statement to Parliament on the March <a href="#">European Council</a> meeting and the next steps in preparing to trigger Article 50.
16 March 2017	<p>In receiving Royal Assent, the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act gives the Government the legal power to notify the European Council of the UK's intention to leave the EU, formally beginning the Brexit process.</p> <p>David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, says:</p> <p>"The Queen has today given Royal Assent to the Article 50 Bill, giving the government the formal power to trigger Article 50 and deliver on the will of the British people.</p> <p>By the end of the month we will invoke Article 50, allowing us to start our negotiations to build a positive new partnership with our friends and neighbours in the European Union, as well as taking a step out into the world as a truly Global Britain."</p>
20 March 2017	Sir Tim Barrow, the UK's Permanent Representative to the European Union, informs Donald Tusk of the UK's intention to invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty on 29 March 2017.
29 March 2017	Theresa May writes to European Council President Donald Tusk to notify him of the UK's intention to leave the EU: <a href="#">Prime Minister's letter to Donald Tusk triggering Article 50</a> .

The Prime Minister makes a statement to Parliament on [Article 50](#).

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30 March 2017	<p>The Government publishes the <a href="#">Great Repeal Bill White Paper</a>.</p> <p>David Davis gives a statement to Parliament: <a href="#">Legislating for UK Withdrawal from the EU</a>.</p>
31 March 2017	<p>The President of the European Council publishes draft negotiation guidelines for the 'EU 27' (the EU members excluding the UK).</p>
6 April 2017	<p>Theresa May meets with Donald Tusk in Downing Street and she reiterates the UK's desire to ensure a deep and special partnership with the EU following its exit from the Union. The PM also reaffirms the UK's position on Gibraltar and insists there will be no negotiation on the territory's sovereignty.</p>
18 April 2017	<p>The Prime Minister calls a General Election to be held on 8 June 2017.</p>
19 April 2017	<p>MPs approve a motion for an Early Parliamentary General Election by <a href="#">522 votes to 13</a>.</p>
29 April 2017	<p>EU-27 leaders meet at the first summit since the UK officially triggered Article 50.</p> <p>In this Special European Council (Article 50), meeting, the EU-27 nations unanimously adopt <a href="#">guidelines</a> for the Brexit negotiations ahead.</p>
3 May 2017	<p>Dissolution of Parliament at 00:01am.</p>
7 May 2017	<p>Second round of French presidential elections.</p> <p>Pro-European Emmanuel Macron defeats Marine Le Pen to win the French presidency, taking over 66% of the vote.</p>
16 May 2017	<p>The Labour party launches its 2017 General Election <a href="#">manifesto</a>.</p> <p>In the section on <a href="#">Brexit</a>, the party's pledges include:</p> <p>Labour accepts the referendum result and a Labour government will put the national interest first.</p> <p>We will prioritise jobs and living standards, build a close new relationship with the EU, protect workers' rights and environmental</p>

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standards, provide certainty to EU nationals and give a meaningful role to Parliament throughout negotiations.

To scrap the Conservatives' Brexit White Paper and replace it with fresh negotiating priorities that have a strong emphasis on retaining the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union.

A Labour government will immediately guarantee existing rights for all EU nationals living in Britain and secure reciprocal rights for UK citizens who have chosen to make their lives in EU countries.

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17 May 2017

The Liberal Democrat Party launches its election [manifesto](#).

On [Europe](#), the Liberal Democrats promise:

When the terms of our future relationship with the EU have been negotiated (over the next two years on the Government's timetable), we will put that deal to a vote of the British people in a referendum, with the alternative option of staying in the EU on the ballot paper.

To press for the UK to unilaterally guarantee the rights of EU nationals in the UK.

Continued membership of the single market and customs union.

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18 May 2017

The Conservative Party launches its [manifesto](#) for the upcoming General Election.

The manifesto includes several policies related to Brexit, including the following pledges:

As we leave the European Union, we will no longer be members of the single market or customs union but we will seek a deep and special partnership including a comprehensive free trade and customs agreement.

The final agreement will be subject to a vote in both houses of parliament.

To agree the terms of our future partnership alongside our withdrawal, reaching agreement on both within the two years allowed by Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.

Once EU law has been converted into domestic law, parliament will be able to pass legislation to amend, repeal or

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improve any piece of EU law it chooses, as will the devolved legislatures, where they have the power to do so.

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### 3. General Election – present (mid-October 2017)

#### Key events

**8 June 2017:** General Election results in a hung Parliament, with the Conservatives winning the most seats and Theresa May forming a government.

**19 June 2017:** First round of UK-EU exit negotiations begin.

**21 June 2017:** State Opening of Parliament – Queen's Speech includes a 'Great Repeal Bill'.

**13 July 2017:** Government introduces the *European Union (Withdrawal) Bill*, commonly referred to as the 'Great Repeal Bill'.

**12 September 2017:** EU Withdrawal Bill passes Second Reading in the House of Commons.

**22 September 2017:** Prime Minister delivers her key Brexit speech in Florence, setting out the UK's position on moving the Brexit talks forward.

**19-20 October 2017:** European Council meeting to assess progress on the first phase of Brexit negotiations.

8 June 2017	General Election in the UK. The election results in a hung Parliament, with the Conservatives winning the most seats.
9 June 2017	Theresa May goes to the Queen and later, outside Downing St, announces she is forming a government.
17 June 2017	The government confirms that Parliament will sit for two years instead of the usual one, to give MPs enough time to fully consider the laws required to make Britain ready for Brexit.
19 June 2017	The first round of EU exit negotiations begin. The UK and the European Commission, representing the EU, agree the <a href="#">Terms of reference for the Article 50 negotiations between the UK and the EU</a> . Later, David Davis gives a <a href="#">statement</a> following this opening round of the talks.
21 June 2017	State Opening of Parliament. The <a href="#">Queen's Speech</a> includes a 'Great Repeal Bill' in the Government's legislative programme and other Brexit-related Bills. The Queen announces: "A Bill will be introduced to repeal the European Communities Act and provide certainty for individuals and

businesses. This will be complemented by legislation to ensure that the United Kingdom makes a success of Brexit, establishing new national policies on immigration, international sanctions, nuclear safeguards, agriculture and fisheries.

My Government will seek to maintain a deep and special partnership with European allies and to forge new trading relationships across the globe. New Bills on trade and customs will help to implement an independent trade policy, and support will be given to help British businesses export to markets around the world.”

In a [Debate on the Address](#) following the Queen’s Speech, the Prime Minister gives a brief outline of Brexit-related Bills:

The first part of this Queen’s Speech is of course about Brexit—a Brexit deal that works for every part of the country and commands the greatest possible public support. Over 80% of the electorate backed the two major parties, both of which campaigned on manifestos that said that we should honour the democratic decision of the British people, so this Government will respect the will of the British people and see Brexit through. We will seek to build a wide consensus as we do this and as we take Bills through the House, including a trade Bill, a repeal Bill, and an immigration Bill, as has been referred to, and also a Bill to deal with control of access to our waters for fishermen and a new Bill on agriculture to give greater stability to farmers.

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23 June 2017

The Prime Minister gives a [press statement](#) on a number of subjects covered at the European Council June 2017 meeting, including giving reassurance to EU citizens living in the UK.

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26 June 2017

Theresa May gives a statement to Parliament following the weekend’s [European Council](#). This Council followed the formal start of the negotiations for the UK’s departure from the EU and comes on the first anniversary of the referendum that led to that decision.

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In her statement, the Prime Minister outlines several points with regards to the rights of EU citizens living in the UK.

In conjunction with this statement, the government publishes a [policy paper](#) on the rights of EU citizens in the UK and UK nations in the EU.

David Davis opens the Queen's Speech debate on "[Brexit and Foreign Affairs](#)."

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13 July 2017	<p>The Government introduces the <a href="#">European Union (Withdrawal) Bill</a>.</p> <p>Ahead of the second round of exit negotiations the following week, the Government also publishes position papers laying out the UK's approach on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Ongoing Union Judicial and Administrative Proceedings</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Nuclear materials and safeguards issues</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Privileges and Immunities</a></li></ul> <p>The Government publishes a <a href="#">technical note considering how the UK's withdrawal agreement with the EU should be implemented in UK law</a>.</p>
14 July 2017	<p>The second round of EU exit negotiations begins.</p>
20 July 2017	<p>At the conclusion of the second round of talks, David Davis makes a <a href="#">statement</a>.</p>
10 August 2017	<p>Brexit Minister Robin Walker completes a <a href="#">three-day tour of the Crown Dependencies</a>, having discussed the implications of Brexit with the Chief Ministers of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.</p>
15 August 2017	<p>In the first of a series of papers on the UK's future partnership with the EU, the Government sets out proposals for a <a href="#">future customs relationship</a>.</p>
16 August 2017	<p>The Government publishes a <a href="#">position paper on Northern Ireland and Ireland</a>, proposing no physical infrastructure at the border.</p>
21 August 2017	<p>Ahead of the third round of exit negotiations, the Government publishes position papers outlining the UK's negotiating approach to</p>

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[goods on the market](#) and to [confidentiality and access to the official documents](#).

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22 August 2017 The Government publishes a future partnership paper outlining the UK's position on [providing a cross-border civil judicial cooperation framework](#).

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23 August 2017 A future partnership paper discussing options for [enforcement and dispute resolution mechanisms for UK-EU agreements](#) is published by the Government.

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24 August 2017 In the latest of a series of papers looking at the UK's partnership with the EU post-Brexit, the Government outlines proposals for a [shared approach on data protection](#).

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28 August 2017 The third round of UK-EU negotiations begins. The Government publishes a series of Technical Notes on [functionality and Protocol 7](#), on [existing contracts for the supply of nuclear material](#), and on [spent fuel and radioactive waste](#).

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31 August 2017 At the conclusion of the third round of exit talks, David Davis gives a [statement](#).

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5 September 2017 David Davis gives a statement to the House of Commons on [EU exit negotiations](#), updating Members on the July and August negotiating rounds.

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6 September 2017 The government publishes a future partnership paper outlining the UK's objectives for continued [collaboration on science and innovation](#).

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12 September 2017 The EU Withdrawal Bill passes Second Reading in the House of Commons.

Following the vote, the Prime Minister says:

“Earlier this morning Parliament took a historic decision to back the will of the British people and vote for a bill which gives certainty and clarity ahead of our withdrawal from the European Union.

Although there is more to do, this decision means we can move on with negotiations with solid foundations and we continue to encourage MPs from all parts of the UK to work

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together in support of this vital piece of legislation.”

The Government publishes its latest future partnership paper, outlining the UK's objectives on [foreign policy, defence and development](#).

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18 September 2017	The Government publishes the latest in the series of future partnership papers, discussing the options for <a href="#">security, law enforcement and criminal justice</a> .
22 September 2017	The Prime Minister delivers a key Brexit <a href="#">speech in Florence</a> , setting out the UK's position on how to move the Brexit talks forward and offering a transition period after the UK formally leaves the EU in March 2019.
24 September 2017	Federal elections in Germany. Angela Merkel secures a fourth term as German Chancellor.
25 September 2017	The fourth round of UK-EU Brexit negotiations begins.
26 September 2017	The Prime Minister meets with European Council President Donald Tusk.
28 September 2017	David Davis gives a <a href="#">statement</a> following the conclusion of the fourth round of talks.  The Government publishes the latest (September) edition of the <a href="#">technical note on the comparison of EU-UK positions on citizens' rights</a> .
3 October 2017	The European Parliament adopts a <a href="#">Resolution on the state of play of negotiations with the United Kingdom</a> .
6 October 2017	Theresa May hosts a Business Advisory Council meeting at Downing St, to hear the views of business leaders on Brexit.
9 October 2017	The fifth round of negotiations begins in Brussels.  The Prime Minister updates the House of Commons on <a href="#">UK plans for leaving the EU</a> .  The Government publishes two White Papers on <a href="#">preparing for our future UK trade policy</a> and the <a href="#">Customs Bill: legislating for the UK's future customs, VAT and excise regimes</a> .

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12 October 2017      Following the fifth round of UK-EU negotiations, David Davis gives a [statement](#).

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16 October 2017      A [joint statement](#) is issued by the Prime Minister and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, following their working dinner in Brussels.

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17 October 2017      David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, gives a [statement](#) to Parliament on the fifth round of negotiations with the EU.

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19-20 October  
2017                    [European Council meeting](#), including EU27 considering whether 'sufficient progress' has been made on phase 1 of the Brexit negotiations

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## 4. Future timetable

### Key events

**29 March 2019:** UK is expected to leave the European Union.

Late 2017/early 2018	The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill – previously referred to as the ‘Great Repeal Bill’ – goes through its stages in Parliament.
Late December 2017	The European Commission’s chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, expects initial discussions on the priority areas for phase one to conclude. Phase two is expected to start in early 2018.
Early 2018?	Parliament passes the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.
Autumn 2018	Date by which the EU’s chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, wants to wrap up the terms of Britain’s exit from the EU. He had indicated that he would like to have an exit deal agreed within 18 months of Article 50 being triggered, or by October 2018.
Late 2018?	Both Houses of Parliament have a ‘deal or no deal’ vote on the Brexit agreement: whether to accept a final Brexit deal or walk away from the agreement before it goes before the European Parliament.
Late 2018	The European Parliament votes on the Brexit agreement by a simple majority.  The EU Council concludes the withdrawal agreement by a super-qualified majority after receiving EP consent.
29 March 2019	The UK is expected to leave the EU.



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