

# BR£XIT

## ***What do we understand by Brexit?***

Brexit - British exit - refers to the UK leaving the EU.



## ***European Union?***

The EU is an economic and political union involving 28 European countries. It allows free trade and free movement of people, to live and work in these countries.

The UK joined in 1973 and would be the first member state to withdraw from the EU.

## ***Why is the UK leaving?***

Among the plethora of reasons to leave the EU, the main factor driving the public to vote in favor of Brexit was mainly immigration issues. On Thursday 23 June 2016, those in favor won by 52% to 48%!

## ***Why Brexit hasn't happened yet?***

Brexit was originally due to occur on 29 March 2019. That was two years after the Prime Minister Theresa May triggered Article 50 - the formal process to leave - and kicked off negotiations.

Under Mrs. May, the deadline was delayed twice after MPs rejected her Brexit deal - eventually pushing it to 31 October.

## ***What is the new Brexit deal?***

After taking over as PM in July 2019, Mr. Johnson has renegotiated parts of the existing deal.

The backstop has been replaced with new custom arrangements. Once they take effect, the UK would be able to sign and implement its own trade agreements with countries around the world.

There are also changes to the political declaration, which sets out plans for the long-term relationship between the UK and the EU. It says this would be based on a free trade agreement.

## ***What is in Boris Johnson's new Brexit deal?***

Why hasn't the new Brexit deal been approved?

Mr. Johnson presented his revised deal to Parliament on 19 October.

However, the vote did not go ahead. MPs chose to postpone a vote on the deal until legislation needed to turn the withdrawal agreement into UK law was completed.

It meant that Mr. Johnson had to send a letter to the EU to ask for another Brexit delay. EU leaders agreed to the request, postponing Brexit to 31 January 2020.

The UK could leave before the new deadline, if a deal is approved by Parliament.

## ***What about an early election?***

Mr. Johnson wants a general election in the hope of winning more Conservative seats, making a Brexit deal easier to pass.

But in order to hold an election, at least two-thirds of all MPs must agree to one. Despite three attempts, Mr. Johnson has so far failed to secure enough support.

However, a fourth attempt may well succeed after Labor party said it would back a December election following the latest Brexit extension.

Could there be an early election?

## ***What happens next?***

If the UK leaves without a deal, the EU will start carrying out checks on British goods. This could lead to delays at ports, such as Dover. Some fear this could lead to traffic bottlenecks, disruption to supply routes and damage to the economy.

It is a wait and watch situation, awaiting the UK and EU leaders to finally take a long awaited decision!

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