

# The road to Brexit: Can a consensus be found?

An overview of papers and outputs covering key aspects of Brexit negotiations, impacts and public debate.

## The Brexit deal and party divisions

*February 2019*

Ever since the government suffered a historic 230-vote parliamentary defeat on its draft Withdrawal Agreement in January, MPs, commentators and EU politicians have urged a cross-party consensus to solve the Brexit crisis. Speculation is rife of a new centrist party composed of Labour and Conservative moderates. Yet such a venture would face an uphill task because of the electoral system and the in-built organisational advantages of the established parties.

Web: [ukandeu.ac.uk/the-brexit-deal-and-party-divisions/](http://ukandeu.ac.uk/the-brexit-deal-and-party-divisions/)

## Brexit and the backstop: everything you need to know

*February 2019*

A guide to what the Irish backstop is, why it's needed, what the concerns are with it and what alternatives there might be. In this report, academics from The UK in a Changing Europe address all the key issues related to the backstop. Providing a history, looking at the politics between Northern Ireland and Westminster, public opinion in Ireland and what a no deal really means for the border.

Web: [ukandeu.ac.uk/research-papers/brexit-and-the-backstop-everything-you-need-to-know](http://ukandeu.ac.uk/research-papers/brexit-and-the-backstop-everything-you-need-to-know)

## Brexit: could the EU really be convinced to budge on the backstop?

*February 2019*

A popular view in the UK is that the EU is implacable and immovable on the question of the Irish backstop. But a more careful reading of statements from senior EU officials and from figures in the member states suggests that there is some room for manoeuvre. Nevertheless any policy change by the British government would need to be backed by a solid majority in parliament – and this is the key barrier to EU flexibility. Without a clear and definitive line from the UK, the EU is liable to keep its counsel and hold its line.

Web: [theconversation.com/brexit-could-the-eu-really-be-convinced-to-budge-on-the-backstop-111515](http://theconversation.com/brexit-could-the-eu-really-be-convinced-to-budge-on-the-backstop-111515)

## Brexit and public opinion 2019

January 2019

Public attitudes towards Brexit and the numerous issues related to it have been central to our political debates since at least 2016. As politicians try to address popular concerns, the congruence, or otherwise, of their views with those of both the public at large and their own members will be crucial. This report looks at the new and continued divisions within the country that will have a disruptive impact on our politics going forward.

Web: [ukandeu.ac.uk/research-papers/public-opinion](http://ukandeu.ac.uk/research-papers/public-opinion)

## What would 'trading on WTO terms' mean?

December 2018

This short report is intended for a non-specialist audience and attempts to spell out in layperson's terms what such an outcome would mean. The author has deliberately not attempted any economic modelling – rather, they have sought to assess what WTO terms would mean and particularly what it might mean for the ability of the UK to trade both with the European Union and more broadly.

Web: [ukandeu.ac.uk/research-papers/what-would-trading-on-wto-terms-mean-2](http://ukandeu.ac.uk/research-papers/what-would-trading-on-wto-terms-mean-2)

## Negotiating Brexit: What do the UK's negotiating partners want?

October 2018

It sometimes seems to be forgotten that the outcome of the current negotiations will not be decided in London; the UK's negotiating partners – the other 27 member states, the EU institutions, and perhaps even the members of the European Free Trade Association – will also have a major say. It is important to know how the UK's partners are approaching the negotiations.

Web: [uea.ac.uk/documents/241631/22078770/Negotiating+Brexitebook+NEW.pdf/ad9ed02b-b20b-be44-0ee6-e36fdc595122](http://uea.ac.uk/documents/241631/22078770/Negotiating+Brexitebook+NEW.pdf/ad9ed02b-b20b-be44-0ee6-e36fdc595122)

## Cost of no deal: revisited

September 2018

A year ago the UK in a Changing Europe published an analysis of the cost of no deal – at the time regarded as highly unlikely. Now 'no deal' seems to be firmly back on the agenda. This 34-page report finds that a no-deal Brexit will have a potentially large impact across a wide range of sectors and regions, including agriculture, financial services, air transport, drugs and on EU citizens in the UK and British citizens living elsewhere in Europe.

Web: [ukandeu.ac.uk/research-papers/cost-of-no-deal-revisited](http://ukandeu.ac.uk/research-papers/cost-of-no-deal-revisited)

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