

BREXIT Briefing

29 March 2017

Brexit: It's Finally Official

After nine months of discussion and debate, Article 50 has been triggered

Nine months after a majority of the United Kingdom's electorate voted to leave the European Union (EU) in the referendum of 23 June, 2016, the country's government has today (29 March, 2017) formally notified the European Council of its intention to leave the EU.

The much-discussed Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon was finally triggered by Prime Minister Theresa May. This action does not mean that the UK has left the EU. Instead, it marks the beginning of a process of negotiations to set the terms on which it will withdraw. There is a long stop deadline of two years from the triggering of Article 50 to conclude negotiations.

In the meantime, the expectation is that the UK will introduce legislation to leave the EU and introduce some existing EU laws into British law – the so-called Great Repeal bill – later this year. Implementation of the Great Repeal bill will run concurrently with negotiations over a framework for post-Brexit Britain's relationship with the continent. On the conclusion of a withdrawal agreement, or the long-stop deadline, EU law will cease to apply and the UK will leave the EU.

The UK has already produced a [White Paper](#) on its proposals for a new partnership with the EU. According to the document, the 12 principles for negotiations are:

1. Providing certainty and clarity;
2. Taking control of UK laws;
3. Strengthening the Union between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland;
4. Protecting the UK's strong historic ties with Ireland and maintaining the Common Travel Area;
5. Controlling immigration;

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6. Securing rights for EU nationals in the UK and UK nationals in the EU;
7. Protecting workers' rights;
8. Ensuring free trade with European markets;
9. Securing new trade agreements with other countries;
10. Ensuring the UK remains the best place for science and innovation;
11. Cooperating in the fight against crime and terrorism; and
12. Delivering a smooth, orderly exit from the EU.

The UK government will now await the response from the EU.

For more information on the impact of Brexit and the process governing Britain's exit from the EU, please feel free to contact the King & Spalding Brexit Committee individually or at brexit@kslaw.com.

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