

Research Briefing **Brexit Update**

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National Assembly for Wales
Research Service

The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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Research Briefing

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1. Introduction

This paper provides an update on the most recent developments on Brexit of relevance to Wales. It includes sections on the work of the Assembly and Welsh Government; EU; UK; and Scotland and Ireland. The period covered is 27 September – 11 October, although reference is made to later events where information is available at time of final drafting.

2. Developments in Wales

National Assembly for Wales

External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

The External Affairs and Additional Legislation (EAAL) Committee is the lead Committee in the Assembly for co-ordinating the Brexit-related activities of Committees.

The most recent sessions of the EAAL Committee were:

- 2 October: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill - consideration of evidence and future work, and informal meeting with the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee to discuss the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.
- 9 October: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill - consideration of evidence and future work.

On **27 September a debate was held in Plenary** on the EAAL Committee Report on the Future of Regional Policy and the **Welsh Government's response** to it.

On 11 October a debate was held in Plenary on the EAAL Committee's report on the implications of Brexit for Welsh ports.

On 12 October the Chair attended the Inter-parliamentary dialogue on Brexit, in the House of Lords. Also present was Robin Walker MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union.

Regular updates on the work of the EAAL Committee are posted on the Assembly Blog: <https://assemblyblog.wales/tag/european-union/>.

The Research Service's own blogs are published on **In Brief**. The latest Brexit blogs are: **Are there stormy waters ahead? The Assembly debates Committee report on ports and Brexit, Brexit Negotiations Monitoring Report**, and **Estimating the timeline for Brexit Legislation**.

Other

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has published its reports on **Marine Protected Areas in Wales**, and the **Future of Agricultural and Rural Development Policies in Wales**.

The Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee is considering the use made of support from the EU and the impact of Brexit as part of its inquiry into **Selling Wales to the World**.

Welsh Government

4 October: **Economy Secretary speaks to business about challenges of EU Exit**.

News

27 September: Film of Sir Julian King, the European Commissioner for the Security Union, giving a speech at the National Assembly for Wales on the **challenges facing European security services and the potential impact of Brexit**. (Welsh Brexit blogs)

The morning after the 2nd reading of the UK Government's EU (Withdrawal) Bill, the Wales Governance Centre, along with the Hansard Society and the UK and EU project, co-hosted an event in central London where MPs, academics and experts discussed the complexities of the bill. **Film of the event**. (Welsh Brexit blogs)

9 October: **EU Withdrawal Bill: A Legal Perspective** (Plaid Cymru)

3. EU developments

European Council

28 September: **Building a new agenda together for a future Europe** – informal European Council debate.

6 October: **EU-India summit: joint statement and joint declarations**.

10 October: **Address by President Donald Tusk to the European Committee of the Regions**.

European Commission

28 September: Member States to benefit from over **€222 million investments for environment, nature and climate action**. Includes improving the condition of raised bogs in Wales.

28 September: **European Court of Auditors signs off EU accounts for 10th time in a row** and sends positive message on EU spending.

28 September: **Press statement by Michel Barnier following the fourth round** of Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom.

28 September: **Joint technical note on EU-UK position on citizens' rights after fourth round of negotiations**.

30 September: European Commission publishes assessment of **offers to host European Banking Authority and European Medicines Agency**, currently located in the UK. **Q&A**.

2 October: **Statement on the events in Catalonia**.

3 October: Plenary Session of the European Parliament on the state of play of negotiations with the United Kingdom: **Speech by President Juncker; Speech by Michel Barnier; Closing statement by Michel Barnier**.

4 October: **October infringements package**.

4 October: **The EU is changing its anti-dumping and anti-subsidy legislation** to address state induced market distortions.

4 October: **State aid: Commission finds Luxembourg gave illegal tax benefits to Amazon worth around €250 million**.

4 October: **State aid: Commission refers Ireland to Court for failure to recover illegal tax benefits from Apple worth up to €13 billion.**

6 October: **Joint Statement 14th India-EU Summit, New Delhi.** Keynote address by **President Jean-Claude Juncker** at the EU-India Business Forum. **Summit press release.**

6 October: **Agenda of the 5th round of EU-UK Article 50 negotiations.**

European Parliament

27 September: EU Budget 2018: **MEPs reject Council cuts**, add funds for migration, security, jobs, youth.

3 October: **Brexit: tangible progress still needed on withdrawal terms.**

4 October: **Ryanair: MEPs urge Commissioner to better protect passengers' and workers' rights.**

4 October: **EU anti-dumping measures that protect jobs: MEPs and ministers strike deal.** For the first time worldwide, the EU's trade defence legislation would take account of international labour and environmental standards, under an informal agreement struck by Parliament's negotiating team and EU ministers in Strasbourg on Tuesday afternoon.

4 October: **COP23: the EU should ratchet up its climate goals.** EU needs a 2050 zero-emissions strategy.

4 October: **Identifying endocrine disruptors: Parliament blocks plans exempting some pesticides.**

4 October: **Catalonia: Political group leaders discuss situation with Frans Timmermans.**

News

5 October: **Prepare now for over-the-cliff Brexit, Germany industry says** (Reuters).

9 October: **Lessons from Norway-Sweden border for post-Brexit Britain** (Politico)

9 October: **Brexit ping-pong as both sides say 'ball in your court'** (EUobserver)

4. UK developments

UK Government

27 September: **Minister Steve Baker concludes two day tour of Cornwall.**

28 September: **David Davis' closing remarks at the end of the fourth round of EU exit negotiations in Brussels.**

28 September: **PM: Britain is unconditionally committed to the defence and security of Europe.**

29 September: **Prime Minister Theresa May met German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and Polish Prime Minister Szydło**, while in Estonia.

29 September: **Brexit Minister Robin Walker visits university and businesses in Northern Ireland.**

29 September: **UK nationals in the EU: what you need to know** – update.

5 October: **David Davis: Every region must flourish after Brexit.**

9 October: **Baroness Anelay's speech at the Polish Social and Cultural Association.**

9 October: **Programme for fifth round of UK-EU Article 50 negotiations.**

9 October: **Customs Bill: legislating for the UK's future customs, VAT and excise regimes.**

9 October: **Preparing for our future UK trade policy.**

9 October: **PM statement on leaving the EU.**

9 October: Prime Minister Theresa May spoke with businesses about the UK's proposal for an **implementation period and our future trading partnership** as we leave the EU.

House of Commons

26 September: The European Union Committee launched a new inquiry into **Brexit: deal or no deal.**

29 September: **The Government has responded to the previous Environmental Audit Committee's Future of Chemicals Regulation after the EU Referendum inquiry.** The **Committee is calling for further written submissions on the Government's response.**

9 October: The Prime Minister made a statement, followed by debate, on **UK Plans for Leaving the EU.**

10 October: The Home Affairs Committee examined the impact of **Brexit on the Home Office's immigration services.**

11 October: The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee held an **Evidence Session on the land border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.**

11 October: Committee on Exiting the European Union questioned lawyers and academics on **Brexit and the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.**

11 October: **Exiting the European Union: scrutiny of delegated legislation inquiry** evidence session held by the Procedure Committee.

11 October: **Michael Russell MSP and academics questioned on EU (Withdrawal) Bill** by the Scottish Affairs Committee.

House of Lords

28 September: The House of Lords **Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee has published its first report on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill** - Parliament not Ministers should decide level of scrutiny of Brexit secondary legislation.

9 October: Questions on the **progress of the Brexit negotiations**, and on the **Sterling: Euro Exchange Rate.**

9 October: Debate on two **Reports on devolution from the Constitution Committee:** Inter-governmental relations in the United Kingdom and The Union and devolution, **the reports were noted**, as was the **Brexit: Devolution Report** (EU Committee).

9 October: The Prime Minister's statement on **Brexit: UK Plans** was repeated, followed by a debate.

10 October: Debate on the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee's report on the options available to the Government for securing **uninterrupted data flows between the UK and EU** after the UK leaves the EU.

10 October: The Financial Conduct Authority briefed the EU Justice Sub-Committee on **Brexit and consumer protection**.

10 October: The EU Select Committee heard evidence from economic and business experts on the **Brexit: deal or no deal inquiry**.

11 October: The EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee took evidence on **reciprocal healthcare after Brexit**.

12 October: The EU External Affairs Sub-Committee took evidence from a former sanctions official at the European Commission, as part of its inquiry **Brexit: sanctions policy**.

12 October: The EU Internal Market Sub-Committee held evidence sessions on its inquiry on **Brexit: competition**.

News

4 October: **US rounds on Britain over food quotas as post-Brexit trade woes deepen**. Seven trading heavyweights slam the British government's position on quotas after Brexit (Politico)

4 October: **CLA probes government on whether a 'green Brexit' can deliver for farmers**.

5 October: **EU27 and UK should agree on a transition deal by Christmas** (Bank of England Deputy Governor)

10 October: **Forecast evaluation report** (Office of Budget Responsibility).

10 October: **IMF says UK 'notable exception' to growth in advanced economies**.

5. Scotland

Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament Brexit Update: **27 September**.

28 September: The Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee discussed **European Structural Funds** and took evidence from **EU27 citizens living in Scotland on the European Union Withdrawal**.

5 October: The Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee took evidence from Lord Kerr on **Withdrawal from the European Union (Negotiations)**.

Scottish Government

27 September: **Free movement of people vital to economy** - Business leaders discuss effects of migration.

28 September: **Fish landings increase**. The value of fish landed by Scottish registered vessels in 2016 increased by 25% in real terms, according to the **latest statistics** published by the Scottish Government.

30 September: **Northern neighbours**. Brexit highlights need for deeper Nordic and Baltic cooperation.

4-6 October: **Strengthening links with Ireland. First Minister meets Taoiseach. Ireland has 'an ally' in Scotland** - Remaining in single market is an 'obvious compromise'.

9 October: **EU funding guarantee** - Ewing: vital we establish funding guarantee parameters.

6. Northern Ireland

The Assembly has published **EU Matters: BREXIT Negotiation Focus**, which includes a summary of the UK government, European Council and European Parliament negotiating positions.

7. UK-Ireland relations

27 September: **All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit: Third Plenary Session**.

27 September: **UK Withdrawal from the EU: Statements** (Resumed)

28 September: **October deadline for talks 'very challenging' says taoiseach** at All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit (Irish News).

8 October: **Open customs border impossible after Brexit – report** (RTE)

8. Reports published

House of Commons Library

Brexit: the September negotiations

Other

UK press coverage of the EU Referendum (Reuters Institute, Oxford University) **Press release, Slides, Report**.

Living abroad: dynamics of migration between the UK and Germany (ONS)

Living abroad: migration between Britain and France (ONS)

Monthly economic commentary: September 2017 (ONS)

Dispute resolution after Brexit (Institute of Government)

Juncker, Euroscepticism and the guinea pig: how other Europeans assess the dangers of leaving the EU (LSE Brexit Blog)