

Brexit – the rocky road ahead

REFERENDUM

UK votes 52:48 in favour of leaving European Union. Ballot is not constitutionally binding – parliament will vote on whether UK should leave



NEW PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister **David Cameron** (above left) announces resignation. His successor as Conservative leader and prime minister will be elected by September 9. Polls suggest **Theresa May** (above right) is voters' choice



ARTICLE 50

New leader will have to decide timetable to invoke **Article 50** of **Lisbon Treaty** – possibly by end of year. Article 50 sets two-year time limit on negotiating exit.

PARLIAMENT

MPs are divided roughly 75:25 against Brexit.

MPs must sign off on any post-Brexit agreement. Full access to single market will require free movement of people to live and work in UK



European Commission President **Jean-Claude Juncker** (left) has called for quick instigation of Article 50

UK-EU LAW

EU-related law makes up at least a sixth of UK statute book, plus **12,295 EU regulations with "direct effect"***. Possible option is for parliament to translate all existing EU law into British law in single **"Brexit Act"**



NEGOTIATIONS

Draft deal will be put to **European Council** – all 27 EU leaders. Deal needs approval of at least 20 countries with 65% of EU population before ratification by **European Parliament**.

After two years, negotiations can only be extended if all 27 states agree, otherwise...

EARLY ELECTION

If early general election is called before two years are up – and winning party campaigns on pro-EU mandate – can new government withdraw Article 50 notification?

Article 50 doesn't cover this situation – lawyers are divided



...UK LEAVES EU

*Direct effect confers rights on individuals which UK courts must recognise and enforce

Source: House of Commons Library Pictures: Associated Press

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