

# Key dates as clock ticks down to Brexit

Britain left the EU in January but has until the end of 2020 to forge a post-Brexit trade deal with the bloc, during a so-called transition period.

Both sides have said an agreement needs to be in place by October

■ Transition period



**Mar 2-5:** First round of talks on future UK-EU relationship

**Apr-Jun:** Negotiations take place virtually due to coronavirus pandemic

**Aug:** Two sides remain deadlocked, with EU chief negotiator **Michel Barnier** saying chance of deal is "slipping away"

**Sep 8-10:** Eighth round of Brexit talks. Sticking points include fishing rights and state aid rules

**Sep 28-Oct 2:** Ninth round of talks scheduled

**Nov/early Dec:** Possible date for special EU summit to sign off on deal

**Dec 10-11:** European Council summit



2020  
JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

2021  
JAN

**Jan 31:** UK formally leaves EU. Start of transition period. UK-EU relations virtually unchanged to allow time to agree trade deal



**Jun:** UK Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** rules out any extension to transition period beyond Dec 31.

In-person meetings resume after UK and EU agree to step up negotiations

**Sep 9:** UK planning new legislation that could contradict 2019 UK/EU **Withdrawal Agreement**, in areas including state aid and Northern Ireland customs

**Oct 15-16:** European Council summit. De facto deadline for deal, given need for ratification by year-end

**Jan 1:** If no deal is reached, trade reverts to **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** rules, with likelihood of tariffs and checks on goods between UK and EU