




BREXIT: Key unanswered questions for a ‘no-deal’ scenario

The UK is scheduled to exit the EU on 29 March. Businesses do not want a messy and disorderly exit, but with a ‘no-deal’ scenario still possible, firms need clear and precise answers to the many questions this would pose for their business. The British Chambers of Commerce has campaigned strongly for official government guidance – and we have, where possible, welcomed the technical notices, partnership packs and other details of ‘no-deal’ planning published by the UK Government as a result. The published policies on hiring EU workers, postponed accounting for import VAT and support for the UK’s continued involvement in European standards setting respond directly to BCC calls for clarity and forward planning. Important though these are, we need the same level of clarity across many other aspects of the business environment - especially international trade where so many basic questions remain unanswered. The questions below capture the key uncertainties faced by businesses now.

AREA	BUSINESS ISSUES	WHAT BUSINESSES NEED TO KNOW
TRADE AND BORDERS 	TARIFFS	When will the UK Government launch an official market access database to provide information on tariffs by commodity?
	RULES OF ORIGIN	If any trade agreements with third countries are operational on the day after Brexit, what rules of origin will I need to comply with?
	AVIATION	Will I still be able to fly people and/or goods between the UK and the EU after Brexit day – or could travel be disrupted?
	BORDERS AND CUSTOMS	I know I will need to register for an EORI number. How simple will it be for me to register for any other new registration requirements or processes? How will my lead times be impacted by new customs procedures?
	CONTINUITY OF EU FTAS	Will any of the agreements be rolled over or replaced on a bilateral basis in the event of no deal? Will I be able to use any trade preferences with any markets? Will there be confirmation that I will be able to continue importing tariff free goods from developing and least developed countries under the generalised system of preferences (GSP) programme after 29th March 2019?
	INSPECTIONS	Will there be new safety and security requirements and inspections at the UK-EU border that my company will need to deal with? Where will inspections be held?
	DECLARATIONS	What system will I be using to input customs data - will HMRC’s new Customs Declaration Service (CDS) be ready in time for 29 March 2019?
	IRELAND	What procedures will my company face trading between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland? Will this be different to operating at any other UK border?
PEOPLE 	BUSINESS TRAVEL	Will staff spending longer than 90 out of 180 days in the EU be subject to further administration, costs or visas?
	STAFF TRANSFERS	Will my business be able to move skilled staff members between the UK and the EU after 29 March and if so, under what conditions?
REGULATION AND CONTRACT FULFILLMENT 	REGULATORY AGENCIES	Which regulator will be overseeing my business after 29 March 2019 and what rules do I need to follow? Is the UK government going to charge businesses for the creation of new regulatory agencies in the UK?
	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	If my company is in dispute with another in the EU, what form of resolution and means of redress will be available to my business after 29 March 2019?