

# What does it mean?

This is a glossary of the main terms and abbreviations used in relation to Brexit. EU terms are listed only where particularly relevant. For other EU terms, see the European Commission website.

## Acquis

Acquis communautaire: EU law as a whole

## Alignment

Harmonising UK and EU rules in order to facilitate access to each other's markets etc

## Article 50

Article 50 of TEU - provides for withdrawal of a Member State from the EU (see Art 218(3) of TFEU for procedure)

## Article 50 notice

A Member State's notice of its intention to leave the EU, lodged under Article 50(2) of TEU

## Backstop(s) or double-backstop

Arrangements aimed at ensuring that, when the Transition Period ends, there is no hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (the Irish part of the backstop) and limited trade barriers between Northern Ireland and Great Britain (the UK-wide part of the backstop) - see Arts 1 and 6 of the Protocol on Ireland and our overview of the Withdrawal Agreement in How Brexit Works

## Blind Brexit

The UK leaving the EU without knowing the substance of their long term relationship

## Brexit

The UK leaving the EU

## CCT

See Common Customs Tariff

## CETA

See Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

## CJEU

See Court of Justice of the European Union

## CTA

See Common Travel Area

## Canada

A long term UK-EU agreement similar to the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the EU (CETA)

## **Canada plus (or plus plus)**

A long term UK-EU agreement similar to the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the EU, but with greater access to the EU for the UK's financial institutions and food exports etc, closer regulatory alignment, and fewer border checks

## **Chequers**

The UK's proposals for the long term UK-EU relationship agreed by the cabinet at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country house, in July 2018. Among other things, the proposals envisaged the end of free movement of people between the UK and EU27; the UK imposing tariffs on the EU's behalf, removing the need for a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; and the adoption of a Common rule book on e.g. food standards to minimise delays at ports

## **Cherry picking**

### **Honouring some of the Flextension**

A flexible extension of the (originally) 2 year period specified by Article 50 of TEU, running from when the UK notifies the EU of its intention to leave to the date of its actual departure. The flexibility lies in the fact that the UK can leave the EU on a specified date, but is also free to leave before that if the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration are ratified earlier.

Four Freedoms, but not others - in particular, where the UK is concerned, enjoying access to the Single Market or European Union Customs Union without having Free Movement of People (especially of EU27 citizens into the UK)

## **Clean Brexit**

See Hard Brexit

## **Cliff edge**

The UK suddenly ceasing to be subject to EU rules either on Brexit or at the end of the Transition Period, leading to difficulties with e.g. goods that are in transit or legal proceedings that are underway at the moment of change

## **Common Customs Tariff (CCT)**

Duty imposed on goods imported into the EU, the sums payable depending on what the goods are and where they come from

## **Common Market 2.0**

Alternative name for Norway Plus

## **Common rule book**

Part of the Chequers proposals fleshed out in the White Paper of July 2018, but not echoed in the Political Declaration agreed in principle with the EU in November 2018. Would have involved the UK aligning its rules on e.g. food standards closely with those of the EU to minimise delays at ports and airports

## **Common Travel Area (CTA)**

UK and Republic of Ireland - see Art 5 of the Protocol on Ireland

## **Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA)**

A proposed UK-EU agreement covering market access and investment, aviation safety and security, air traffic management, and provisions to ensure open and fair competition - see para 60 of the Political Declaration

## **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)**

A free trade agreement between Canada, the EU and its Member States eliminating many tariffs between Canada and the EU

## **Confidence vote**

See No confidence vote

## **Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU or ECJ)**

Highest court of the EU and ultimate arbiter of EU law

## **Customs Union**

See European Union Customs Union

## **DExEU**

See Department for Exiting the European Union

## **Declaration**

See Political Declaration

## **Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU)**

The UK government department with specific responsibility for Brexit

## **Divorce bill**

Money to be paid by the UK to the EU under the Withdrawal Agreement

## **ECHR**

See European Convention on Human Rights

## **ECtHR**

See European Court of Human Rights

## **ECJ**

See Court of Justice of the European Union

## **EEA**

See European Economic Area

## **EFTA**

See European Free Trade Association

## **EUCU**

See European Union Customs Union

## **EUWA**

See European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

## **Enhanced equivalence**

In the financial services context, a version of Equivalence that remedies some of its limitations, e.g. gaps in cover or the possibility of Equivalence being easily revoked

## **Equivalence**

In the context of financial services, the EU formally acknowledging that the legal, regulatory/supervisory regime of a third country is as good as its own, and allowing market access on that basis - see also Enhanced equivalence

## **European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)**

Treaty protecting human rights and political freedoms in Europe, inside and outside the EU

## **European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)**

A supranational court, independent of the EU, enforcing the European Convention on Human Rights

## **European Economic Area (EEA)**

Geographic scope of the Single Market, comprising EU Member States and three of the four EFTA states: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (but not Switzerland)

## **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**

Free trade organisation comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland - all bar Switzerland are in the EEA, and all bar Liechtenstein are party to the Lugano Convention

## **European Union Customs Union (EUCU)**

The customs union between all Member States of the EU, Monaco and some territories of the UK (such as Jersey) that are not part of the EU

## **European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (EUWA)**

Statute repealing the European Communities Act 1972 and authorising negotiation of the Withdrawal Agreement and the preservation of EU law "operative" in the UK on Brexit (s 3(3)) - will be amended by WAB if the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration are ratified (see below)

## **European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill (WAB)**

Proposed statute enshrining the Withdrawal Agreement in domestic law - will amend EUWA so that EU law will be preserved insofar as it is "operative" at the end of the Transition Period rather than at the moment of Brexit

## **Exit Day**

The day the UK leaves EU: originally 29 March 2019 at 11pm UK time - see Art 50(3) of TEU and section 20(1) of EUWA. Now 12 April 2019 unless (1) the Withdrawal Agreement is approved by the House of Commons by 29 March 2019, in which case Exit Day will be 22 May, or (2) the House of Commons adopts an alternative plan for Brexit, the EU accepts the plan, and a time extension is granted on that basis

## **Facilitated Customs Arrangement**

The UK collecting EU tariffs on the EU's behalf, enabling frictionless UK-EU trade - proposed in the White paper

## **Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011**

Statute introducing fixed-term elections to the UK parliament

### **Flexextension**

A flexible extension of the (originally) 2 year period specified by Article 50 of TEU, running from when the UK notifies the EU of its intention to leave to the date of its actual departure. The flexibility lies in the fact that the UK can leave the EU on a specified date, but is also free to leave before that if the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration are ratified earlier.

### **Four Freedoms**

The freedom of goods, services, people/labour and capital that is guaranteed by the EU's Single Market

### **Free movement**

### **See Flexextension**

A flexible extension of the (originally) 2 year period specified by Article 50 of TEU, running from when the UK notifies the EU of its intention to leave to the date of its actual departure. The flexibility lies in the fact that the UK can leave the EU on a specified date, but is also free to leave before that if the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration are ratified earlier.

Four Freedoms

### **Hard border**

A tangible border including physical infrastructure and/or related checks and controls - see Protocol on Ireland

### **Hard Brexit**

A form of Brexit that is radically different from remaining in the EU

### **Henry VIII clause**

Clause in a bill that enables ministers to amend/repeal provisions in a statute by using secondary legislation

### **Implementation Period**

See Transition Period

### **Internal Market**

See Single Market

### **Irish Backstop**

See Backstop(s)

### **Joint Committee**

Committee responsible for implementation and application of the Withdrawal Agreement (Art 164 of the Withdrawal Agreement); alternatively the committee responsible for managing and supervising the implementation and operation of the future UK-EU relationship (para 129 of the Political Declaration)

## **Level playing field**

Conditions ensuring fair competition between the UK and EU - see the Protocol on Ireland, para 79 of the Political Declaration

## **Lugano Convention**

The Lugano Convention 2007, which extends EU jurisdiction and enforcement rules to Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, i.e. all EFTA states other than Liechtenstein

## **Max-fac**

See Maximum facilitation

## **Maximum facilitation**

Relying on technology to minimise border checks, especially between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland - proposed in the White paper

## **Meaningful vote**

The vote by the UK parliament's House of Commons on the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration, as required by s 13 of EUWA

## **Mini-deals**

Agreements reached between the UK and EU (or individual EU Member States) on specific subjects such as visas, to mitigate the effects of a No-deal Brexit

## **Movement**

See Free movement

## **No confidence vote**

A House of Commons motion of no confidence in the Prime Minister personally or the government. If the motion relates to the government and the the vote is lost, the Fixed Term Parliaments Act gives the government 14 days to win a corrective vote of confidence, failing which a general election must be held. Alternatively, a vote within the parliamentary Conservative party initiated by 15% of Conservative MPs writing to the chair of the party's 1922 Committee to express no confidence in their leader. The leader is deposed if 50% or more of Conservative MPs vote against her

## **No-deal**

A form of Brexit in which no comprehensive withdrawal agreement between the UK and EU is negotiated or ratified and the UK leaving the EU suddenly and completely - see also Mini-deals

## **Non-regression clause**

Provision ensuring that the UK does not undercut the EU by lowering e.g. environmental or labour/social standards - see also Level playing field

## **Non-tariff barriers**

Obstacles to the free movement of goods other than the payment of tariffs, e.g. rule of origin checks

## **Norway for now**

The UK joining EFTA temporarily, with a view to moving to a more distant relationship with the EU in the longer term - see Canada

## **Norway forever**

The UK joining EFTA on a permanent basis

## **Norway plus**

The UK joining EFTA and also a customs union with the EU, removing the need for a hard border in Ireland

## **PDFF**

See Political Declaration

## **Passporting**

The legal right of financial services companies based and regulated in one country of the EU (or EEA states outside the EU) to do business in other Member States on the basis of their home state authorisation

## **People's vote**

See Second referendum

## **Political Declaration**

The (non-binding) "Political Declaration setting out the framework for the future relationship between the European Union and United Kingdom" that accompanies the (binding) Withdrawal Agreement

## **Protocol on Ireland**

Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland: the part of the Withdrawal Agreement that sets out the Backstop(s)

## **Rules of origin**

Criteria needed to determine the national source of a product, which in turn helps determine what duties and other restrictions apply when importing the product into the EU

## **Schengen**

Schengen Agreement: a treaty allowing people and goods to pass freely between some EU Member States and all EFTA countries without passport or other controls

## **Second referendum**

A referendum on whether the UK should leave the EU on the terms set out in the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration - may include the options of remaining in the EU and/or a No-deal Brexit

## **Settled status**

Legal status under the EU's Settlement Scheme allowing individuals to continue living and working in the EU after the Transition Period ends, and to apply for British citizenship if certain additional requirements are met

## **Settlement scheme**

The European Union Settlement Scheme: set up by the UK government to ensure that the rights of EU citizens in the UK, and certain family members, are protected after Brexit; it will allow them to live, work and access healthcare and other public services from that point on

## **Single customs territory**

Bare-bones customs union set out in Arts 6 and 15 of the Protocol on Ireland and forming part of the Backstop(s)

## **Single Market**

The EU as one territory without regulatory obstacles to the free movement of goods and services across internal borders - see European Economic Area

## **Soft Brexit**

A form of Brexit that is close to remaining in the EU

## **Specialised Committee**

Committee for the implementation of the Protocol on Ireland and established by Art 165 of the Withdrawal Agreement - see also Article 16 of the Protocol on Ireland

## **TEU**

See Treaty on European Union

## **TFEU**

See Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

## **TTIP**

See Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

## **Third country/state**

Country or state outside the EU or some other organisation/territory, depending on context

## **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**

Proposed free trade agreement between the UK and USA

## **Transition Period**

Period beyond Exit Day when the UK remains part of the EU for most practical purposes - will finish at end 2020 unless extended by agreement (Withdrawal Agreement Art 126) to a date no later than end 2022 (Art 132)

## **Treaty on European Union (TEU)**

One of two treaties forming the basis of the European Union (the other being the TFEU) - otherwise known as the Maastricht Treaty

## **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)**

One of two treaties forming the basis of the European Union (the other being the TEU) - formerly known as the Treaty of Rome

## **WA**

See Withdrawal Agreement

## **WAB**

See European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill

## **WTO**

See World Trade Organization

## **White paper**

In the context of Brexit, the UK government White Paper (report) of July 2018 setting out the Chequers proposals

## **Withdrawal Agreement**

The (binding) "Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community" that accompanies the (non-binding) Political Declaration. Neither document has been ratified yet.

## **World Trade Organization (WTO)**

Global organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations

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