

Key developments in recent months

Formal Brexit Summary March to July 2018 – relating to Notified Bodies and Certification

On 19 July, the European Commission issued a Communication describing the ongoing work to prepare for the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The Communique updates on the progress on negotiations for an Implementation period to 31st December 2020 and also informs that the UK and EU have started discussions on the content of a Political Declaration of the future relationship between the EU and the UK. Both initiatives are in a period of "stocktaking" pending further formal interactions in October.

Whilst both parties are working towards the above agreements, the communique also Building on requests from the European Council (29 March and 28 June 2018), the Communication encourages all actors (EU institutions, Member States, economic operators) to step up the preparedness actions for Brexit and consider all possible scenarios, but suggests two extreme scenarios should be considered:

If a withdrawal agreement is ratified by the EU and UK before 30 March 2019 (official withdrawal date), a transition period is foreseen from 30 March 2019 until 31 December 2020. In practice, this means:

During the transition period, the EU law will in general continue to apply in the UK, but from 30 March 2019, the UK will no longer be able to take part in the EU decision-making process and EU governing bodies and agencies.

An agreement on the future relationship between the EU and UK should be agreed, signed and ratified at the end of the transition period, and apply from 1 January 2021

If there is no withdrawal agreement or if the agreement is not ratified by both the EU and UK, there will be no transition period and EU legislation will therefore cease to apply as of 30 March 2019. In practice, this means:

There will be no arrangements in place for EU citizens living in the UK and UK citizens living in the EU.