



# Navigating Brexit for British Farming

Tori Morgan  
NFU EU Exit & International Trade Adviser  
[Tori.morgan@nfu.org.uk](mailto:Tori.morgan@nfu.org.uk)  
@torimorgan91

# What does the NFU think about “the deal”?

**“IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE AVOID THE MAYHEM OF A NO-DEAL BREXIT IN MARCH OF NEXT YEAR, AND THIS WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT PAVES THE WAY FOR A TRANSITION PERIOD THAT MAINTAINS FREE AND FRICTIONLESS TRADE WITH THE EU, AND PROVIDES STABILITY FOR FARMERS AND THE WIDER ECONOMY.”**

—  
**MINETTE BATTERS**  
**NFU PRESIDENT**



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# 52 days to Exit Day

- “No Deal” is the statutory default
- Political pressure is not the same as legal certainty



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# If the deal is approved in Parliament

**Meaningful vote – 14<sup>th</sup> Feb??**



**EU Withdrawal  
(Implementation) Bill - votes in  
both houses**



**CRaG procedure – 21 sitting  
days**



# Extending Article 50 under UK law

## European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

“exit day” means 29 March 2019 at 11.00 p.m.

“A Minister of the Crown **may by regulations** amend the definition of “exit day” to ensure that the day and time specified in the definition are the day and time that the Treaties are to cease to apply to the United Kingdom”



*'We're not moving the date of Brexit, but we might add an extra 90 days to February'*

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# EU law

## Article 50 of the Treaty on the European Union

### Extension

TEU “The treaties shall cease to apply to the State in question from the date of entry into force of the withdrawal agreement, or failing that, 2 years after the notification referred to in paragraph 2, unless the European Council, **in agreement with the Member State concerned, unanimously decides to extend this period.**”

### European parliament elections 26<sup>th</sup> May

### Revocation

- **CJEU ruling**
  - The UK could revoke the Article 50 notification **unilaterally, in an unequivocal and unconditional manner**, by a notice addressed to the European Council in writing, after the Member State concerned has taken the revocation decision in accordance with its constitutional requirements.

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# Preparing for all outcomes – deal or no deal

UK Government continue to prepare for no deal

- Over 100 technical notices released
- Over 1,000 new border force staff recruited

BUT... how bad would no deal really be?

- Trading with EU on WTO terms
- Threat of unilateral tariff reduction/abolition
- Technical restrictions on EU trade
- Restricted access to EU labour





# NFU Brexit toolbox

## Key Questions to ask **your** business:

- How exposed are **you** to the EU market?
- Is there anything **you** could do now to limit exposure?
- Have **you** spoken to your buyer or supplier to discuss their level of contingency planning / preparedness?





# Trade and Standards



**Dr Liam Fox MP**

@LiamFox

Follow

.@businessinsider I cannot be any clearer, we will not lower food standards in a future free trade agreement with the United States



**Department for International Trade** @trade.gov.uk

Despite some misleading reporting @LiamFox has been clear, we will not accept an agreement that lowers food standards.

Show this thread

6:41 am - 17 Oct 2018

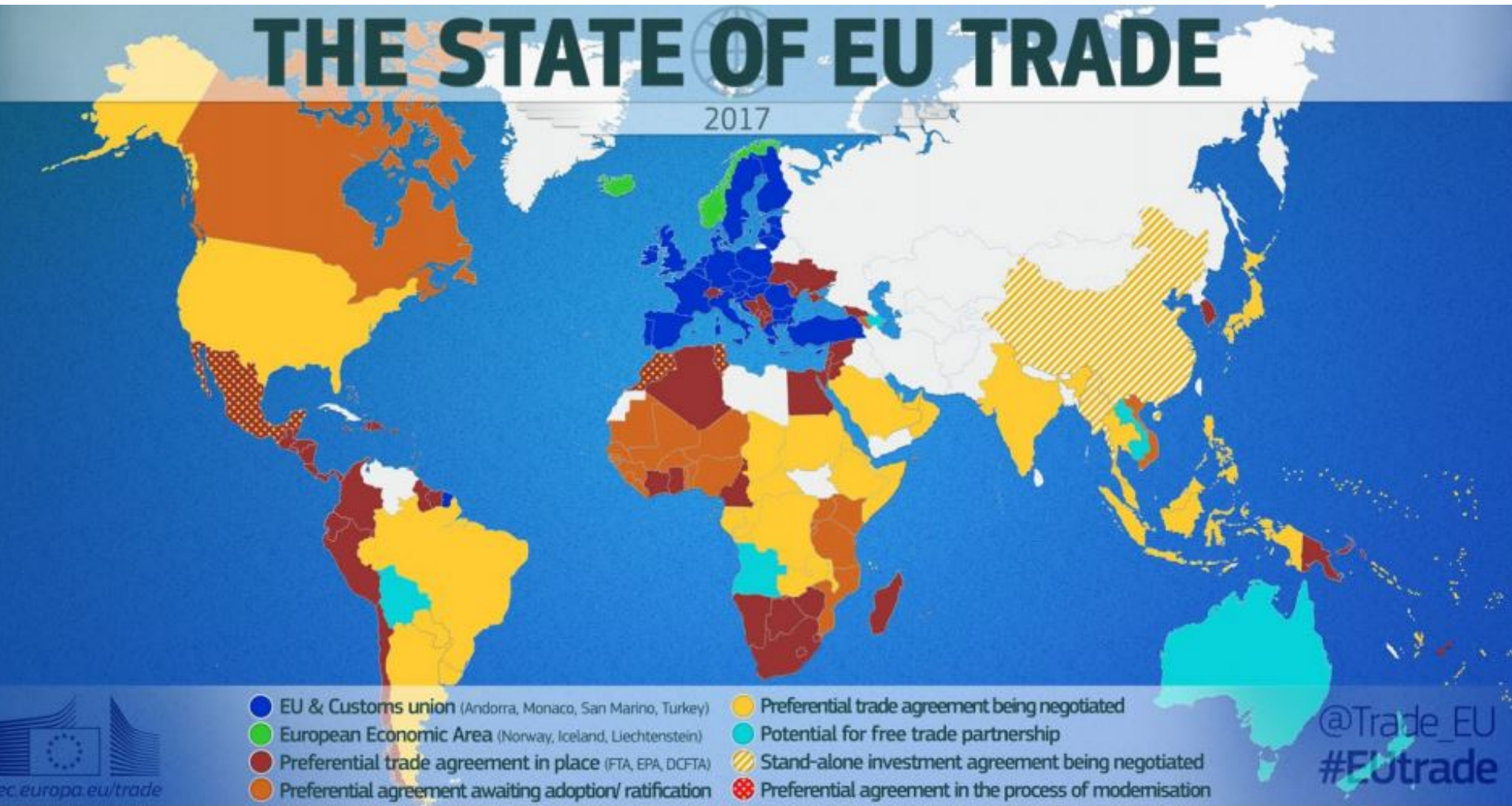
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# Ensuring trade continuity...

## THE STATE OF EU TRADE

2017



@Trade\_EU  
#EUtrade

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What about opportunities further afield?



# Ag Bill - NFU Priorities for Report Stage:

An “agricultural” Agriculture Bill

Competitiveness and financial resilience

Promoting domestic food production

Valuing and protecting our standards

Budgetary cycles

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# NFU's six principles on Brexit

1. **Avoid** a 'no deal' outcome
2. Ensure as **free trade** in agri-food goods as possible with our principal EU market
3. Gain **greater regulatory control** and discretion over UK farm practice
4. Maintain access to the **seasonal and permanent workforce**
5. Ensure international trade **respects domestic production** standards
6. Implement a **new agricultural policy** framework that supports farmers as food producers, improves productivity and resilience and properly rewards the delivery of public goods.

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