

Brexit: What is happening?

The procedure to exit from the European Union expects the United Kingdom to communicate formally to the European Council of its intention to leave the organization, by having recourse to Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. United Kingdom and the European Union will begin then to renegotiate the agreements governing their relationships, and at the same time will have to establish a new agreement on bilateral trade relations. Once invoked, Article 50 triggers a political process that cannot be stopped because it explicitly sets out a two-year time limit within which to complete the entire procedure. The new first British minister Theresa May British minister has said that Article 50 will not be called before the end of the year, probably in an attempt to gain time to snatch an advantageous preliminary agreement even before starting the output from the EU procedures. During the meeting May-Hollande, the latter insisted that the UK will have to ensure the free movement of persons to have access to the European single market. The disappearance of trade area with the EU could lead the reintroduction of customs duties on British goods with the consequence of an export-harm. There are also fears for investments: London has been a magnet for investment, but coming from the EU, many investors fear they could lose a reservoir of resources. Thirteen Nobel prizes scientists had made an appeal against the Brexit, because the latter would have resulted in the loss of funds, and the very important collaborations in the field of scientific research. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have applied to the respective regional parliaments the right to vote on the terms of Brexit that the UK government will have to negotiate with the European Union. At the meeting, convened at the initiative of the Prime Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones, has also discussed the risk that the Brexit to involve a tightening of border controls between the Northern Ireland (Ulster) and the Republic of Ireland.