

# Impacts of BREXIT on the transport of radio-pharma

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**TRANSRAD**  
RESPONSIBLE LOGISTICS

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The UK withdrawal from the EU will cause significant disruption for European citizens, businesses and administrations.

This will also be the case for the transport of radio-isotopes as their logistic is just in time.

The business took this topic very seriously and have prepared mitigation plans to guarantee the continuity of the supply.



**Hard Brexit**

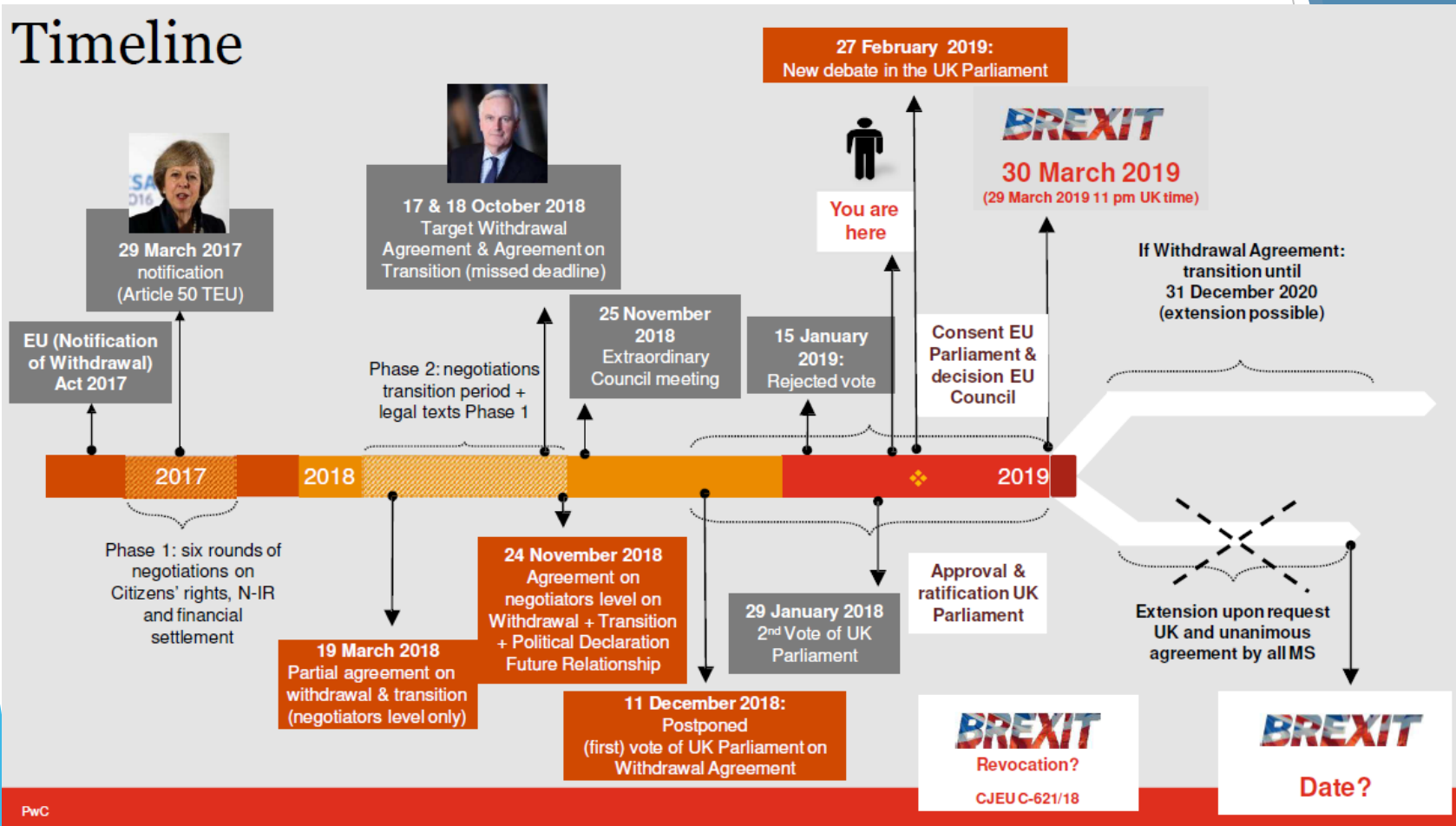
-  **No access to single market**
-  **Full immigration control**

**Soft Brexit**

-  **Economic and trade ties**
-  **Free movement of people**

## 2. Timeline (1/3)

### Timeline



## 2. Timeline (2/3)

- The UK intended to leave the European Union on **29 March 2019** but it did not happen.
- Theresa May has in the meantime secured a delay to the Brexit Date. The EU-27 has decided that Britain should remain a member until as late as October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The problem is that there still appears to be no majority in the parliament for any single course of action.



**Deal** : transition period. Most of the legal effects will apply as of **1 January 2021**

**No Deal** : no transition period. EU law will cease to apply as of **the Brexit date**

## 2. Timeline (3/3)

If the Withdrawal Agreement is not ratified, the UK Government could :

- Request an extension of the 29 March deadline - Done
- Hold a second referendum on the decision to leave the EU
- Call a General Election and seek a new mandate to govern
- Decide to leave the EU without a Withdrawal Agreement - a '*No Deal*' *Brexit*
- Or ... ?

### 3. POSSIBLE SCENARIOS



The No Deal scenario is the most impacting one.

## 4. Impact on Radio-Pharma Transport (1/4)

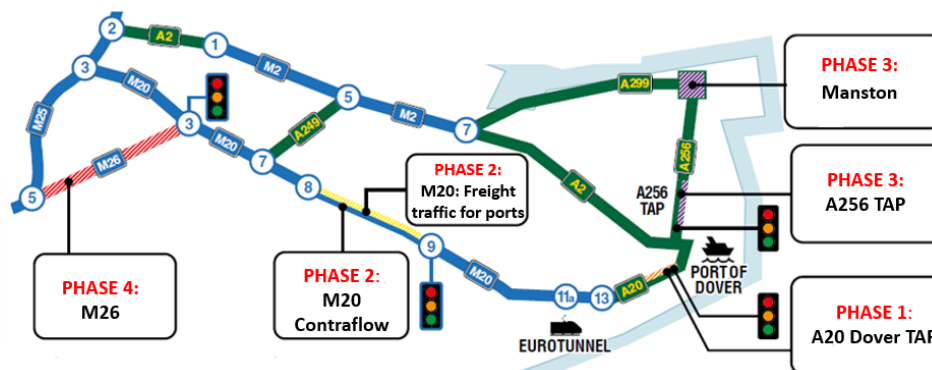
Most of the Radio-isotopes are currently transported mainly by road to the UK or by airlines. They are transported during the evening of D-1 in order to be used in the morning of D.

The re-establishment of a customs frontier as a consequence of a Hard Brexit is a main concern for the transport sector in general.

Waiting times at the boarder, due in particular to the customs formalities (clearance of documents), are expected to cause huge traffic jam in the main access areas to UK (Calais, Dover, ...).

One day lost in the transport could be a reasonable assumption which is a disaster when considering the fast decay of most of the medical radio-isotopes.

Ex : Operation Brock is the traffic management protocol for freight if there is cross-Channel disruptions in Kent. Target is to avoid the closing of M20 through four phases. See also the strike of the French custom officers in Calais some weeks ago.





## 4. Impact on Radio-Pharma Transport (2/4)

The main flow of radiopharmaceuticals will be from Continental Europe to the UK.

Moly-99 is the most relevant isotope to be considered. Plant in Amersham was closed in March 2019. As a consequence, the logistic of Moly changed some weeks ago : instead of sending bulk of Moly to the UK, fill in the generators in Amersham and distribute them afterwards in the UK or back to Continental Europe, the new logistic scheme foresees the preparation of the generators in Continental Europe and their transport afterwards to the UK.

Isotopes with a very short half-life are mainly produced locally in the UK (F-18, ...). Transport of F-18 from Continental Europe will no longer be possible. Other isotopes like I-123 and Rb-81 with a short half-life will require lot of attention to keep enough activity at their arrival in the UK. Long half-life isotopes won't be impacted.



## 4. Impact on Radio-Pharma Transport (3/4)

Brexit will impact transport cost due to :

- Custom formalities
- Waiting time (additional hours for the drivers, ...)
- More activity to ship to compensate the time lost
- Airlines vs Road
- ...

Current routes (ferry from Calais, East Midlands Airport, Birmingham Airport, ...) still considered but subject to delays.

Priority will be given at the beginning to airlines. Important here to release the goods at the customs during the night and allow the transport afterwards before the peak hours.

## 4. Impact on Radio-Pharma Transport (4/4)

The delay in the negotiations is nevertheless positive as the preparation from the authorities will be better (see training of the customs officers, construction of parking's, ...).

The period just after the Brexit day will certainly be the most sensitive one due to the complete uncertainty around the traffic's conditions in Calais, Dover, ... and at the airports.

## 5. Conclusions

Brexit is subject to lot of attention and preparation from the Radio-Isotope Industry together with the EU and UK authorities, Ministry of Health in particular.

- The supply of Nuclear Medicine will be difficult but will certainly not stop for the UK and Ireland.
- No delivery guarantee can be given from the business in this process. There are too many uncertainties.
- A serious preparedness from the different players with alternatives identified, specific agreements with airlines, ...
- Situation will most likely be very chaotic during the first weeks but should quickly turn back to normality.