



SEVEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN TRAVELLING between the UK and the EU after Brexit — in the event of no deal

November 2018

The United Kingdom (UK) will leave the European Union (EU) on Friday 29 March 2019 at midnight. This is exactly two years after it notified the European Council of its intention to withdraw.

- If the Withdrawal Agreement is ratified before 30 March 2019, most of the legal effects of Brexit will apply as of 1 January 2021, i.e. after a transition period of 21 months, the terms of which are set out in the draft Withdrawal Agreement.
- In the absence of a Withdrawal Agreement, there will be no transition period and EU law will no longer apply to and in the UK as of 30 March 2019.

Those who plan to travel between the UK and the EU27 after Brexit, as well as businesses providing travel-related services, should start preparing for the UK's withdrawal, if they have not yet done so.



1. BORDER CHECKS

Post-Brexit, UK nationals will no longer enjoy the facilitations provided for EU/EEA/CH citizens at the outer borders of the EU - and will not be entitled to use the separate EU/EEA/CH lanes. Persons travelling into the EU will be subject to additional verifications concerning, for instance, duration and purpose of stay.

UK citizens will need travel documents with a validity of no more than ten years, and valid for at least three months after intended departure from the EU.

The European Commission has proposed to the EU legislator to exempt UK nationals from visa requirements for short-term stays.



2. CUSTOMS, VAT AND EXCISE

There are limits to the quantities of products (in particular tobacco products and alcoholic beverages) that can be imported into the EU free of customs duties, VAT and excise duties post-Brexit.

Luggage may be subject to customs checks when entering the EU from the UK.

Visitors from the UK will be entitled to a VAT refund on departure from the EU.



3. TRAVELLING WITH PETS

The EU pet passport will no longer be valid for pet-owners resident in the UK post-Brexit.

Those travelling from the UK to the EU with pets should check, before travelling, which specific requirements will apply to the UK as a third country. They may need either a third country pet passport, or an animal health certificate.



4. DRIVING

Post-Brexit, the mutual recognition system of driving licences between Member States no longer applies to the UK. Holders of a UK driving licence should verify with the relevant EU Member State whether an additional “international driving permit” is required.

People using a private vehicle registered in the UK are advised to check if their insurance covers both the EU and the UK after withdrawal. A “green card” may be required.



5. HEALTH TREATMENT

Post-Brexit, access to healthcare in the EU will no longer be possible on the basis of a UK European Health Insurance card, and vice-versa.

People are advised to verify conditions for reimbursement of emergency medical expenses in third countries and consider taking out private travel insurance.



6. PASSENGER RIGHTS

EU passenger rights to information, reimbursement, re-routing or compensation in case of delays and cancellations may no longer apply to UK flights and carriers, as well as ship, bus, coach and rail travels, depending on the point of departure and arrival and the country where the carrier is licensed.



7. ROAMING

Providers of mobile communication services – voice calls, SMS or data - will no longer be bound by EU roaming rules when operating in the UK.

This means they may apply surcharges to UK customers using roaming services in the EU, and EU travellers using roaming services in the UK.



OTHER POINTS TO BE KEPT IN MIND

- Import into the EU of certain goods will be restricted or prohibited: for example products of animal origin (such as meat, milk, ham, cheese), cash over EUR 10,000, certain cultural goods, plants, plant products, or certain animals.
- EU citizens will no longer be entitled to turn to UK embassies and consulates to seek consular protection in a third country (and vice-versa).
- Full information is provided in the “Notice on Travelling between the EU and the United Kingdom following Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU”, published by the European Commission and available online¹.



WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION AND WHO CAN ASSIST ME?

- The European Commission’s website has over 70 [preparedness notices](#)² on a wide range of economic sectors. They are meant to help citizens and market participants prepare. It is recommended that you read them and seek advice if you, your family or your business may be affected.
- Consult the websites of the European Commission’s [departments and agencies](#)³ active in the area that concerns you, your family or your business.
- To get additional information and assistance, contact your national authorities.

This document is presented for information purposes only and should not be understood as a legal text. Its content is without prejudice to the negotiations on the Withdrawal Agreement and the discussions on the future EU-UK relationship.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness/preparedness-notices_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness_en

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments_en



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