



Brexit readiness update

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Election developments in the UK

Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn tackled questions on Brexit in their first televised election debate on Tuesday. Boris Johnson called for an end to "national misery", pitching his Brexit deal as the solution to the deadlock in Parliament.

In both the debate and their [manifesto](#), Labour outlined their Brexit plan to negotiate a new deal within three months of taking office and put that to a referendum within six months, alongside an option to remain.

Labour's new deal would include a permanent and comprehensive UK-wide customs union, close alignment with the Single Market, alignment on workers' rights, consumer rights and environmental protection, alongside continued participation in EU agencies and commitments to security arrangements.

The Liberal Democrats also launched their party [manifesto](#), outlining their policy to stop Brexit by revoking Article 50, as well as unveiling a GBP 50 Billion 'Remain Bonus', which they forecast the country will benefit from if it stays in the EU.

The Liberal Democrats claim that the economy will be 2% larger by 2024-25 if Brexit is cancelled, and pledge that the extra money will be invested in public services and tackling inequality.

The Conservative Party is the latest to launch its [manifesto](#), in which it outlines how it intends to achieve its "Get Brexit Done, Unleash Britain's Potential" mission. Among the objectives are a definitive departure from the EU in January 2020, and tighter control on immigration through a points-based system.

UK Business Insight

CBI Conference

The leaders of the Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats spoke in front of business leaders at a CBI conference, outlining how their Brexit plan will help business.

Boris Johnson said that getting Brexit done is the "best thing for our economy" as it will end uncertainty and attract investment, adding that his Brexit deal will "maximise all the opportunities of Brexit".

Jeremy Corbyn vowed that Labour would "get Brexit sorted quickly", ending uncertainty for business as they aim to deliver a close trading relationship with the EU.

Jo Swinson said the Liberal Democrats were the "natural home for business" and reiterated the party's pro-Remain stance.

Economy

Economic growth would decrease to 1% in 2020, even if there is a smooth transition period, according to the [Organisation for Economic Developments and Cooperation](#). The report states that "Brexit related uncertainty will keep holding back investment until there is clarity about future trading arrangements".

The OECD projects inflation to slow to below 2%, and urges government intervention to address "Brexit-related disruption or a weakening of economic growth".

Manufacturing

Total manufacturing order books improved in comparison with October, but remained below the long-run average with 13% of manufacturers reporting an increase in orders and 40% reporting orders below normal.

According to a [CBI Industrial Trends Survey](#), manufacturers "expect output to be broadly flat in the coming quarter". Commenting on the figures, deputy chief economist at the CBI, Anna Leach, said that ratifying a Brexit deal and building a future relationship with the EU "will be vital – both for UK manufacturers and business as a whole".

Post-Brexit increase for Belgium's contribution to EU budget

As reported by the [De Tijd](#) and [L'Echo](#) newspapers, Belgium's annual contribution to EU finances, post-Brexit, would likely increase by EUR 520 million. This follows the European Commission's detailing of the 2021 to 2027 budgets, and the post-Brexit budget implications for each member state.

This increased contribution would be consequent to (1) the UK's departure as a sizeable contributor to EU finances, and (2) the EU Commission's aim to keep its finances healthy enough to maintain investment activity.

However, the actual increase for Belgium's contribution will more likely reach EUR 800 Million, given that the Commission may reduce the 20% portion of EU 'border taxes' retained by the country.

People Update

French registrations for Settled Status scheme

A report by the French Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee has found that approximately 70,000 of the 300,000 French citizens living in the UK have registered for the UK government's Settled Status scheme.

The scheme grants EU citizens the right to remain in the UK after Brexit, securing residency status. Senators say there is a "somewhat wait-and-see" approach to Brexit.

Brexit Help Centre

Find the assistance needed for your Brexit readiness

For all your Brexit-related questions, **please contact your usual consultant** at Deloitte in Belgium, or access our [Brexit Help Centre](#), which features a directory of expert contacts, and many other resources.



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