

**House of Commons Stages of the Internal Market Bill**

Commons passes Internal Market Bill 29.09.2020, with no substantive amendments to the parts of the Bill that contravene International Law, or cause problems for the EU regarding the Withdrawal Agreement and NI Protocol



UK Govt has not removed parts of Internal Market Bill that breach NI Protocol - as demanded by end September in Maroš Šefčovič's 10.09.2020 statement - but the Bill has also not passed the Lords



EU sticks to the earlier line from Šefčovič - sees the Internal Market Bill as a major breach of trust - refuses any further negotiations until issue is solved

EU and UK keep talking - as rhetoric from Number 10 has softened a little, and the Bill has not passed the House of Lords

**EU reaction to the Commons Vote on the Internal Market Bill**

**Trade Deal or No Deal by the end of 2020?**  
 Brexit Diagram Series 5, V4.1.0  
 30.09.2020, 1000

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Diagram is chronologically organised, top to bottom.

Thickness of arrows corresponds to accumulated probability that a route will be followed. Number (like 0.3) on each arrow is the probability only for that node. Dotted lines: probability too low to be able to assess.

Orange boxes at the bottom are outcomes, with accumulated probabilities for each.

Probabilities are based on voting data where available, educated guesses where not. Any errors are the responsibility of the author.

**Back to the negotiation table**

EU takes legal action against the UK over the Internal Market Bill

By mid-October doubts about whether any deal is really possible mount, and both sides turn up the rhetoric about No Deal

By mid-Oct there are signs of some progress, but both sides are still a fair way apart on core policy issues and mutual distrust persists

By mid-October agreement on outstanding issues (fisheries, level playing field) has been found between Frost and Barnier

**House of Lords Stages of the Internal Market Bill**

Lords fails to remove all parts of the Internal Market Bill that break International Law

Lords removes all parts of the Internal Market Bill that break International Law, or Number 10 concedes before a vote

Lords fails to remove all contentious parts of the Internal Market Bill, but **conscious of solid progress in negotiations**

Lords removes all contentious parts of the Internal Market Bill, but **conscious of solid progress in negotiations**

**Outcomes**

UK Govt argues that if a Deal is struck, there is no need for the Internal Market Bill Clauses to be used anyway

UK Govt argues progress in negotiations shows trust with EU restored, Internal Market Bill not a problem

Number 10 reacts furiously to the Lords defeat

Number 10 sees Lords defeat as a way to save something in negotiations with the EU

EU rejects this

EU accepts this

Possible challenge at the Supreme Court about the legality of the Bill - about International Law, and/or devolution - timing and likelihood of this unknown

Panic breaks out that Johnson has led the UK to the brink

Johnson plays to the Tory backbenches once more, and takes a hard line and talks up No Deal

Johnson understands the severity of the situation and focuses more on a Deal as the clock ticks

Vote defeat seen as blow to Johnson's credibility as Tory Leader - crisis breaks out in Tory Party

There are of course other things that could knock the UK Government off track - notably its COVID response. I however cannot predict those!

UK heads towards No Deal, preparations for this urgently stepped up  
**53%**

A Deal is there to be done, if the UK Government can stomach it  
**38%**

Very unclear what happens here - does discontent with Johnson mean there are resignations? Letters to the 1922? Threat to abolish Lords? Threat of using Parliament Act, and a General Election?  
**9%**

Versioning: example V1.2.3  
 1 - refers to a major update with new options  
 2 - refers to changes of probabilities  
 3 - correction of text / typos