

EU's Rejection of Post-Brexit Plan

What is the issue?

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- United Kingdom's PM Theresa May's post-Brexit blueprint was rejected by the European Union.

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- With this, the British PM's position stands weakened.

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What are the disputes?

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- Ms. May's proposal, adopted by the Cabinet in July, 2018, has deepened divisions among the supporters of her Conservative Party.

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- A controversial idea in the July white paper is for a hybrid arrangement.

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- Under this, it was proposed that Britain would stay in the common market only for trade in goods and agriculture.

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- It would not include the obligations of free movement of people.

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- The EU is not ready to allow being choosy when it comes to its four basic freedoms - of movement of capital, goods, services, and labour.

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- The other [dispute](#) is over the post-Brexit status of the soft border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

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- Maintaining the status quo is critical to keeping the peace under the terms of the 1998 Good Friday agreement.

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- The agreement helped bring to an end a period of conflict in the Ireland region.

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What is the implication?

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- European Council President said that the July proposals were not workable. Click [here](#) to know more on EU's demands

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- With the rejection, Ms. May would now face a possible backlash at the Conservative party conference this month.
- Also, elections to the European Parliament are due next year.
- With this, the leaders are keen that the anti-EU parties see the economic and political perils of quitting the bloc.
- Brexit uncertainty will continue to be an issue, meanwhile.

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Source: The Hindu

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