

# Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU

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*Brexit* is the process of the United Kingdom's (UK) withdrawal from the European Union (EU). At midnight on 31 January 2020 CET (respectively, on 1 February 2020, at 01:00 Latvian time), the UK withdrew from the EU. Under the Withdrawal Treaty, a transitional period had entered into force from 1 February to 31 December 2020, during which the United Kingdom no longer was a member of the EU but continued to be subject to EU rights and obligations. During the transition period negotiations continued on the future of EU-UK relations or relations between the parties starting with the 1 January 2021 as stated in the 17 October 2019 [Political declaration setting out the framework for the future relationship between the European Union and the United Kingdom](#).

[Withdrawal Treaty](#) which came into force at midnight of 31 December 2020 provides a framework for the UK's commitments which it took up as an EU Member State. The Treaty also provides for a gradual transition to the UK's status as a third country (outside the EU) in order to ensure a smooth withdrawal process.

On 24 December 2020 an agreement was reached between the UK and the EU on future relations after the end of the transitional period starting from 1 January 2021. [The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#), as well as [questions and answers on the Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) are available on the European Commission's website.

In order to prepare for changes caused by *brexit*, national preparedness measures have been taken in Latvia. To find out more, please visit the homepage of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (available in Latvian). In addition, a common e-mail address [brexit@mfa.gov.lv](mailto:brexit@mfa.gov.lv) has been created, where residents and entrepreneurs can ask relevant questions.

<https://www.sam.gov.lv/en/withdrawal-united-kingdom-eu-0>