
EU - Brexit update: Great Repeal Bill White Paper and negotiations

On 29 March the UK [triggered Article 50](#) to start the process of leaving the EU. To provide continuity and certainty for individuals and businesses throughout this process, the UK Government published a [White Paper on the 'Great Repeal Bill'](#).

The Bill has three purposes:

- To repeal the European Communities Act which established the UK's membership of the European Economic Community (predecessor of the EU) and which embodied the supremacy of EU law over UK domestic law
- Convert the existing EU laws into domestic UK legislation to prevent any gaps or contradictions in the UK's statutory framework
- Create Government powers to make changes to laws through secondary legislation to ensure the proper functioning of law once the UK has left the EU (e.g by removing references to EU institutions or removing reporting requirements to EU bodies)

Without such a bill there would be potential gaps, uncertainties or conflicts within the local law once the UK left the EU. The UK Government emphasised that the Bill will protect employment, environmental and consumer rights.

The White Paper makes clear that the purpose of the Bill is not to change policy, but to make sure that the same rules and laws apply on day one of Brexit as they do now.

Please find more on the how the Brexit negotiations will work in practice on our [blog](#).