

# EU Summit LIVE: EU27 sign off Brexit talks within MINUTES saying 'NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS'



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In the early hours of this morning, Mrs May said she wanted a Brexit deal that worked for Britain and the EU, including a "strong and deep" security partnership.

Speaking after EU leaders spent over nine hours negotiating a migration deal, Mrs May said "very good progress" had been made over Brexit but she wanted to work at a "faster pace than we have done up until now".

An impatient Mrs May told reporters: "We are going to be publishing our White Paper shortly, and I want to see the negotiations accelerating and intensifying thereafter."

But Brussels chiefs have ensured Brexit will be way down the agenda on the last day of the EU council summit before leaders meet again in October, when they are expect a final deal to be concluded.

EU leaders have already ratcheted up pressure on Mrs May as they prepare for Britain to crash out of the bloc with 'no deal'.

The Prime Minister is set to be pressed on key issues, including avoiding a hard border in Ireland, by EU leaders keen to gauge her intentions.

It comes after a top aide to Emmanuel Macron warned the Tory leader she faces a "serious and grave" rebuke over progress made on the Irish border issue, telling the Financial Times: "It is very urgent to finalise discussions".

Ireland's prime minister Leo Varadkar warned Mrs May "time is running out" and the UK faces a strong and united EU who were prepared to back him up on his red lines - most notably the island's border.

## EU Summit 2018 LIVE pictures as talks progress to Brexit

Fri, June 29, 2018



# EU Summit LIVE: EU27 sign off Brexit talks within MINUTES saying 'NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS'

EU countries' leaders meet on 28 and 29 June for a summit to discuss migration in general, the installation of asylum-seeker processing centres in northern Africa, and other security- and economy-related topics including Brexit.



REUTERS

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Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán talks to German Chancellor Angela Merkel

We are going to be publishing our White Paper shortly, and I want to see the negotiations accelerating and intensifying thereafter

Theresa May

EU boss Jean-Claude Juncker revealed he was worried by the lack of progress.

He said: "I don't have to lecture Theresa May, but I would like our British friends to make clear their positions.

"We cannot go on to live with a split cabinet."



GETTY

Brexit will dominate the second day of the EU summit today

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**11:42pm update: Italy's anti-immigrant Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said the migration deal had 'forced' the EU to discuss an Italian proposal**

In a statement, he said: "I'm satisfied and proud of our government's results in Brussels.

"Finally Europe has been forced to discuss an Italian proposal... (and) finally Italy is no longer isolated and has returned to being a protagonist."

**11:31am update: Ireland's Leo Varadkar has snubbed Theresa May over Brexit**

Rolling his eyes, when asked about Mrs May's Brexit speech last night, he said: "There was a speech?" before walking away.

**11:23am update: [BREAKING NEWS: EU leaders agreed their Brexit position in minutes where they ruled 'no substantial progress'](#)**

After nine-hour migration talks, the EU27's heads of state made light work of the Article 50 discussions on the agenda, signing off draft conclusions in a matter of minutes.

EU leaders voted through a draft conclusions which had been finalised earlier in the week – with one minor extra, a mention of Gibraltar.

It read: "The European Council expresses its concern that no substantial progress has yet been achieved on agreeing a backstop solution for Ireland and Northern Ireland."

The European Council suggested that if UK positions evolve the union would be will to reconsider its offer.

The conclusion urged the UK to "step up their work on preparedness at all levels and for all outcomes".

It read: "Work must also be accelerated with a view to preparing a political declaration on the framework for the future relationship."

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**11:14am update: Germany is reacting to the EU's migration agreement as its leader faces a political crisis at home**

Manfred Wanfred Weber tweeted: "The EU summit took a big step towards a better migration policy. Europe stands for humanity towards people in need, determination in the protection of external borders and in the fight against illegal migration, as well as for solidarity with one another."

"The EU is showing its capacity to act. This path must be pursued resolutely and swiftly by the new Austrian Presidency. The policy of responsibility and reason prevails. #EUCO #migrationEU #EVP @EU2018AT @sebastiankurz."

**11:02am update: Macron has attempted to take credit for the fudged migration deal**

The French president's aide said: "The agreement is good news, because it wasn't clear in the last days that we would agree. An agreement was found after nine hours of negotiations."

"France prepared in the afternoon with a certain number of countries a Franco-Italian draft agreement. And then, it was reworked, and sealed thanks to a discussion between Macron and Conte before 8 pm."



EBS LIVE

EU summit live: Luxembourg leader Bettel said a Brexit no deal would be worse for Britain

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## 10:47am update: Austria's Sebastian Kurz said he wished for cooperation between the UK and EU

He told reporters: "For Brexit our goal is that there will be the best possible cooperation between GB and EU in the future, politically, as well as economically and regarding the eurozone, we are in favour of a stronger cooperation of the banks but definitely against a further communitisation of debts on the European level."

## 10:43am update: Mr Bettel warned a Brexit 'no deal' would be worse for the UK

Speaking as he arrived for the second day of the EU summit, he said: "I think it's in the interest for all to find a deal. She thinks a no deal is not good for Europe, but I think it will be worse for the UK.

"She told us how discussions over brexit were working, she even said that a no deal is a possibility.

"That's not the way we would love to have negotiations. It's a fact this could happen if UK doesn't want to move on different topics. We still need answers on Northern Ireland and a lot of different topics."

Over relations between the UK and EU over security cooperation, Mr Bettel said: "It is in the interest of the uK to have a common security policy and not just in the interest of the EU.

"We shouldn't now have escalation on who will be the biggest loser on this thing.

"A fair deal is the most important. A no deal will always be a bad deal."

## 10:37am update: Luxembourg leader Xavier Bettel reinforced fears of a fudge on the EU's recent migration deal

When quizzed over who will be the first nation to volunteer for migration centres, laughing he replied: "We have just finalised the deal, don't ask me now who is the first one to volunteerm, the paper is still hot.

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"Believe me to find an agreement is a success on that topic. Everyone wanted a national solutions, so to have a common solution is so important.

"Some people would have preferred to go further, other people less, but we have been able to go forward."



EBS LIVE

EU summit live: Merkel was greeted by Hungary's Viktor Orban

**10:23am update: A bleary-eyed Angela Merkel has arrived at the roundtable for talks after avoiding the cameras.**

The German Chancellor was greeted by Hungary's Viktor Orban who kissed her hand.

Both leaders avoided the cameras and shyed away from speaking to reporters about last night's migrant deal.

New Italian prime minister Giuseppe Conte was also among those who refused to stop for a chat.

**10:13am update: Emmanuel Macron said migration talks were 'very positive'**

He told reporters: "We decided all together to work for European cooperation. I think that's a very positive outcome.

"We know our differences but on the basis of the evidence, we decided all together yesterday which I think is a very positive outcome."

"We reached an agreement yesterday, which is a very good thing. Many people predicted the lack of an agreement, but yesterday we showed them that an agreement was possible, that the solutions of cooperation were preferable, and that the European Union could advance on these substantial topics.



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"In particular, that of immigration. The second thing is that yesterday we have secured a Europe that protects in terms of defence, trade and immigration.

"It is a comprehensive approach in the area of migration because we have decided to work with third countries, to strengthen our cooperation - I am thinking of Africa in particular - to intensify the fight against all types of trafficking, and reinforce controls of our common borders.

"The controlled centres on the European territory allow us to articulate the principles of responsibility and solidarity. We protect more, we cooperate more and we reaffirm our principles. For me it is a real satisfaction and victory. Europe finally decided, although it took us some time.

"Europe wants to protect its fellow citizens. Europe also wants to respect rights, be faithful to its history and protect the weakest.

Mr Macron was less detailed on Brexit, simply saying: "We will now talk about Brexit and the euro area."



EBS LIVE

EU summit live: Macron hailed migration talks as 'very positive'

**10:05am update: Belgium Prime Minister Minister Charles Michel hailed last night's migraton talks as a 'good agreement'**

On arrival, he said: "It s a good agreement that allows us to move forward to ensure the free movement within the Schengen area.

"It shows our will to have a committed European approach and come up with a response to the challenge of migration and the fight to keep the free movement of people within Europe and the protection of European external borders. "



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He denied discussions were "stormy" and insisted it was a "serious subject" which had divided leaders.

**9:43am update: EU Brexit boss Michel Barnier warned time is 'very short' for Brexit**

The European Union's chief negotiator urged Mrs May to come up with "workable" proposals for Brexit and overcome "huge and serious" differences to prevent Britain from crashing out of the bloc without a deal.

He said the EU wanted an "ambitious partnership with the UK on trade and security", which was based on a partnership of "values and principles" while respecting the UK red lines.

But Mr Barnier said: "We have made progress but huge and serious divergence remain on Ireland."

He told reporters: "We are waiting for the UK white paper, I hope it will contain workable and realistic proposals.

"Time is very short. We want a deal, and we are working for a deal but time is short.

"I am ready to invite the UK to come back on Monday."



EBS LIVE

EU summit live: Michel Barnier has warned 'time is very short' for Brexit

**9:31am update: Lithuania's president said Britain would remain an important ally after Brexit**

On security cooperation after Brexit, she said: "In that case very important to keep Britain very close as our ally.

"No matter what outcome will be for Brexit, Britain is not withdrawing from NATO.

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"I am fully confident on Britain's participation in security matters."

She added: "We are supporting Britain and Europe because we don't want one or another side to win. We would like to see both sides win."

**9:22am update: Dalia Grybauskaite, President of Lithuania is the first to arrive**

She said EU leaders were able to find a "common denominator" over the migration row.

She said: "Our expectations are different but agreement was acceptable to all."

"We are 28 with 28 opinions, we need to find a common denominator. We agreed a compromise with discussions".

Hinting at new Italian premier Giuseppe Conte, Ms Grybauskaite said the EU Summit was a "learning process" for new members.

She said newcomers "need to learn and understand how negotiations take place".

But she said it was positive leaders could come together today after solving the migration crisis in the early hours of this morning.

Of Mrs May's role in migration talks, the president said: "Mrs May was very cooperative and helped us find a solution".



EBS LIVE

EU summit live: Lithuania's president said she wants both the UK and EU to win after Brexit

**9:16am update: Theresa May has been given a Brexit ultimatum**

Four senior Tory Brexiteers that she must walk away from Brexit talks with the EU unless they agree to discuss trade.

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**9:12am update: EU leaders may appear bleary eyed this morning following marathon migration talks**

Brussels leaders struggled to overcome deep divisions on migration on the first day of the EU summit.

Talks dragged into the early hours of this morning before they produced a fudged agreement, which vaguely pledged to strengthen external borders and explore new migrant centres.

*Additional reporting by Maria Ortega and Monika Pallenberg*