

All members of the Cabinet are
at Chequers for an important
meeting 06.07.2018 on Brexit.



'It's NOT what the Prime Minister promised!'
Rees-Mogg warns May MUST deliver on Brexit

HUMAN-SYNTHESIS
human-synthesis.ghost.io

Why is everyone talking about this meeting?

All members of the Cabinet have arrived at Chequers for an important meeting on Brexit.

Discussions will take place all day on Friday at the Prime Minister's Buckinghamshire country house.

By all accounts it is set to be a tense day. Ministers won't even be able to take a breather and see what's going on on Twitter – they have been asked to hand over their mobile phones for the duration of the session.

Why is the meeting taking place?

Ministers need to decide the type of future relationship Britain wants with the European Union after leaving the bloc. Issues to be discussed include future customs and trade relations.

The reason for holding the meeting at Chequers is because it offers the Cabinet privacy. The manor house, in Ellesborough, is more secluded than Downing Street, where reporters and photographers are often seen outside No 10.



The scene of the tense Brexit talks at Chequers (PA)

Why is everyone talking about this meeting?

Why is it important?

The meeting is important because of the tight time frame Britain has until it intends to leave the bloc. Discussions are crucial if the Government wants to avoid crashing out with no deal.

“Time is running out: unless the UK establishes a negotiating position now (or very soon), it’ll be too late to try and get a deal with the EU by the end of the year, which is the very last point at which it get can ratified by the European Parliament before the intended leaving date in March 2019,” says professor of politics Tim Bale, of Queen Mary University, London.

Dr Simon Usherwood, a reader in politics at the University of Surrey, also highlights the urgency of the Chequers meeting: “Today’s meeting is the last opportunity for the Government to find a consensus position on key aspects of the future relationship with the EU, post-Brexit. Much of that discussion will focus on customs, and how close the UK should remain to EU rules on goods and services.”

What if ministers don’t come to a decision?

Then they won’t be leaving. Ministers will be kept at Chequers until they come to an agreement, it has been reported. At least they’ll get a nice dinner.

In what is being labelled a veiled threat, Theresa May said the Government had “an opportunity – and a duty” to reach an agreement.

Why is everyone talking about this meeting?

Theresa May's comment

“We want a deal that allows us to deliver the benefits of Brexit – taking control of our borders, laws and money and by signing ambitious new trade deals with countries like the US, Australia and New Zealand.

“This is about agreeing an approach that delivers decisively on the verdict of the British people – an approach that is in the best interests of the UK and the EU, and crucially, one that commands the support of the public and Parliament.”

What is likely to spark a confrontation?

Prof Bale says: “The tensions remain the same: how do we get as close a trade deal with the EU without sacrificing our ability to do deals with other countries, without establishing a hard border in Northern Ireland, and without being subject to the European Court of Justice's rulings?”

It has been reported that papers circulated to ministers recommend the UK should maintain a “common rulebook” with the EU for all goods, including agricultural and food products.

This, however, could risk a post-Brexit trade deal with the US, which has provoked an angry reaction from pro-Brexit ministers.

A Number 10 spokeswoman said: “It is categorically untrue to suggest that we will not be able to strike a trade deal with the US.” Britain will be able to secure “ambitious” trade deals with the US, Australia and New Zealand after Brexit, according to Downing Street.

Why is everyone talking about this meeting?

Are resignations likely?

It's a possibility.

“Some hard Brexiteers may feel it's better not to be associated with a compromise and that they'd have more chance of defenestrating Mrs May... by leaving rather than staying. Boris Johnson is the obvious flouncer-outer, but watch out for Davis, Fox and Gove,” says Prof Bale.

If you remember, Brexit Secretary David Davis has come close to resigning before. He may consider it again given his reservations about the plan. He is also sceptical about whether it would be approved by Brussels.

Even if there are no resignations, Mrs May is likely to be confronted by Brexiteers who believe her plan is unacceptable, according to reports.

What happens after the meeting?

The Government will publish a white paper setting out its blueprint for Brexit next week.

The EU wants realistic proposals. Decisions on the final deal between Britain and the EU are expected to be made at a summit in October. However they might roll over to an emergency meeting in November.

“Agreement at Chequers is only a first step in a process that will see the Government take those ideas to the negotiations, where EU leaders have already expressed some doubt about how viable they might be. The key point to take from all of this is that the UK remains in a very delicate position and that nothing is definitively settled,” adds Dr Usherwood.

Why is everyone talking about this meeting?

Read more:

Theresa May faces Cabinet rebellion over warning Brexit plan could risk US trade deal

Cabinet breaks down into Brexit civil war ahead of critical summit

Theresa May battles to defuse Tory rebellion over signs she's heading for a 'soft Brexit'

Victory for May: Cabinet BACKS Soft Brexit plan as Prime Minister vows to speed up EU exit

'It's NOT what the Prime Minister promised!' Rees-Mogg warns May MUST deliver on Brexit

Reflections ahead of the meeting:

The problem is that every discussion will in the end lead to a compromise on either side. If neither side are prepared for a compromise, an agreement cannot be made.

EU have their foundation rules of The Four Freedoms and the UK have their rigid Red Lines which may not be crossed.

If none of the parties are prepared to give on these major points, it will only be possible to make agreements OUTSIDE these rules, after a 'hard break' BREXIT.

It would be a great mistake to make trade agreements with the EU which meant blocking trade agreements with the US and other countries outside the EU.