



October 2017

EU WITHDRAWAL NEGOTIATIONS

The negotiations with the European Commission on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union began in June 2017.

PHASES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

The negotiations with the European Commission are being conducted in two phases as set out in the negotiating directives issued by the Council of the European Union on 22 May 2017:

- The **first phase of negotiations** is focusing on issues that have been identified by the EU as necessary for an orderly withdrawal of the UK from the European Union. For Euratom, these are legal and technical issues related to nuclear materials and the handover of nuclear safeguards responsibilities. The UK set out its position on these issues in its paper on *Nuclear Materials and Safeguards Issues*, which was published on 13 July 2017 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-materials-and-safeguards-issues-position-paper>). Further detail on the UK's position on spent fuel and radioactive waste (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-note-on-spent-fuel-and-radioactive-waste>) and on existing contracts for the supply of nuclear material (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-note-on-existing-contracts-for-the-supply-of-nuclear-material>) have also been published.
- The **second phase of negotiations** – which is yet to begin – is expected to focus on the Prime Minister's proposal for an Implementation Period and on the future relationship between the UK and EU (including Euratom).

EU WITHDRAWAL NEGOTIATIONS & SAFEGUARDS

The first phase of negotiations has included discussion of the legal handover of safeguards responsibilities from Euratom to the UK. It has also considered the potential transfer of ownership to the UK of Euratom safeguards equipment currently located on UK territory. These negotiations are currently on-going.

The European Commission has welcomed the UK's commitment to putting in place nuclear safeguards arrangements that will be equivalent in coverage and in effectiveness to that of the existing Euratom regime.

