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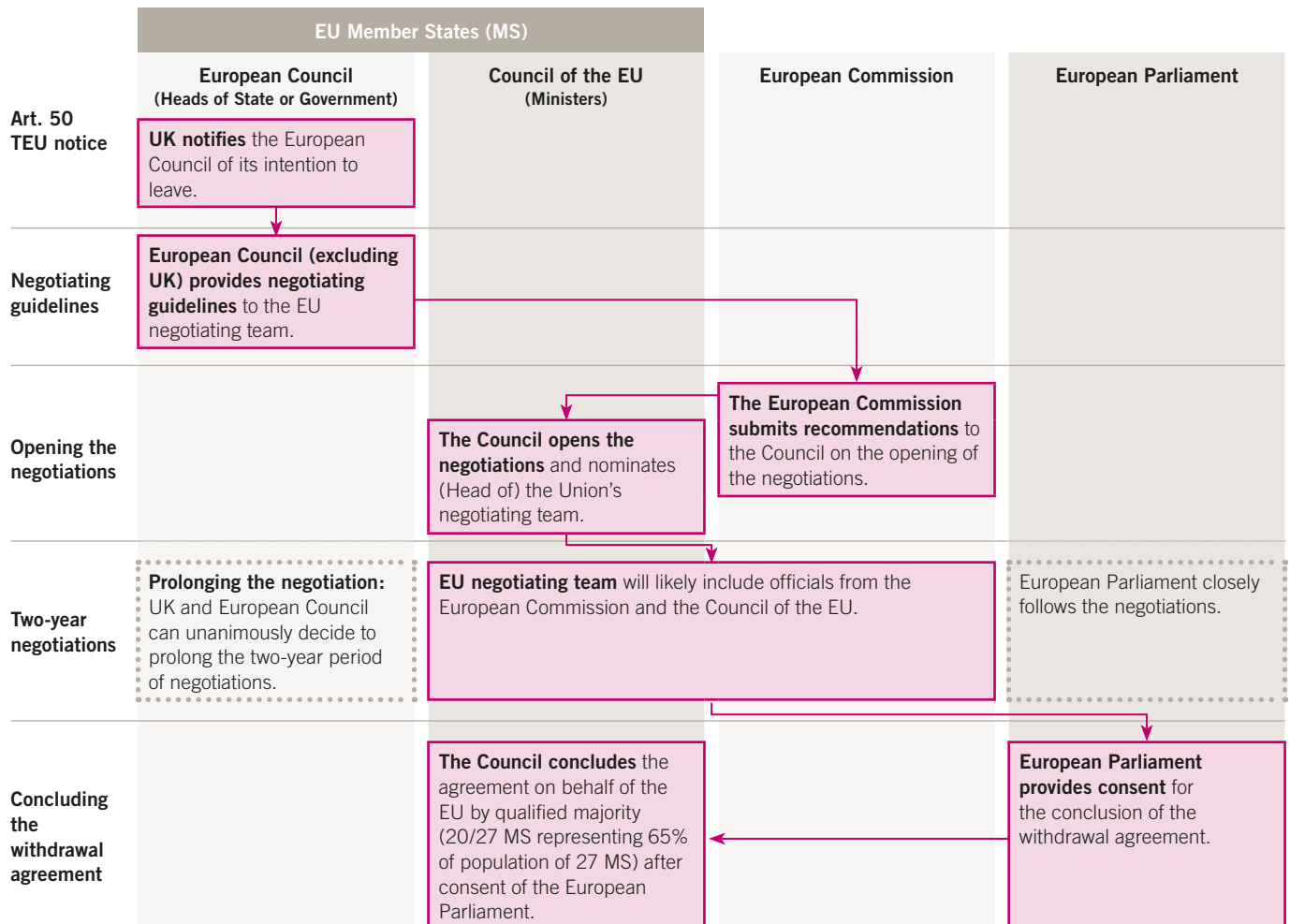
Withdrawal of the UK from the EU – role of the EU institutions



The exit of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU) will take effect upon the conclusion of the withdrawal agreement or the lapse of a two-year period after the UK serves its withdrawal notice, which is expected in early 2017. The negotiations can be prolonged upon agreement between the UK and the EU.

Formal negotiations between the UK and the EU will not begin until the UK serves its withdrawal notice. Two sets of EU-UK negotiations are expected to take place – negotiations on the withdrawal agreement and negotiations on the new future relationship between the EU and the UK. It is possible that both will happen at the same time and the same teams will lead the negotiations for both agreements. This document focuses on the withdrawal negotiations.

Withdrawal from the EU according to Art. 50 Treaty on European Union (TEU) and Art. 218(3) Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)



EU's chief negotiator on Brexit

The EU's negotiating team is expected to be a sort of "troika", which would involve representatives of the European Commission, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament. It is likely that the European Commission and the Council of the EU will have a more active role in the negotiations, with the European Parliament focusing on the scrutiny of the negotiations. The EU's chief negotiator on Brexit will only be appointed once the Article 50 TEU notice has been served.

The European Commission, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament each have an official responsible for the Brexit negotiations. The European Commission and the Council of the EU also have a dedicated task force.

European Council*	Council of the EU*	European Commission	European Parliament (EP)
<p>–</p> <p>The European Council will not have one main person responsible for the negotiations, as all the Heads of State or Government will likely interact with their UK counterpart.</p>	<p>Didier Seeuws</p> <p>Didier Seeuws is currently a Director for Transport, Telecommunications and Energy at the Secretariat of the Council of the EU.</p> <p>Seeuws will lead a task force of Member States' representatives, responsible for the preparations for the negotiations, once Article 50 TEU has been triggered.</p>	<p>Michel Barnier</p> <p>Michel Barnier leads the European Commission's Article 50 TEU task force and is advised by a group of Directors-General. He reports directly to the President of the European Commission.</p> <p>Once Article 50 TEU is triggered, Barnier will co-ordinate the discussions with the UK authorities and all other EU and Member State interlocutors.</p>	<p>Guy Verhofstadt</p> <p>Guy Verhofstadt is a former Belgian Prime Minister, and currently the President of the ALDE political group (liberals and democrats) in the European Parliament.</p> <p>Verhofstadt will inform the Conference of Presidents (EP President and the EP political group leaders) about the developments taking place during the negotiations and co-ordinate the European Parliament's position in the negotiations.</p>

*The **European Council** and the **Council of the EU** have different roles, but are very closely linked as institutions, given that they both represent interests of the EU Member States.

- > **European Council defines the EU's overall political direction.** It comprises Heads of State or Government, the President of the European Council (Donald Tusk) and the European Commission President (Jean-Claude Juncker).
- > **Council of the EU adopts laws and co-ordinates policies**, in most cases together with the European Parliament, on the basis of proposals submitted by the European Commission. It comprises ministers and civil servants of the EU Member States.



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