



HM Government

BREXIT

31 OCTOBER



# Exporting Services to and Investing in the EU

Prepare for Brexit at [gov.uk/brexit](https://www.gov.uk/brexit)



## Services and Investment

- UK businesses and individual professionals export a wide range of services to EU markets. These cover everything from engineering and auditing to education and legal services.
- When the UK leaves the EU, UK businesses and professionals will be treated as originating from a 'third country' and will not have the same kind of access to EU markets.
- Investment in EU businesses or the establishment of businesses within the EU will also be affected.
- This means there may be new rules that you need to comply with, depending on which Member State and what sector or sectors you operate in.



If you operate in a **service sector** in the EU, your business might be affected in a no deal scenario if you:

- Are a UK-based supplier providing services to EU-based customers;
- Travel to the EU for business;
- Are a professional benefitting from EU mutual recognition of qualifications;
- Receive personal data from the EU (covered by DCMS – see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-personal-data-after-brexithwhat-you-need-to-do-before-a-no-deal-brexith> for further details);
- Employ EU nationals (covered by Home Office – see <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families> for further details).



If you **have or are planning investment** in an EU-based business (not just in the services sector), in a no deal scenario you may also be affected if you:

- Have branches or subsidiaries in the EU or are planning to establish these;
- Own, manage or direct a company registered in an EU country.



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## What will change if you provide services (including remotely) to EU-based customers?

- Once the UK leaves the EU, there may be changes to how services exports are regulated, even if you provide these services from a UK base.
- You may also be affected if you provide a service with a manufactured good (e.g. a maintenance contract for a piece of equipment).
- Some Member States also require service suppliers to hold EU/EEA nationality or residency to provide services into the EU.
- These changes will vary by Member State and sector.
- You should visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-services-including-those-of-a-qualified-professional-after-brexit> and seek independent legal advice to check whether you need to make any changes to continue operating in specific countries.



## What will change if you need to cross an EU border for business travel?

- If you export a service, you may experience changes to business travel that involves crossing an EU border.
- The EU will allow UK citizens to travel to the EU for 90 days in any 180 days for business meetings, training, sports and cultural events, and short-term study.
- If you are undertaking activity outside of these areas or intend to stay for more than 90 days in any 180-day period, you should check whether you will need a visa, work permit or other documentation.
- Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-brexit> for more details.



## What will change if you provide a service based on a professional qualification?

- Some Member States regulate some professions within their jurisdiction (and this will vary by Member State and sector).
- If you need a professional qualification to provide your service, you should check whether this needs to be officially recognised by the national regulator of your profession in the country you want to operate in.
- If you need to have your professional qualification officially recognised, you should seek recognition from the relevant national regulator and make sure this process is completed before exit day.
- Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-services-including-those-of-a-qualified-professional-after-brex-it> for more details.



## What will change if you have / plan to establish a branch or subsidiary in the EU or merge with an EU business?

- Some Member States require individuals to hold an EU or EEA nationality or residency to own, manage or direct a company in their country.
- Some Member States have limits on the total amount of equity that non-EU or non-EEA nationals may hold.
- Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/providing-services-to-any-country-in-the-eu-iceland-liechtenstein-norway-or-switzerland-after-eu-exit#establishing-and-structuring-your-business> for further guidance.





## Next steps

- Consider what services your business provides, even if the main focus of your business is not within the services sector.
- Visit the “Get Ready for Brexit” webpage (and the checker tool) to find relevant information on a range of different topics: [gov.uk/Brexit](https://www.gov.uk/brexit)
- Visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/providing-services-to-eea-and-efta-countries-after-eu-exit> for guidance on providing services in each of the 31 EU and EFTA countries, which includes links to the relevant country websites.
- Where possible, seek independent legal advice.