
UK FINANCE MINISTER CLAIMS BREXIT TRANSITION COULD LAST UNTIL 2022

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Britain will try to keep as many aspects of its EU membership in place as possible during a transition period of up to three years after Brexit, finance minister Philip Hammond said on Friday (28 July).

But Hammond told BBC radio that EU nationals would have to register with the authorities starting from the expected departure date of March 2019 as the government comes up with a new immigration system.

Many things will look similar and goods will continue to flow between Britain and the EU in much the same way as they do now even after the scheduled departure date of March 2019, he said.

I think theres a broad consensus that this process has to be completed by the scheduled time of the next general election which is in June 2022, he said.

Hammond, who campaigned for Britain to stay in the EU in last years referendum but now supports withdrawal, is seen as an advocate of a more moderate soft Brexit in contrast to more hardline ministers.

According to the Financial Times, Hammond unveiled the plan to business leaders earlier this week, arguing there was not enough time to negotiate a bespoke deal before the March 2019 deadline.

He told us the Europeans now agree a cliff edge would harm both parties, a person present at the meeting told the FT.

But one of the thornier issues yet to be negotiated is the right of EU citizens to travel and settle in Britain.

More than a decade of immigration from the bloc under freedom of movement rules was a major factor in the June 2016 referendum that saw British citizens vote to leave the EU.

Prime Minister Theresa May has so far insisted that Brexit needs tougher immigration rules, including an end to free movement of EU citizens.

According to Hammond, Europeans will still be able to come into the UK during the transition period, but they will have to register with the authorities so we know whos coming and whos going.

Weve been clear that it would be some time before we are able to introduce full migration control

between the UK and the EU, he said.

Kaynak/Source: