It seems likely that the UK will leave the EU within the next few weeks. At the moment the date is not clear and is dependent upon a vote or votes in the Westminster Parliament in the week ahead.

What has been said is that delivering a deal negotiated with the EU remains the government’s top priority.

With an implementation period until December 2020, this would give businesses stability, certainty and time to prepare for the UK’s new relationship after EU Exit.

However, from a Government website it was learned today that business must plan for every possible outcome including no deal. Without a deal, businesses may need to take action before 11 April 2019.

To find out how to prepare and the steps needed to be taken readers are invited to use the website link at:

https://euexit.campaign.gov.uk/

Information provided will concern: Business, Passports, Guidance for UK nationals living in the EU and Guidance for EU citizens in the UK.

With regard to transport there is more available here:

https://www.gov.uk/prepare-eu-exit/transport

**CBI and TUC call on PM to change Brexit approach**

Ahead of the European Summit on 21 March Trades Union Congress General Secretary Frances O’Grady and Confederation of British Industry Director-General Carolyn Fairbairn wrote a joint letter to the Prime Minister urging a change to her approach on Brexit and we are privileged to publish it here.

The joint letter called for a ‘Plan B’ to be found and warns of economic shock from no-deal exit.

The letter reads:

‘Together we represent millions of workers and tens of thousands of businesses. It is on their behalf that we are writing to you to ask you to change your Brexit approach.'
Our country is facing a national emergency. Decisions of recent days have caused the risk of no deal to soar. Firms and communities across the UK are not ready for this outcome. The shock to our economy would be felt by generations to come.

We ask you to take three steps to protect the jobs, rights and livelihoods of ordinary working people.

First, avoiding no deal is paramount. Businesses and employees alike need to see their Government clearly acknowledge the reckless damage no deal would cause and recommit itself to avoiding this outcome.

Second, securing an extension has become essential. 88% of CBI members and a majority in Parliament agree this is better than no deal. But at the same time an extension must genuinely allow a way forwards, and be long enough for a deal to be agreed.

Third, ‘the current deal or no deal’ must not be the only choice. A Plan B must be found - one that protects workers, the economy and an open Irish border, commands a parliamentary majority, and is negotiable with the EU. A new approach is needed to secure this – whether through indicative votes or another mechanism for compromise.

We cannot overstate the gravity of this crisis for firms and working people. We request an urgent meeting with you to discuss our concerns and hear your response.

Yours sincerely,

Frances O’Grady, TUC General Secretary
Carolyn Fairbairn, CBI Director General

Reported by Paul Ridgway
London