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Brexit Reset UK – EU: a modus vivendi

Relations between the EU and the UK after the Brexit referendum of 2016 were acrimonious. The negotiations went right up to the wire until the UK eventually agreed on a Withdrawal Agreement and ceased to be a Member State at the beginning of 2020. It then took a further year to hammer out a mutual trade deal.

The scars on domestic politics in Britain are still there. The countless votes in parliament and emotional debates have left a country bitterly divided. The EU too was left reeling after 2016 confronted with the loss of an awkward but respected partner.

Soon after Britain departed from the EU, the Corona Pandemic swept the World followed swiftly by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Global challenges shifted the dial on priorities for both the UK and the EU. Britain had been at pains to make clear that it remained in Europe even if not as an EU- Member State. The United States became an increasingly unreliable actor in international politics changing the whole parameters of post-war European politics. The war dragged on between Ukraine and Russia British expertise and British support for Kyiv pulled London closer to Brussels. Today there are still many loose ends not resolved after Brexit but the mood music has changed and a willingness to work together in a new partnership is slowly emerging. www.melanie-sully.at

Full Text in German: <https://parlamentarismus.at/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Brexit-lfPD-Sept-8.pdf> published by the Institute for Parlamentarismus, Vienna.