Twitter Thread by Maddy Thimont Jack

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With 10 days to go, there are three main outcomes of the #Brexit talks:
1) no deal
2) the two sides are still talking but run out of time - qu if can find other ways to buy more time
3) a deal is reached which the UK ratifies & EU provisionally applies

In some ways, option one is the most simple

If the two sides walk away then we dont need to see the govt recalling UK parliament & the european parliament also doesn't need to vote

But no deal isnt a sustainable endstate - lots of reasons the UK will need to work with EU in the future

While I dont think UK will be straight back to the negotiating table - esp if PM unwilling to compromise in current circumstances - there will still be unresolved issues

Option two is probably the most challenging - where both sides think there is a deal to be done but the clock just runs out...

They may want to buy more time for talks but as @GeorginaEWright has pointed out, it is really much more complicated than that: https://t.co/a9r2vzVjQ6

> Extending the transition period is a lovely idea - in theory. But in practice, it's a total minefield and not clear it can be done in time. Why? Thread.
>
> — Georgina Wright (@GeorginaEWright) December 21, 2020

Which means that for many, option 3 (a deal) is really the best outcome

Although @aliceolilly has pointed out recall has been complicated by covid rules: https://t.co/kPaA7vXT32

There is still - just about - enough time for the UK parliament to pass implementing legislation

> Quick thread on recall, coronavirus, Brexit, and why it\u2019s all a bit more complicated than usual.
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> So: recall happens at the request of the government. Parliament cannot recall itself. Explainer here: https://t.co/4myCgbpUqM
>
> — Dr Alice Lilly (@aliceolilly) December 20, 2020

If not, it is possible that the govt implements some aspects of the treaty through SI (eg tariff changes) and deals with the rest in the new year - would undermine usual convention but is possible

More on UK process here: https://t.co/bHExrSh8xb

The european parliament's sunday night deadline has passed - if a deal had been reached by the EP would have voted on it before the end of the year

But, although politically difficult, the Council can still chose to provisionally apply the treaty: https://t.co/MNnTkxnry4

While MEPs may be unhappy with this approach, the alternative would be a huge amount of disruption for EU individuals & businesses for a short period of time - a decision that could be difficult for MS to justify

But worth remembering that huge changes are coming deal or no deal (more from @Joe_Marshall0 here: https://t.co/FyooxnPWK1) & the later it gets, the more difficult it is for businesses to put the necessary prep in place

As we discussed two weeks ago: https://t.co/COcWhsEA7E

> Brexit talks are in the 'tunnel' or final stretch, with rumours of a deal as soon as next week.
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> But what difference would a deal make?
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> Tl,dr: Not much in terms of what needs to be done to prepare, but a big difference for business and future UK-EU relations
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> — Joe Marshall (@Joe_Marshall0) November 17, 2020

It feels pretty astonishing to be ten days from the end of the transition period with so much uncertainty about what rules will govern trade with our nearest neighbour

It is looking increasingly difficult for the govt to justify its decision not to extend the transition period

Given where we are, the PM urgently needs to decide whether a compromise with the EU is worth it to get a deal

And if he decides it isn't, rather than talking about the UK 'prospering mightily', he needs to honestly communicate the

realities of a no deal Brexit