

# Britain and EU agree to more talks in final push for Brexit

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● An EU official said the pause in talks was about theatrics rather than substance

Reuters | London/Brussels



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen instructed their negotiators to resume trade talks on Sunday in a last ditch attempt to bridge significant differences.

Acknowledging the distance in their positions, the leaders' decision to resume talks that had stalled over three of the thorniest issues suggests both sides still believe they can secure a deal governing almost \$1 trillion of trade a year.

But it was not clear whether either had changed their positions to allow a breakthrough that has proved elusive since Britain left the EU on Jan. 31 and entered a transition period with



**If the two sides fail to reach a deal, the five-year Brexit divorce will end messily just as Britain and Europe grapple with the vast economic cost of the COVID-19 outbreak.**

most rules unchanged that runs until the end of the year.

In a joint statement, the two leaders said that while recognising the seriousness of their differences, "we agreed that a further effort should be undertaken by our negotiating teams to assess whether they can be resolved".

"No agreement is feasible if these issues are not resolved," they said after speaking for more than an hour on Saturday. "We are therefore instructing our chief negotiators to reconvene tomorrow in Brussels. We will speak again on Monday evening."

The talks were paused on Friday in the latest stumble in months of negotiations which have barely moved on three areas of disagreement - fisheries,

ensuring fair competition guarantees and ways to solve future disputes.

Sources from both sides said that French demands over fishing rights in British waters remained a key issue, and some in Johnson's Conservative Party suggested that EU officials had to convince French President Emmanuel Macron to back a deal.

An EU official said the pause in talks was about theatrics rather than substance. "Each side needs a bit of drama to be able to sell this."

Johnson, a figurehead for Britain's campaign to leave the EU, must be able to convince Brexit supporters that he has secured a clean break, reclaiming what he called during last year's election campaign the country's sovereignty.

Von der Leyen does not want to offer too much to London for fear of encouraging other member states to leave and must also deliver a deal that does not alienate any of the 27.

Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin welcomed the decision to resume talks, saying on Twitter: "Every effort should be made to reach a deal."

British and EU negotiators paused trade talks on Friday to call in their leaders to try to narrow the gaps and get an agreement after a week of negotiations failed to bridge significant divergences between the two sides.

## In a first, BNET adds 'Fibre Checker' option on website

● The 'Fibre Checker' allow citizens and residents to view fibre-optic availability across all areas of Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's National Broadband Network (BNET), responsible for providing broadband network services across the Kingdom of Bahrain, has a 'Fibre Checker' feature on their website [www.bnet.com](http://www.bnet.com) that allows a transparent view of fibre-optic connection availability across Bahrain.

This advancement is a step forward in the company's strategy to provide broadband Internet services across Bahrain.

The 'Fibre Checker' service, available to individuals and business owners, will allow citizens and residents of the Kingdom to view fibre-optic availability across all areas of Bahrain via accessing BNET's website and entering their full address. Users will then receive a message informing them of fibre-optic availability at the entered address and request that they visit their preferred telecom operator to subscribe for the service at areas of availability. Should the service prove unavailable, users are urged to contact their preferred operator in order to raise a request.

Speaking on this occasion, BNET CEO Mohamed Bubashait said: "Launching the 'Fibre Checker' feature reaffirms our strategy to offer integrated services to users benefiting from the fibre-optic network. With



**Establishing a nationwide fibre-optic network is our priority and falls in line with BNET's vision to enable licensed operators in Bahrain to deliver the latest high-speed fibre-optic services to 100% of all businesses and 95% of all households across the Kingdom**

BNET CEO MOHAMED BUBASHAIT

this new checker, everyone can have instant and transparent access to information about the reach of our fibre-optic network. This allows users to make installation decisions instantly," said Bubashait.

Through the 'Fibre Checker' feature, applicants for fibre services will now be able to ensure service availability at their chosen addresses, allowing them to select a package that best suits their needs from any licensed operator in the Kingdom.

## Black people hold just 4pc of Tesla's US leadership role

Reuters

Black employees make up just 4 per cent of Tesla Inc's American leadership roles and 10% of its total workforce in the country, the electric carmaker has disclosed in its first U.S. diversity report.

Women comprise 17pc of the company's US leadership roles - directors and vice presidents - and 21pc of the overall workforce, according to the report. The figures for Asian, Black and Hispanic people combined are

33pc and 60pc.

The carmaker noted, though, that leadership roles were a "very small cohort", or less than 0.4pc, of its workforce.

Elon Musk's Tesla, whose meteoric rise has seen it become the most valuable auto company in the world and worth about \$550 billion, acknowledged the lack of representation.

"We know that our numbers do not represent the deep talent pools of Black and African American talent that exist in the U.S at every level - from



Musk

high-school graduates to professionals," it said in the Diversi-

ty, Equity and Inclusion Impact Report here 2020 published on Friday.

"While women are historically underrepresented in the tech and automotive industries, we recognize we have work to do in this area," it added.

Tesla, based in Palo Alto, California, said it planned to increase representation of all under-represented groups next year and would be recruiting at historically Black colleges and universities.

## AMH joins hands with Soza Health UK for health assessments

TDT | Manama

The American Mission Hospital (AMH) announced partnering up with Soza Health UK and Dhu3, Bahrain, to conduct health assessments in Bahrain.

Under the theme 'Wellness in the workplace' - Protecting your employees' it has launched the SOZA Health 'pilot' assessment programme in which, companies can book appointments to conduct Soza Health assessments for their staff.

Trained AMH staff will visit the companies and conduct these assessments, through the scheduling of AMH and Dhu3, the local partner in Bahrain.

**Less than an hour**

It takes less than an hour for each staff member's Soza as-

**At AMH, we now focus more on wellness initiatives because illness treatments can be avoided with healthy lifestyles. With organizations like Soza Health, which base their testing systems and algorithms on excellent medical research, we can show a health report card to customers so that they can take appropriate corrective steps in nutrition and fitness. And these remedial lifestyles could even result in greater immunization against illnesses**

DR GEORGE CHERYAN, THE CORPORATE CEO OF AMH



assessment, which provides immediate information on where each member stands on the health and wellness spectrum. A customized and confidential report, with suggestions for actionable steps toward better

health, is then provided to each employee at the end of their assessment.

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organizations like Soza Health, which base their testing systems and algorithms on excellent medical research, we can show a health report card to customers so that they can take appropriate corrective steps in nutrition

and fitness. And these remedial lifestyles could even result in greater immunization against illnesses", said Dr George Cheryan, the Corporate CEO of AMH. "With 90 data readings taken in just over 35 minutes, and

loaded into Soza's secure cloud system, each customer would know how his or her body is performing from the health rating they receive", said Tim King, the CEO of SOZA Health UK, during his visit to Bahrain in the last week of October.

"This pilot programme will be run until the end of December 2020, through AMH and Dhu3", said Paul Groom, the director of Dhu3, a Bahrain based company delivering digital and tech solutions to the GCC market.

Key inputs into the Soza Health Assessment Programme have materialized from extensive research at Loughborough University, which is ranked number one on QS World University Rankings, for sports-related subjects, for the third consecutive year.