**Revised guidance**

**Guidance on .eu top level domain name registrations in the event of a ‘no deal’ EU exit
Published X 2019**
These guidelines replace those published on 21 December 2018.

0.1 Introduction

This guidance is for those who have existing domain name registrations under .eu or have~~s~~ an interest in registering a domain name under .eu. This includes UK individuals, companies or organisations.

This guidance has been updated to reflect information published by EURid, the registry for the .eu top level domain, on 24 January 2019.

0.2 What you need to do:

Check eligibility.

* Undertakings, organisations and individuals to read [Article 4(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 733/2002](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32002R0733&from=EN) and check if they are still eligible to hold a .eu Top Level Domain

You may still satisfy the eligibility criteria if you have your registered office, central administration, or principal place of business within the European Economic Area (EEA) or are otherwise established within the EEA, or are a natural person resident in the EEA.

If you do not meet the eligibility criteria after the UK’s exit from the EU on 29 March 2019:

* Please read this guidance document.

In its notice to stakeholders of 28 March 2018, the European Commission confirmed that in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal, the EU regulatory framework for the .eu Top Level Domain will no longer apply to the UK as from the withdrawal date.

The notice explains that undertakings and organisations that are established in the UK but not in the EU and individuals who reside in the UK, will no longer be eligible to register .eu domain names or, if they are .eu registrants, to renew .eu domain names registered before the withdrawal date. The notice is accessible at:

(https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/notice-stakeholders-withdrawal-united-kingdom-and-eu-rules-eu-domain-names)

EURid, the registry for .eu which is responsible for the day-to-day running of the .eu Top Level Domain, published a notice in January 2019 in consultation with the European Commission. This notice provides further clarification for prospective and existing UK registrants of .eu domains:

i. in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal and;

ii. in the event of the UK leaving the EU following a planned transitional period on 31 December 2020 or at a later date.

The notice is accessible at <https://eurid.eu/en/register-a-eu-domain/brexit-notice/>.

UK registrants of .eu domains should take note of the content of both notices.

0.3 Existing UK registrants of .eu domains

In its notice to stakeholders, EURid has clarified that in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal:

* UK registrants will receive an email notification from EURid on 23 March and then again on March 30 2019 informing them that their domain name is not compliant with the .eu regulatory framework.
* EURid will then allow UK registrants to retain their .eu domains until 30 May 2019. This will provide a grace period of two months after the date of the UK’s exit from the EU, following which those domain names will be withdrawn. This will give UK registrants an opportunity to demonstrate their compliance with the .eu regulatory framework (e.g. by notifying EURid that they have a legally established entity in the European Economic Area (EEA), or updating residence).
* These .eu domain names will then be withdrawn and will become inoperable. This means you may not be able to access your .eu websites or email from 30 May 2019.
* EURid will not make these domains available to any other entity for a further ten months (until 30 March 2020). In this time, UK registrants can have their .eu domain reactivated if the eligibility criteria can be demonstrated to be satisfied.
* If by 30 March 2020, the UK registrants cannot demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria, their domains will be revoked and will become available to potential registrants.

If you currently hold a .eu, ~~it is suggested tha~~t you should discuss whether you should consider transferring your registration to another top level domain with your local domain name registrar. Examples of other top level domains include .com, .co.uk, .net or .org.

You may also wish to seek advice from your local domain name registrar on whether the terms of your contractual agreement provide for any recourse in the event of withdrawal or revocation of a .eu registration. You may also want to seek legal advice.

0.4 Future registrations

If you are a UK resident, company or organisation planning to acquire an internet domain registration under .eu, you may no longer be eligible to acquire and register a .eu domain. If the UK exits the EU without a deal, you should check whether you remain eligible after exit on 29 March 2019.

The EURid notice states that from 30 March 2019, 00:00:00 CET, EURid will not allow the registration of any new domain name where the registrant country code is either GB/GI.

0.5 Future changes to the eligibility criteria

In April 2018, the European Commission published a proposal for a new EU regulation concerning the .eu Top Level Domain. The new regulation is expected to be formally adopted in March or April 2019.

The new regulation will expand the current eligibility criteria to allow EEA citizens to register a .eu domain name independently of their place of residence, 6 months after the regulation comes into force. EEA citizens who are resident in the UK may therefore meet the rules once this change takes effect.