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## The EU gives Theresa May another six months

欧盟再给特蕾莎·梅六个月

Mrs May had asked European leaders to put back the Article 50 Brexit deadline—originally March 29th, later extended to April 12th—until the end of June. As when she made a similar request three weeks ago, her wishes were largely ignored. Over a long dinner without her, the leaders of the EU's 27 other countries decided instead to extend the deadline to October 31st, with a review of progress in June.

特蕾莎·梅曾要求欧洲各国领导人将《里斯本条约》第 50 条规定的脱欧期限再度推迟到六月底——这个日期最初定在 3 月 29 日，后来曾被延长至 4 月 12 日。就像三周前她提出类似的要求时一样，她的愿望很大程度上被忽略了。在她缺席的一场漫长的晚宴会议上，欧盟其他 27 个国家的领导人却决定将脱欧的最后期限延长至 10 月 31 日，并在 6 月对脱欧的进展进行评估。

Like many in Westminster, European leaders are sceptical that the recently begun talks

between Mrs May and the Labour opposition leader, Jeremy Corbyn, will yield an agreement. And, after watching two rounds of indicative votes in Parliament, they also doubt there is a clear majority among MPs for any alternative version of Brexit. Yet despite these doubts, they felt it was better to kick the can down the road for another six months than have a full-blown crisis now.

像英国议会中的许多人一样，欧盟领导人怀疑特蕾莎·梅与反对党工党领袖杰里米·科尔宾最近开始的谈判能否达成协议。而且，在观看了两轮议会象征性的投票后，他们也怀疑是否有一个脱欧的替代方案能够得到大多数下议院议员的支持。然而，尽管心存这些疑虑，他们认为，与其让危机现在全面爆发，不如再推迟六个月。

Her vulnerability and her lost authority are obvious to all—as is the plotting among Conservative MPs over the succession. Her own ministers have begun to talk openly about who might make the best candidate. The Tories are likely to do badly in local elections on May 2nd and worse still in the European ones on May 23rd, which will only increase the pressure on the prime minister to quit.

她的脆弱和她失去的权威是显而易见的，就像保守党议员在继承权问题上的阴谋一样，都是有目共睹的。她手下的部长们已经开始公开谈论谁可能成为最佳候选人。保守党很可能在 5 月 2 日的地方选举中表现糟糕，在 5 月 23 日的欧洲议会选举中甚至会表现更糟，这只会增加首相辞职的压力。

The biggest fear of all in Brussels this week may not have been about Mrs May's weakness or even about her successor. It is that even in October Britain will still be unable to make its mind up. And as Donald Tusk, the European Council president, conceded after the meeting, that could mean more late-night summits to discuss further Article 50 extensions. 这周在布鲁塞尔出席峰会的所有欧盟领导人最大的担忧可能与特蕾莎·梅的脆弱无关，甚至与她的继任者无关。问题是，即使到了 10 月份，英国仍无法做出决定。正如欧洲理事会主席唐纳德·图斯克在会后承认，这可能意味着将要举行更多的深夜峰会讨论进一步延长《里斯本条约》中第 50 条的期限。

— Economist: The EU gives Theresa May another six months

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## 重点词汇

**sceptical** /'skeptɪkl/

adj. 怀疑的

英文释义：doubting that something is true or useful

搭配短语：sceptical about

例句：Many experts remain sceptical about gene editing.

## **indicative vote**

象征性投票

相关词汇：indicative (adj. 表明某事的)；indicate (v. 指示；标示)

indicative 英文释义：showing or suggesting something

indicative 例句：His failure to act is indicative of his lack of interest.

**MP**/em 'pi:z/

n. 下议院（或众议院）议员

全称：Member of Parliament

搭配短语：Conservative MPs

搭配短语：Labour MPs

## **kick the can down the road**

推迟处理（某事）

英文释义：to delay dealing with a problem

例句：I don't think we should kick the can down the road and leave it to the next generation.

**full-blown**/fʊl 'bloʊn/

adj. 充分发展的；完全形成的

相关词汇：full (adj. 满的，完整的)

例句：The outbreak has the potential to become a full-blown pandemic.

**vulnerability**/ˌvʌlnərə'bɪləti/

n. 易遭攻击；脆弱

搭配短语：expose someone's vulnerability

相关词汇：vulnerable

vulnerable 搭配短语：be vulnerable to sth.

vulnerable 例句：Children are vulnerable to the flu.

**plot**/plɔ:t/

v. 密谋；策划

英文释义：to make a secret plan to do something wrong, harmful, or illegal

例句：They're plotting to take over the company.

词性拓展：plot (n. 阴谋)

例句：The plot was discovered before it was carried out.

**succession**/sək'seʃn/

n. 继任，接任；继承

搭配短语：the first in succession to the legacy

**make**/meɪk/

v. 成为；变成

同义词：become

例句：This watch would make a great birthday present.

**Tory**/'tɔ:ri/

n. 英国保守党党员

**make one's mind up**

下定决心，打定主意

同义词：make up one's mind

例句：He simply can't make his mind up./He simply can't make up his mind.

**concede**/kən'siːd/

v. (常指不情愿地) 承认

英文释义：to admit, often unwillingly, that something is true

搭配短语：concede sth.

例句：He finally conceded that his parents were right.