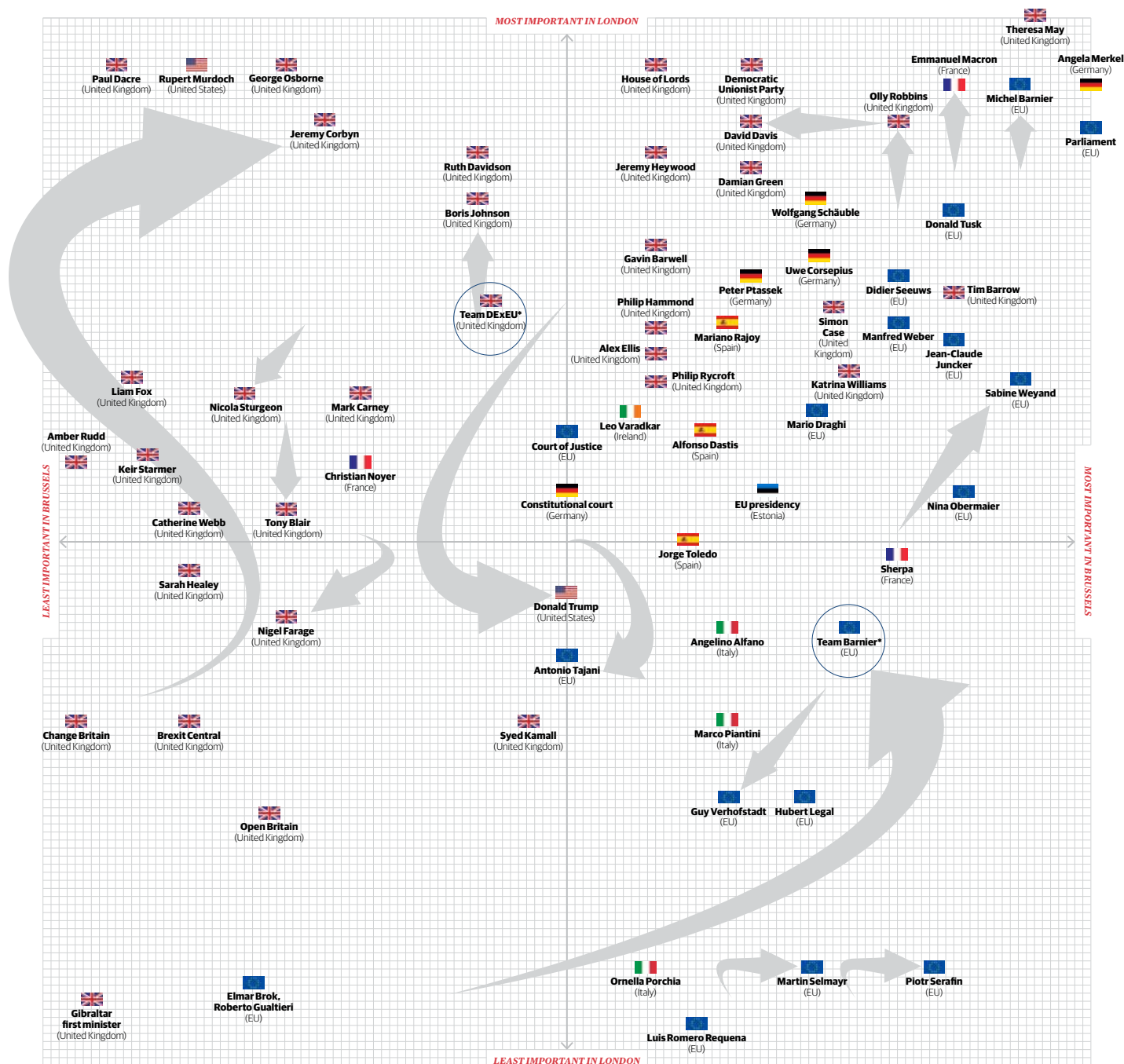


Brexit power matrix

Arrows indicate movement from the initial Brexit power matrix



* — **Team Barnier** is: Stéphanie Riso, Marco Abate, Georg Riekes, Eugenia Dumitriu-Segnana, Stefaan De Ryck and Randolph De Battista (strategy, coordination and communication); François Arbault, Ward Möhlmann, Aurora Mordonu, Tadhg O'Brain, Nicola Pesaresi and Marie Simonsen (internal market, sectors and cross-cutting regulation); Philippe Bertrand and Bence Toth (budget, spending commitments and programs); Antonio Fernández-Martos, Stefan Fuehring, Nina Obermaier (trade and external relations, internal and external security); Barthélemy Piche and Justyna Lasik (policy assistants to negotiators). **Team DEXEU** is: Catherine Webb, Matt Baugh, Chris Jones, Tom Shinner, Joanna Key, Susannah Storey, Antony Phillipson.

With Brexit talks underway it is time to recalibrate POLITICO's Brexit power matrix, which maps the relative influence of nearly 100 figures spread across both sides of the two-year negotiation.

While instability in the U.K. government could lead to major shifts in this ranking, for now both sides are presenting complete and stable teams. The complexity of Brexit demands both parties offer their best and brightest.

We know from Monday's initial talks that Irish border questions have the potential to be particularly fraught. That's one reason why the lead civil servants on these issues — Oliver Robbins for the U.K. and Sabine Weyand for the EU — are ranked higher than in the original matrix. The team at the U.K.'s Department for Exiting the EU is now in place, and has risen along with Team Barnier.

The matrix continues to illustrate that Brussels will be the

center of gravity of negotiations, but that national figures and not merely EU officials have crucial roles to play. French President Emmanuel Macron and Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar make notable debuts.

Martin Schulz, the German chancellor candidate and former European Parliament president who has sunk in Germany's opinion polls, is now off the matrix. Other notable departures are populists Marine Le Pen, Geert Wilders and Steve Bannon, whose political tide has receded for now. Theresa May's former close advisers Nick Timothy and Fiona Hill, who found themselves blamed for part of May's poor election performance, are also gone, as is former European Commissioner and Peter Mandelson, who failed to strike while the iron was hot to make use of the Remain campaign's database to form a new political movement or party.

— Ryan Heath