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Trump warming to EU trade deal, Britain will have to wait

THE United States could strike a free-trade agreement with the European Union after president Donald Trump warmed to a deal with the bloc, the *Times* reported yesterday, quoting sources from both sides of the discussion. Post-Brexit Britain would be pushed behind Europe in the race to secure a U.S. deal after Germany's Angela Merkel persuaded Trump that talks on a deal would be simpler than he thought, the newspaper said.

Britain will not be free to agree new trade deals until it has left the EU in 2019. A source close to the White House was quoted as saying that there had been a "realisation" in the Trump administration that a trade deal with the EU - allowing the tariff-free exchange of goods and services - was more important to U.S. interests than a post-Brexit deal with Britain.

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