



DEBATE PACK

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**Debate initiated by the Petitions
Committee**

Compiled by:
Eleanor Gadd

Subject specialist:
Vaughne Miller

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union: the legal path to withdrawal

Article 50(1) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) is the trigger for an EU withdrawal process of up to two years, possibly longer. Article 50 envisages a negotiated, orderly withdrawal from the EU “taking account of the framework for [the leaving State’s] future relationship with the Union”. The Article states that the EU “shall negotiate and conclude an agreement” with the leaving State. The word “shall” implies an obligation on the EU and the leaving State, although some argue that the obligation is only on the EU, not the leaving State.

Article 50 also provides for a Member State to leave the EU after two years without a withdrawal agreement.

Under Article 50 the EU lays the ‘ground rules’ for withdrawal negotiations. The other EU Member States adopt Guidelines and the European Commission negotiates for the EU in accordance with detailed negotiating directives.

The UK Government has accepted that the Article 50 process is the only ‘legal’ way to leave the EU. There are other ways to withdraw from an international agreement, but as the EU Treaty provides for withdrawal, these are not being considered as options for the UK.

Withdrawing from treaties – provisions in international law

The 1969 [Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties](#) (to which the UK is a party) provides that states can withdraw from a treaty “only as a result of the application of the provisions of the treaty or of the present Convention” (Article 42(2)) and sets out other grounds for terminating a treaty. The Convention applies to treaties adopted within an international organisation ‘without prejudice’ to the organisation’s own rules (Article 5).¹ In other words, Article 50 TEU takes precedence over the Vienna Convention’s general provisions.

In [evidence](#) to the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union on 8 March 2016, Professor Derrick Wyatt looked at alternative routes for withdrawing from international treaties and concluded that in the case of leaving the EU, Article 50 TEU was the only route:

It is not open to all the member states simply to sit down and agree the matter between themselves. The institutions are involved and the national parliaments are involved. I am certainly

not disagreeing with the proposition that because there is a specific provision it excludes others, but quite apart from that, any alternative under public international law simply does not fly. In my view, Article 50 is the only route.

Just repeal domestic legislation and leave ...

It has been suggested that the UK could leave the EU simply and quickly by repealing the *European Communities Act 1972* (ECA), thereby unilaterally removing its obligation to implement EU law.² Although technically, repealing the ECA would be all that is needed for EU law no longer to apply in the UK, simply repealing the ECA would not by itself remove the UK's obligations under EU or international law. It would also pose problems of a practical as well as constitutional and legal nature and make it more difficult for the UK to negotiate preferential terms for a trade agreement with the EU after leaving.

Simply repealing the ECA would also not bring an end to the domestic incorporation of EU law in the devolved nations.

'Crashing' out with no deal

Leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement would be the 'cliff edge' Brexit scenario much discussed in 2017. The Government initially spoke of 'no deal' being better than a 'bad deal', but later concluded that a negotiated exit deal with a transition period would be preferable. Of course, it is still possible that in spite of the negotiations, there will be no agreement; or Parliament might vote against the final agreement, or fail to pass the proposed EU Withdrawal and Implementation Bill which would incorporate the withdrawal agreement into UK law. Any of these outcomes could mean leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement or transition provisions.

The Government has not published an evaluation of the impact or implications of leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, but most experts believe that it would be highly disadvantageous for the UK both politically and economically.

² See, e.g. Douglas Carswell's Private Members' Bill, the [European Communities Act 1972 \(Repeal\) Bill 2012-13](#), and Philip Hollobone's similar [European Communities Act 1972 \(Repeal\) Bill 2013-14](#), and Nigel Lawson, [Telegraph, 17 February 2016](#).

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of news and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

No-deal Brexit 'could cost Scotland's economy £12.7bn a year', says Scottish government report

Independent
Ashley Cowburn
15 January 2018

Brexit: UK could lose half a million jobs with no deal, says Sadiq Khan

Guardian
Peter Walker
11 January 2018

Brussels warns UK companies of shut-out in event of no-deal Brexit

Financial Times
Alex Barker, Sarah Gordon and Jim Pickard
10 January 2018

Hammond on EU: Stop talking about 'punishing' UK over Brexit

BBC News
Kamal Ahmed
10 January 2018

For the UK's post-Brexit economy, no deal is the worst deal

Euractiv
Charles Ries and Marco Hafner
9 January 2018

Brexit: EU 'surprised' at UK no-deal planning concerns

BBC News
9 January 2018

Cabinet reshuffle: Theresa May warned not to tilt to hard Brexiteers by appointing 'no deal' minister

Independent
Rob Merrick
8 January 2018

Tory rebels have made 'no deal' Brexit more likely, EU leaders warn

Daily Telegraph
James Crisp, Gordon Rayner and Steven Swinford
15 December 2017

'No-deal' Brexit would be worst outcome possible for UK, Lords warn

Dan Roberts
Guardian
17 December 2017

Brexit: Tory MPs urge Theresa May to ignore 'highly irresponsible' colleagues pushing for no deal; Among the signatories to the letter are former cabinet ministers Nicky Morgan, Dominic Grieve and Stephen Crabb

Independent
Arj Singh
6 December 2017

UK banks strong enough to cope with 'disorderly' Brexit, Bank of England says

SkyNews.com
John-Paul Ford Rojas
28 November

Budget 2017: Philip Hammond announces extra £3bn for Brexit preparations over the next two years

Independent
Lizzy Buchan
22 November 2017

EU preparing for no deal Brexit, says Michel Barnier's adviser

26 October 2017
BBC News

5 reasons why no deal could mean no Brexit

Politico
Tom Mctague
22 October 2017

No deal with the EU? Sounds like a good deal to me

Spectator
Liam Halligan
21 October 2017

Treasury Committee launches inquiry into UK's readiness for a 'no deal' Brexit

Daily Telegraph
Lucy Burton
20 October 2017

Britain's economy will continue to grow even if it leaves the EU without a deal, OECD admits

Daily Telegraph
Steven Swinford
17 October 2017

Brexit: What would 'no deal' look like?

BBC News
Chris Morris
14 October 2017

Unimaginable for UK to leave EU without a deal, says IMF chief

Guardian
Larry Elliott
12 October 2017

Brexit chaos as Philip Hammond refuses to budget for 'no deal' days after Theresa May announces plans

Daily Telegraph
Rob Merrick
11 October 2017

No-deal on Brexit will mean more red tape, white paper reveals

Guardian
Dan Roberts
9 October 2017

Leaving EU without deal would be no disaster, says thinktank

Guardian
Richard Partington
18 August 2017

May urged to assess impact of leaving EU without deal

Financial Times
George Parker
4 April 2017

3. Press Releases

PM statement on EU negotiations: 11 December 2017

Department for Exiting the European Union

11 December 2017

With permission Mr Speaker, I would like to update the House on the negotiations for our departure from the European Union.

On Friday morning the government and the European Commission published a [Joint Report on progress during the first phase](#).

On the basis of this report – and following the discussions I held throughout last week – President Juncker is recommending to the European Council that sufficient progress has now been made to move to the next stage and begin talks on the future relationship between the UK and the EU. And President Tusk has responded positively by proposing guidelines for the next phase of the negotiations.

I want to pay tribute to my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union and our whole negotiating team for their calm and professional approach to these negotiations. We have argued robustly and clearly for the outcomes we seek. A fair and reciprocal deal that will guarantee the rights of more than three million EU citizens living in the UK and a million UK nationals living in the EU - so they can carry on living their lives as before. A fair settlement of the accounts, meeting our rights and obligations as a departing member state - in the spirit of our future partnership. And a commitment to maintain the Common Travel Area with Ireland; to uphold the Belfast Agreement in full; and to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland while upholding the constitutional and economic integrity of the whole United Kingdom. Let me set out for the House the agreements we have now reached in each of these areas.

Citizen's rights

Mr Speaker, more than 3 million EU citizens make an extraordinary contribution to every part of our economy, our society, our culture and our national life. And I know that EU Member States similarly value the contribution of the 1 million UK nationals living in their communities. So from the outset I have made protecting citizens' rights my first priority. But for these rights to be truly reciprocal, they need to be interpreted consistently in both the UK and the EU. The European Union started by wanting all EU citizens' rights to be preserved in the UK by a prolongation of EU law. They said these rights should not require any UK process to implement them. And that they should be supervised by the Commission and enforced by the European Court of Justice. Those proposals were not acceptable.

Mr Speaker, when we leave the European Union our laws will be made and enforced here in Britain not in Luxembourg. So the EU has accepted that we will incorporate the Withdrawal Agreement into UK law. And citizens' rights will then be enforced by our courts - where appropriate, paying due regard to relevant ECJ case law, just as they already decide other matters with reference to international law when it's relevant. In the interests of consistent interpretation of citizens' rights, we have

agreed that where existing law is not clear, our courts – and only our courts – will be able to choose to ask the ECJ for an interpretation prior to reaching their own decision. But this will be a very narrow remit and a very small number of cases. And unlike now, they will not be obliged to do so. This will be voluntary. The case itself will always be determined by the UK courts, not the ECJ. And there will also be a sunset clause so, after eight years, even this voluntary mechanism will end.

Mr Speaker, the end point of this process is very clear. EU Citizens living in the UK will have their rights enshrined in UK law and enforced by British courts.

And UK citizens living in the EU will also have their rights protected. The jurisdiction of the ECJ in the UK is coming to an end. We are taking control our own laws once again. And that is exactly how it should be.

Financial settlement

Let me turn to the financial settlement. Following some tough conversations - we have agreed the scope of our commitments and the principles for their valuation. We will continue to pay our net contributions under the current EU Budget plan. During this time our proposed implementation period will see us continuing to trade on current terms. And we will pay our fair share of the outstanding commitments and liabilities to which we committed during our membership.

However, this is conditional upon a number of principles we have negotiated over how we will ultimately arrive at a fair valuation of these commitments, which will bring the actual financial settlement down by a substantial amount. This part of the report we agreed on Friday, like the rest of it, is also subject to the general reservation that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. This means we want to see the whole deal now coming together, including the terms of our future deep and special partnership, as I said in Florence.

Mr Speaker, these are the actions of a responsible nation honouring the commitments that it has made to its allies having gone through those commitments line by line as we said we would. It is a fair settlement for the British taxpayer who will soon see significant savings compared with remaining in the European Union. It means we will be able to use that money to invest in our priorities at home – such as housing, schools and the NHS.

And it means the days of paying vast sums to the European Union every year are coming to an end.

Northern Ireland

Mr Speaker, our departure from the European Union presents a significant and unique challenge for Northern Ireland and Ireland. So it is absolutely right that the Joint Report makes clear we will uphold the Belfast Agreement in full. This Agreement, including its subsequent implementation agreements and arrangements, has been critical to the progress made in Northern Ireland over recent decades.

Our commitments to those agreements, the principles that underpin them, the institutions they establish and the rights and opportunities they guarantee, remain steadfast.

Mr Speaker, the Joint Report reaffirms our guarantee that there will be no hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland. So much of daily life in Northern Ireland depends on being able to cross the border freely, so it is right that we ensure no new barriers are put in place. We have also been absolutely clear that nothing in this process will alter our determination to uphold the constitutional and economic integrity of the whole United Kingdom. And it was right that we took time last week to strengthen and clarify the Joint Report in this regard, listening to unionists across the country, including the DUP.

On Friday I reinforced this further by making [six principled commitments to Northern Ireland](#).

First, we will always uphold and support Northern Ireland's status as an integral part of the United Kingdom, consistent with the principle of consent. As our Northern Ireland manifesto at the last election made clear, the government I lead will never be neutral when it comes to expressing our support for the Union.

Second, we will fully protect and maintain Northern Ireland's position within the single market of the United Kingdom. This is by far the most important market for Northern Ireland's goods and services and Northern Ireland will continue to have full and unfettered access to it.

Third, there will be no new borders within the United Kingdom. In addition to no hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland, we will maintain the Common Travel Area throughout these islands.

Fourth, the whole of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, will leave the EU customs union and the EU single market. Nothing in the agreement I have reached alters that fundamental fact.

Fifth, we will uphold the commitments and safeguards set out in the Belfast Agreement regarding North-South Co-operation. This will continue to require cross-community support.

And sixth, the whole of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, will no longer be subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice.

Mr Speaker, as the Joint Report makes clear, our intention is to deliver against these commitments through the new, deep and special partnership that we are going to build with the European Union.

Should this not prove possible, we have also been clear that we will seek specific solutions to address the unique circumstances of the island of Ireland. And because we recognise the concerns felt by either side of the border and we want to guarantee that we will honour the commitments we have made, we have also agreed one further fall back option of last resort.

So if we cannot find specific solutions then the UK will maintain full alignment with those rules of the Internal Market and the Customs Union which, now or in the future, support North-South co-operation, economic co-operation across the island of Ireland and the protection of the Belfast Agreement. The Joint Report clearly sets out that cross community safeguards and consent are required from the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly for distinct arrangements in this scenario. And that in all circumstances Northern Irish businesses must continue to have full and unfettered access to the markets in the rest of the United Kingdom on which they rely.

So, Mr Speaker, there can be no question about our commitment to avoiding barriers both North-South and East-West. We will continue to work with all Northern Irish parties and the Irish government in the second phase of the talks – and continue to encourage the re-establishment of the Northern Ireland Executive so that Northern Ireland's voice is fully heard throughout this process.

Implementation period

Finally, Mr Speaker, in my Florence speech I proposed an implementation period to give governments, businesses and families the time they need to implement the changes required for our future partnership. The precise terms of this period will be for discussion in the next phase of negotiations. And I very much welcome President Tusk's recommendation that talks on the implementation period should start immediately and that it should be agreed as soon as possible.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, this is not about a hard or a soft Brexit.

The arrangements we have agreed to reach the second phase of the talks are entirely consistent with the principles and objectives that I set out in my speeches in Florence and at Lancaster House. I know that some doubted we would reach this stage. The process ahead will not be easy. The progress so far has required give and take for the UK and the EU to move forwards together. And that is what we have done. Of course, nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. But there is, I believe, a new sense of optimism now in the talks and I fully hope and expect that we will confirm the arrangements I have set out today in the European Council later this week.

This is good news for people who voted Leave, who were worried we were so bogged down in tortuous negotiations it was never going to happen. And it is good news for people who voted Remain, who were worried we were going to crash out without a deal. We are going to leave but we are going to do so in a smooth and orderly way, securing a new deep and special partnership with our friends while taking back control of our borders, money and laws once again. That is my mission. That is this government's mission.

And on Friday we took a big step towards achieving it. And I commend this Statement to the House

David Davis' closing remarks after EU exit negotiations on 9-10 November

Department for Exiting the European Union 10 November 2017

Last month I welcomed Michel's recognition of the new dynamic in the talks created by the Prime Minister's Florence speech.

That speech set out a clear and pragmatic approach to securing an agreement that works for both the United Kingdom and the European Union. One that heralds a new era of cooperation and partnership between us. During the October discussions we isolated the key remaining issues on Citizens' Rights, Northern Ireland, and the Financial Settlement as Michel has just told you. So this week our focus has been on finding solutions to those issues. It was, of course, inevitable that our discussions would narrow to a few outstanding - albeit important - issues. So we have continued to work through these remaining issues - consolidating the progress we've made since June and exploring options for reaching agreement. And now is the time for both sides to move together to seek solutions.

This is a serious business. If we are to find a way forward it will require flexibility and pragmatism from both sides as I think Michel also stressed. We have been clear with the EU that we are willing to engage in discussions in a flexible and constructive way to reach the progress needed. I will now address each issue in turn.

Northern Ireland

On Northern Ireland we have continued to have good, technical discussions. We have drafted joint principles on the continuation of the Common Travel Area and associated rights. We have continued to explore how best we preserve North-South cooperation. And we are drafting joint principles and commitments which will guide the solutions drawn up in the second phase.

We have also had frank discussions about some of the big challenges around the border. We remain firmly committed to avoiding any physical infrastructure and we have been clear about that this week. These discussions will of course continue in the run-up to the December Council but let's be under no illusion.

We will only be able to conclude them finally in the context of the future relationship. We respect the European Union desire to protect the legal order of the single market and Customs Union. But that cannot come at cost to the constitutional and economic integrity of the United Kingdom. As I have said before, we recognise the need for specific solutions for the unique circumstances of Northern Ireland. But let me be clear. This cannot amount to creating a new border inside our United Kingdom. Now in this process, we are resolutely committed to upholding the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, in all its parts.

We need to approach the challenging issues that arise as part of this process in a spirit of pragmatism, creativity and with a high degree of

political sensitivity. We owe it to the people of Northern Ireland and of Ireland to do so.

Citizens' Rights

We have continued to make progress on Citizen's Rights. We are now seeking political solutions to the last outstanding issues on both sides. Earlier this week as Michel said, we published a detailed note setting out our new administrative procedures for European Union citizens seeking settled status in the UK.

This delivers on a commitment I made in the last round of negotiations and discussed in the press conference too. We listened carefully to the concerns raised about this process and we've responded. As our paper sets out, the new procedures will be as streamlined and straight-forward as possible and will be based on simple, transparent criteria laid out in the Withdrawal Agreement.

This week, we have discussed options for resolving issues ranging from family reunification to the export of benefits. For example, we have been clear that we are willing to consider what further reassurance we can give to existing families - even if they are not currently living together in the UK. There are a few areas where our citizens need to see further progress and movement from the European Union. On the mutual recognition of professional qualifications, the European Union's approach remains more narrow than we would like.

We believe it is only right that people holding qualifications or in the process of acquiring them should be allowed to continue or begin their careers as they do now. We want to protect their livelihoods in line with our broader approach that people should be able to continue living their lives as they do now.

On voting rights, we are disappointed that the EU has been unwilling so far to include this in the scope of the Withdrawal Agreement. As citizens may lose a right which they currently enjoy.

However, if it does fall out of scope, we will discuss this issue bilaterally with Member States. Finally, this week we have sought to give further clarity on our commitment to incorporate the agreement on Citizen's Rights into UK law. This will ensure that EU citizens in the UK can directly enforce their rights in UK courts - providing certainty and clarity in the long term. We have made clear that, over time, our courts can take account of the rulings of the European Court of Justice in this area, to help ensure consistent interpretation. But let me be clear, while we share the same aims, it remains a key priority for the United Kingdom, as we leave the European Union, to preserve the sovereignty of its courts.

Financial Settlement

On the financial settlement we have made substantial technical progress across all the issues that will need to be addressed. The Prime Minister was clear in her Florence speech. But let me reiterate once again. Our European Partners will not need to pay more or receive less over the remainder of the current budget plan as a result of our decision to leave. The UK will honour the commitments we have made during the

period of our membership. We are making clear progress in building a common technical understanding on every item.

Conclusion

But as I outlined at the start - this week has enabled us to consolidate the progress of earlier negotiating rounds and to draw out those areas where further political and technical discussion is required.

This is now about moving into the political discussions that will enable both of us to move forward together. We must now look ahead to moving our discussions onto our future relationship. For this to happen, both parties need to build confidence in both the process and indeed in the shared outcome. And we remain ready and willing to engage as often and as quickly as needed to secure this outcome over the weeks remaining ahead of the December European Council.

The United Kingdom will continue to engage and negotiate constructively as we have done since the start. But we need to see flexibility, imagination and willingness to make progress on both sides if these negotiations are to succeed and we are able to realise our new deep and special partnership.

4. PQs

Trade Agreements

11 Jan 2018 | 118627

Asked by: Bill Esterson

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether he has plans to introduce legislative proposals for a free trade agreement between the UK and (a) the EU and (b) countries outside the EU; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Steve Baker | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

As we move into the second phase of negotiations we are confident of agreeing a bold and ambitious Free Trade Agreement with the EU that is of greater scope than any such existing agreement. The Government will introduce further legislation where it is needed to implement the terms of the future relationship into UK law.

Leaving the EU also offers us an opportunity to forge a new role for ourselves in the world: to negotiate our own trade agreements and to be a positive and powerful force for free trade. However, we would not bring into effect any new arrangements with third countries which were not consistent with the terms of our agreement with the EU.

We have been considering what we will need to put in place to ensure that the process of negotiating and implementing new trade deals is transparent, efficient and effective. We want to make provision for a legislative framework that will enable future trade agreements with partner countries to move quickly from signing to implementation and then to ratification, whilst respecting due process in Parliament.

Brexit

09 Jan 2018 | 120198

Asked by: Bill Esterson

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of expertise in respect of competition policy in officials engaged in negotiating the deal between the UK and the EU.

Answering member: Robin Walker | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union All departments are equipping themselves with the resources they need to get the best deal for the UK. The Department for Exiting the European Union is a fast-paced, dynamic Department at the heart of Whitehall leading on one of the biggest issues for this Government. It attracts the brightest and the best from across the Civil Service.

We regularly review headcount to ensure we are appropriately staffed to deal with all aspects of our preparations for leaving the EU. The Department for Exiting the European Union now has over 600 staff based in the UK plus the expertise of over 120 officials in Brussels.

DExEU staff range from policy advisors to lawyers and economists, and have come from a range of backgrounds with experience in vital fields relevant to our exit from the EU, including competition policy.

Brexit

03 Jan 2018 | HL4384

Asked by: Baroness Suttie

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the context of the negotiations on leaving the EU, on what date they expect the negotiations dealing with issues relating to the UK's future relations with the EU on matters relating to (1) the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and (2) the Common Security and Defence Policy, to begin.

Answering member: Lord Callanan | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

On 15 December the European Council formally confirmed that sufficient progress had been made to move onto the second phase of negotiations.

The Council has also confirmed that discussions will now begin on trade and our future security partnership, including foreign and defence policy cooperation.

As the Prime Minister has stated, the UK is unconditionally committed to maintaining Europe's security. The UK seeks to develop a deep and special security partnership with the EU that goes beyond any existing third country arrangements, and which builds on the breadth and depth of our shared interests and values.

Leaving the EU: Free Trade Agreement

20 Dec 2017 |633 cc1049-1050

Asked by: Kerry McCarthy

If his Department will provide the evidential basis that a free trade deal similar to the one that Canada negotiated with the EU will maintain the border on the island of Ireland under its current terms after the UK leaves the EU.

Answered by: James Brokenshire | Department: Northern Ireland

As the Prime Minister has made clear, we are seeking a bold and ambitious free trade agreement that is of greater scope and ambition than any existing agreement. We are determined to reach a deal that works for the people of Northern Ireland and the UK as a whole.

Brexit

20 Dec 2017 | HL3908

Asked by: Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any circumstances in which they would consider withdrawing from the EU Treaties before 29 March 2019.

Answering member: Lord Callanan | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

The Government will not speculate on hypothetical scenarios. On 29 March 2017, the Prime Minister triggered Article 50, which provides up to two years to ensure an orderly exit. We are using this time to secure an ambitious, wide ranging deal that benefits both the UK and Europe, spanning a future economic partnership, and future security partnership. We are delivering on the result of the referendum and the UK will leave the EU in March 2019.

Agriculture: Trade Agreements

18 Dec 2017 | 118411

Asked by: Anna McMorris

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what assessment his Department has made of the effect on agricultural trade with the EU of the UK not having a trade agreement with the EU when the UK leaves the EU.

Answering member: Robin Walker | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union As part of our work preparing to make a success of our departure from the European Union, we are carrying out a broad range of sectoral analysis, as you would expect a responsible Government to do. Our sector report on Agriculture covers: a detailed description of the sector; the current EU regulatory regime and a summary of sector views. The report has been made available for members of both Houses to read in a secure reading room.

The Government's Agriculture Bill will enable us to support a thriving and self-reliant farming sector that is more competitive, productive and profitable; to protect our precious natural environment for future generations; and to deliver on the manifesto commitment to provide stability for farmers as we exit the EU.

We are committed to getting the best possible deal for the United Kingdom - a deal that works for all sectors of the UK economy. We believe that a future partnership deal is in the interests of both sides, so we approach these negotiations anticipating success. We do not want or expect an outcome where no trade agreement is agreed.

UK Trade with EU**15 Dec 2017 | 118315****Asked by: Jo Platt**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department has prepared a plan to assist small businesses in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal on the future trading relationship.

Answering member: Margot James | Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Although the future trading relationship with the EU is subject to negotiations, we are committed to minimising disruption and giving as much certainty as possible. That's why the Government is pursuing a time-limited implementation period to allow business the time they need to adapt to new arrangements.

Government will be working alongside trade associations and others to communicate to businesses the changes in the UK's trading relationship with the EU, ensuring that they are ready for Day One of exit regardless of the outcome of the negotiations.

Brexit**14 Dec 2017 | 902948****Asked by: Eddie Hughes**

Whether his Department is preparing contingency plans for use across Government in the event of there being no deal on the UK leaving the EU.

Answering member: Steve Baker | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union We continue to focus on getting a good outcome that works for the UK and for those in the EU. As we move to the next phase of talks, we do so with a renewed sense of optimism about the deal that can be achieved.

While we do not want or expect a 'no deal' outcome, as a responsible Government we will continue to prepare for a range of potential outcomes.

Exports: Wales**13 Dec 2017 | 118410****Asked by: Anna McMorris**

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what assessment his Department has made of the effect on Welsh exports to the EU of the UK not having a trade agreement with the EU when the UK leaves the EU.

Answering member: Robin Walker | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union As part of our work preparing to make a success of our departure from the European Union, we are carrying out a broad range of sectoral analysis as you would expect a responsible

Government to do. This includes analysis of sectors across the whole of the UK.

The Government is engaging extensively with the Welsh Government, along with Welsh organisations and institutions and in order to secure a deal that works in the interests of not just Wales, but the whole of the United Kingdom. We look forward to further engagement with all the Devolved Administrations, including on any additional analysis they have produced.

As we move into the second phase of negotiations we are confident of agreeing a bold and ambitious Free Trade Agreement with the EU. Securing a future partnership between the UK and EU is in the interests of both sides, so we approach these negotiations anticipating success. We do not want or expect an outcome where no trade agreement is agreed.

Brexit

27 Nov 2017 | 115204

Asked by: Stephen Doughty

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will publish his assessment of how much of the (a) £100 million spent to date and (b) additional £3 billion of funding for preparations for the UK leaving the EU announced in Autumn Budget 2017 is required for contingencies in the event of (i) no deal being reached and (ii) a deal being reached.

Answering member: Elizabeth Truss | Department: HM Treasury

HMG is preparing for a range of scenarios, as is the responsible thing to do. At Autumn Statement 2016, HMT announced £412m of additional funding over the parliament for DExEU, DIT and the FCO to allow essential preparations to begin. HMT has also allocated over £250m of additional funding to departments in 17/18.

On top of this, £3bn of additional funding was announced by the Chancellor at the Autumn Budget - £1.5 billion of additional funding in each of 2018-19 and 2019-20. The Treasury will be working with departments ahead of allocating additional funding to ensure plans are designed to flexibly handle multiple scenarios wherever possible.

Brexit

22 Nov 2017 | 110256

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what the cost to the public purse has been of the analyses undertaken to assess the potential effect on different sectors of the UK economy in the event that no deal is reached in negotiations for the UK to leave the EU.

Answering member: Robin Walker | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

We are confident of securing a deal which is in the interests of both the UK as a whole and our European partners. However, a responsible Government should prepare for all

potential outcomes, and that is exactly what we are doing across the whole of Government.

As part of our work preparing to make a success of our departure from the European Union, we are carrying out a wide range of analysis. Officials in DExEU and other Departments across Whitehall continue to work to provide the most up to date evidence to inform our negotiations with the EU.

This work is undertaken as business as usual and so is paid for out of the Department's budget. The Department does not hold information centrally concerning other Department's expenditure.

Engagements

15 Nov 2017 | 631 c365

Asked by: Charlie Elphicke

Businesses on the Dover frontline are now preparing to leave the EU. Will the Government consider earmarking at least £1 billion in the upcoming Budget to ensure that we are ready on day one—deal or no deal—and prepared for every eventuality?

Answered by: The Prime Minister | Department: Prime Minister

I thank my hon. Friend for his question. Obviously, in his constituency the issue of preparations for leaving the EU is very tightly felt—there is a great focus on it—and I appreciate why that is the case. We have already made funds available for the preparations and necessary work across Government in advance of Brexit, and of course we will look at what further work is necessary to ensure that we are ready. We hope to get a good deal, and are working to get one, but either way there will need to be changes, from a Government point of view, and we are ensuring that the resources are there to do that.

Consumers

10 Nov 2017 | 111336

Asked by: Patricia Gibson

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential effect on consumer purchasing power of the UK leaving the EU without having agreed a trade deal with the EU.

Answering member: Margot James | Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The Government has undertaken a significant amount of work to assess the economic and fiscal implications of leaving the EU as part of continued rigorous and extensive analytical work on a range of scenarios.

My Rt hon Friend the Prime Minister has made clear that the UK aims to agree an ambitious and comprehensive economic partnership with the EU that is of far greater scope and ambition than any existing free trade

agreement.

Department of Health: Brexit

08 Nov 2017 | 111211

Asked by: Jacob Rees-Mogg

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's preparations for the UK leaving the EU with (a) an agreement on future partnership and (b) no agreement with the EU; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Philip Dunne | Department: Department of Health

The Government is committed to ensuring leaving the European Union is a success for the health and social care sector as well as the United Kingdom as a whole.

All relevant policy teams within the Department are involved with this work in relation to the health and social sector, including assessing the implications of the UK leaving the EU on their area, to help ensure the best outcome for the sector.

Every Government department, including the Department of Health, will be proceeding in the only responsible way possible: planning to deliver a smooth exit under any scenario. This includes preparing the UK for the future economic partnership we hope to negotiate with the EU as well as the very unlikely scenario in which no mutually satisfactory agreement can be reached and the UK exits without a deal.

Revenue and Customs: Brexit

07 Nov 2017 | 110751

Asked by: Michael Tomlinson

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much has been allocated to HM Revenue and Customs in percentage and cash terms on preparation for no deal being reached in negotiations on the UK leaving the EU.

Answering member: Elizabeth Truss | Department: HM Treasury

HM Treasury is working with all departments to understand the funding requirements to prepare for Brexit effectively. The additional funding HMRC has received for 2017-18 will be set out at Supplementary Estimates and funding for future years will be confirmed at a later date.

Public Finance

07 Nov 2017 | 110254

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether his Department has made an assessment of whether the UK leaving the EU without a deal will have an effect on the level of available public finance; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Elizabeth Truss | Department: HM Treasury

The Government has undertaken a significant amount of work to assess the impact of leaving the EU as part of continued rigorous and extensive analytical work on a range of scenarios.

The Prime Minister has made clear that the UK aims to agree an ambitious and comprehensive economic partnership with the EU.

Brexit**02 Nov 2017 | 901553****Asked by: Eddie Hughes**

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether his Department is helping to prepare contingency plans across Government in the event of a no deal outcome from the negotiations on the UK leaving the EU.

Answering member: Steve Baker | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union The Government is fully committed to negotiating a deep and special partnership with the European Union and negotiations are progressing well. However, as a responsible government, we are ensuring plans are in place for a range of outcomes, including the unlikely scenario where the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

The Department for Exiting the European Union is working alongside each Government department to build a clear understanding of how withdrawing from the EU will affect its existing policies and services. Plans are well developed and have been designed to provide the flexibility to respond to a number of potential outcomes.

Brexit**01 Nov 2017 | HL2285****Asked by: Lord Myners**

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) what calculations they have made to substantiate the view, expressed by the Secretary of State for International Trade on BBC News on 17 October, that a negotiated Brexit deal would allow for slightly more economic growth than departure from the EU without such a deal, and (2) as a result of such calculations, what assessment they have made of the growth differential between a negotiated Brexit and leaving the EU without such a deal.

Answering member: Lord Bates | Department: HM Treasury

The Government has undertaken a significant amount of work to assess the economic impacts of leaving the EU. This is part of our continued programme of rigorous and extensive analytical work on a range of scenarios on a sector by sector basis.

It would not be appropriate to publish analysis that would risk damaging our negotiating position. In any negotiation, information on potential economic considerations is very important to the negotiating capital and negotiating position of all parties. The Government has

committed to keep Parliament informed provided that doing so would not risk damaging our negotiating position.

UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement: European Parliament

02 Nov 2017 | 630 c956

Asked by: Philip Hollobone

Given that crazed Europhile MEPs such as Guy Verhofstadt are seeking to punish the United Kingdom for daring to vote to leave the European Union, and given that these same people are under the deluded impression that no deal would actually be worse for the UK than a bad deal, it seems likely that the European Parliament will seek to veto any such agreement. Should we not therefore redouble our efforts to prepare for a no-deal situation?

Answered by: David Davis | Department: Exiting the European Union

The last time I used the phrase "Get thee behind me, Satan" in answer to a question about Guy Verhofstadt, he thought that I was calling him Satan, so I will stay off that one. Of course the European Parliament is very enthused about the institutions of the European Union, but when it comes to this vote, the deal that we have agreed with the European Union will be clear, and MEPs will have to reflect on their responsibilities to their constituents in their own countries. What he and I have always agreed is that the best outcome for everybody is a free trade arrangement that will help not just us but Holland, France, Germany and all the other 27 member states.

Trade Agreements

24 Oct 2017 | 108713

Asked by: Caroline Lucas

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, pursuant to the oral contribution of 17 October 2017, Official Report, column 739, whether the Government's undertaking that there will be a parliamentary vote on any withdrawal deal negotiated with the EU27 encompasses there being such a vote on how to proceed in the event that no deal is achieved.

Answering member: Steve Baker | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

The Prime Minister has been consistently clear that Parliament will be fully involved in helping to shape the UK's future as we leave the European Union, whatever the outcome.

The Government has committed to both Houses of Parliament having a vote on the final agreement before it is concluded. We are focused on getting a good outcome and a deal that Parliament will want to support.

The Government is clear, however, that the British people voted to leave the EU and we will deliver on their instruction.

Leaving the EU: Civil Aviation**19 Oct 2017 | 629 c972****Asked by: Karl Turner**

The Secretary of State may be in denial, but the Chancellor has finally fessed up to the fact that, if there is no Brexit deal, it is conceivable that flights between the UK and the EU might be grounded. Is it not time for the Government to get their finger out and give the reassurances that the aviation sector so badly needs?

Answered by: Chris Grayling | Department: Transport

I am surprised that the hon. Gentleman, an experienced lawyer, did not read everything the Chancellor said. The Chancellor said that that was not going to happen and that, therefore, he will not spend a lot of money preparing for it. The actual reality is that we are doing a lot of preparatory work for all eventualities but, of course, the reason the Chancellor said what he said is that, as he says, that is not going to happen.

Topical Questions**12 Oct 2017 | 629 cc432-3****Asked by: Sir Edward Leigh**

The Government's approach, based on the Florence speech, is entirely sensible and pragmatic. Of course we want a free trade deal, but it takes two to tango. May I press the Secretary of State further on earlier questions relating to what happens if there is no deal and we leave the single market at the end of March 2019? Is the Treasury giving him all the resources he needs to prepare for no deal—for schedules and making deals with other countries? That is absolutely vital.

Answered by: Liam Fox | Department: International Trade

I do not really wish to trumpet this to other Departments, but our Department has a unique agreement with the Treasury: we are able to increase staffing levels when that relates to Brexit issues, and we will continue to do so. As I said, we want to ensure that we get a good deal. There is no difference between the Chancellor and me. The Chancellor says that we need to spend money only as necessary. I think that that is correct, but we also need to ensure that we spend money on all areas where contingency plans are necessary.

Brexit**19 Sep 2017 | HL1586****Asked by: Lord Stoddart of Swindon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have made for the UK to leave the EU in March 2019 in the event that the European Council or the European Parliament does not ratify any agreement reached between the UK and the European Commission concerning the UK's departure from the EU.

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Department: Department for Exiting the European Union

A future partnership between the UK and EU is in the interests of both sides, and we have entered into the negotiations anticipating success. However, since the result of the referendum, we have taken the responsible approach to work at pace to build a detailed understanding of how withdrawing from the EU will affect policies and services for a range of outcomes, including the unlikely scenario in which no mutually satisfactory agreement can be reached.

Given the long lead-in times to implement some of our contingency measures, we need to begin now for them to remain viable. But implementing the first stages of contingency plans now should not be interpreted as an expectation that talks with the EU will not be successful, and we are clear that securing a good deal for both sides is by far and away the highest probability, but we have a duty to plan for the alternative. These are the actions of a responsible government determined to ensure a smooth exit under any eventuality.

Leaving without a Deal

07 Sep 2017 | 628 c292

Asked by: Sir Desmond Swayne

I hope that the Minister still believes that no deal is better than a bad deal.

Answered by: Steve Baker | Department: Exiting the European Union

I agree with my right hon. Friend and refer him to what the Chancellor famously said on “Marr”: what we cannot do is accept some kind of punishment deal. An environment in which the UK trades with the world while having control of our own tariffs, taxes and domestic regulation is one of which we should not be afraid.

Leaving without a Deal

07 Sep 2017 | 628 c292

Asked by: Hannah Bardell

The CBI president, Paul Drechsler, has said that the implications of falling back on to World Trade Organisation rules and a no-deal scenario would open up a “Pandora’s box of economic consequences” and that the UK could face tariffs on 90% of its EU exports by value. Will the Minister reassure business, therefore, that the UK will not walk away from these negotiations with no deal?

Answered by: Steve Baker | Department: Exiting the European Union

It is our intention to do what is in all our interests—the mutual interest of all the nations of the EU and the UK—which is to secure a deep and special partnership, including a broad and deep free trade agreement, and I look forward to doing so. I think, however, that the WTO is one of the great achievements of liberalism against the forces of economic nationalism, and I look forward, in whatever circumstances we leave, to

the UK playing the fullest part in the improvement and development of the WTO.

Leaving without a Deal

07 Sep 2017 | 628 cc292-4

Asked by: Hannah Bardell

What recent assessment he has made of the potential effect on (a) the economy and (b) employment levels of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Answered by: Steve Baker | Department: Exiting the European Union

A future partnership between the UK and the EU is in the interests of both sides, and I am confident that we will secure a good deal for the UK as a whole. A responsible Government, however, should prepare for all potential outcomes, including the unlikely scenario in which no mutually satisfactory agreement can be reached. The Government are undertaking a comprehensive programme of analytical work across a range of scenarios to assess the economic impacts of exiting the EU. As the House has agreed twice, however, we will not be publishing any information that would prejudice our negotiations.

Exiting the EU

11 Jul 2017 | 627 c140

Asked by: Emily Thornberry

I thank the Foreign Secretary for that answer, but unfortunately it leaves us none the wiser. This is slightly baffling because it was, after all, the Prime Minister—the Prime Minister for now, at least—who decided to put the no deal option on the table. She could not stop using the phrase during the election campaign. But now, when we ask what it would mean in practice, the Government refuse to tell us. The Foreign Affairs Committee said in December:

“The Government should require each Department to produce a ‘no deal’ plan, outlining the likely consequences...and setting out proposals to mitigate potential risks.”

It went on to state that anything less would be a “dereliction of duty”, and that we cannot have a repeat—

Answered by: Boris Johnson | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

There is no plan for no deal, because we are going to get a great deal. For the sake of illustration, I remind the right hon. Lady that there was a time, which I am old enough to remember, when Britain was not in what we then called the Common Market.

Brexit

17 Mar 2017 | HL5858

Asked by: Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recent proposal by the British Chamber of Commerce that Brexit should be postponed if a trade deal with the EU does not materialise by the end of the negotiation process under Article 50.

**Answering member: Lord Bridges of Headley | Department:
Department for Exiting the European Union**

The Government strongly believes it is possible to achieve a good deal that works for the EU and the UK. The Government is also committed to providing certainty to business at the earliest opportunity. Article 50 is clear that once a Member State has notified the European Council of their intention to leave, the negotiation process can only be extended with unanimous agreement of the European Council and the Member state concerned. It is right, however, that the Government should prepare for every eventuality, and as the Prime Minister has made clear, no deal is better than a bad deal.

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Debates

Brexit Deal: Referendum

11 Dec 2017 | 633 cc1-50WH

EU: Transition Deal

19 Oct 2017 | 785 cc698-711

5.2 Early Day Motion

OECD call for a second referendum on EU membership

EDM 445 (session 2017-19)

24 October 2017

Tom Brake

That this House notes that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has stated that a second referendum on the UK's membership of the EU would have a significant positive impact on UK economic growth; expresses concern that the OECD made an assessment that a No Deal Brexit would cause the pound to hit unprecedented lows and cause the UK's credit rating to be cut; is concerned that the UK's productivity growth is significantly behind that of other states in the EU; is alarmed that the Government has left open the option of the UK leaving the EU without a deal; calls on the Government to protect the UK economy by ensuring that the UK stays in the single market and as a member of the customs union; and, in light of the negative economic forecast for the UK if it leaves the EU, calls on the Government to offer the people a vote on whether the UK should accept the terms for the UK exiting the EU or stay in the EU.

5.3 Written Statements

Financial Services Update

20 Dec 2017 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS382

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Philip Hammond)

The Bank of England today announced plans to ensure continuity in financial services in the unlikely event of no deal with the European Union.

The December European Council decided that sufficient progress had been made in the first stage of the EU exit negotiation and the government is therefore confident that it will agree an implementation period and a deep and special partnership.

However, there is also a responsibility for the government, the Bank and the FCA to plan for all outcomes including the unlikely scenario of no

deal being reached. Therefore, the government welcomes today's announcements by the Bank of England and the FCA. In the event of agreement not being reached, they would ensure that the UK's position as the world's leading financial centre is maintained and UK customers are protected. This is because the presence of EU financial service firms in the UK:

- Supports UK exports – if a European bank with a presence in London sells to another country UK exports are boosted;
- Creates jobs, both directly in branches but also associated professions such as finance, legal and accounting;
- Raises revenue from tax to fund our vital public services;

- Benefits consumers, such as the six million customers that currently have insurance policies with EU firms. There are 160 branches of international banks in the UK; 77 are from the EEA. Their assets total £4 trillion, substantially more than UK GDP. Keeping that presence in the UK is in Britain's national interest and today's announcement illustrates that the government stands ready to do what is necessary to protect it.

As requested by the Bank and the FCA, the government will, if necessary, bring forward legislation:

- which will enable EEA firms and funds operating in the UK to obtain a "temporary permission" to continue their activities in the UK for a limited period after withdrawal; and
- alongside the temporary permissions regime, the government will legislate, if necessary, to ensure that contractual obligations, such as insurance contracts, which are not covered by the regime, can continue to be met.

We will also bring forward secondary legislation to ensure that UK authorities are able to carry out functions currently undertaken by EU authorities. We propose to give the Bank of England functions and powers in relation to non-UK central counterparties (CCPs) and non-UK central securities depositories (CSDs). If necessary, we will also provide for a temporary regime to enable the Bank to permit these firms to continue to operate in the UK for a limited period after exit.

The Bank will set out its approach to CCPs located abroad today. We will also provide the FCA with functions and powers in relation to UK and non-UK Credit Rating Agencies and Trade Repositories and any powers necessary to manage the transition post-exit. HM Treasury will work with the Bank and FCA as they determine how they will use these powers, consistent with their statutory objectives.

Whatever the outcome of the negotiations, the government is strongly supportive of continued engagement and cooperation between UK and EU regulators to protect financial stability. It is vitally important that we work with our European partners to put the technical arrangements in place to avoid financial market disruption.

Procedures for the Approval and Implementation of EU Exit Agreements

**13 Dec 2017 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS342
Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (Mr David Davis)**

The UK will exit the EU on 29 March 2019. We are currently negotiating the terms of our withdrawal (and hope shortly to move on to the terms of our future relationship). This note sets out the role of Parliament in approving the resulting agreements and how they will be brought into force.

Background

There will be at least two agreements.

A Withdrawal Agreement will be negotiated under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) whilst the UK is a member of the EU. It will set out the terms of the UK's withdrawal from the EU (including an agreement on citizens' rights, Northern Ireland and any financial settlement), as well as the details of any implementation period agreed between both sides.

Article 50(2) of the TEU sets out that the Withdrawal Agreement should take account of the terms for the departing Member State's future relationship with the EU. At the same time as we negotiate the Withdrawal Agreement, we will therefore also negotiate the terms for our future relationship.

However as the Prime Minister made clear in her Florence speech, the European Union considers that it is not "legally able to conclude an agreement with the UK as an external partner while it is itself still part of the European Union". This is because the EU treaties require that the agreement governing our future relationship can only be legally concluded once the UK is a third country (i.e. once it has left the EU). So the Withdrawal Agreement will be followed shortly after we have left by one or more agreements covering different aspects of the future relationship.

How will the Withdrawal Agreement be approved and brought into force?

The Withdrawal Agreement will need to be signed by both parties and concluded by the EU and ratified by the UK before it can enter into force. The UK approval and EU approval processes can operate in parallel.

The EU's Chief Negotiator, Michel Barnier, has said that he wants to have finalised the Withdrawal Agreement by October 2018. In Europe, the agreement will then require the consent of the European Parliament and final sign off by the Council acting by a qualified majority. It will not require separate approval or ratification by the individual Member States.

In the UK, the Government has committed to hold a vote on the final deal in Parliament as soon as possible after the negotiations have

concluded. This vote will take the form of a resolution in both Houses of Parliament and will cover both the Withdrawal Agreement and the terms for our future relationship. The Government will not implement any parts of the Withdrawal Agreement - for example by using Clause 9 of the European Union (Withdrawal) bill - until after this vote has taken place.

In addition to this vote, the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRAG) normally requires the Government to place a copy of any treaty subject to ratification before both Houses of Parliament for a period of at least 21 sitting days, after which the treaty may be ratified unless there is a resolution against this. If the House of Commons resolves against ratification the Government can lay a statement explaining why it considers the treaty should still be ratified and there is then a further 21 sitting days during which the House of Commons may decide whether to resolve again against ratification. The Government is only able to ratify the agreement if the House of Commons does not resolve against the agreement.

If Parliament supports the resolution to proceed with the Withdrawal Agreement and the terms for our future relationship, the Government will bring forward a Withdrawal Agreement & Implementation Bill to give the Withdrawal Agreement domestic legal effect. The Bill will implement the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement in UK law as well as providing a further opportunity for parliamentary scrutiny. This legislation will be introduced before the UK exits the EU and the substantive provisions will only take effect from the moment of exit. Similarly, we expect any steps taken through secondary legislation to implement any part of the Withdrawal Agreement will only be operational from the moment of exit, though preparatory provisions may be necessary in certain cases.

How will the agreement governing the UK's future relationship with the EU be approved and brought into force?

As described above, the agreement governing our future relationship with the EU can only be legally concluded once the UK has left the EU. This may take the form of a single agreement or a number of agreements covering different aspects of the relationship.

Whatever their final form, agreements on the future relationship are likely to require the consent of the European Parliament and conclusion by the Council. If both the EU and Member States are exercising their competences in an agreement, Member States will also need to ratify it. In the UK, the Government will introduce further legislation where it is needed to implement the terms of the future relationship into UK law, providing yet another opportunity for proper parliamentary scrutiny. The CRAG process is also likely to apply to agreements on our future relationship, depending on the final form they take.

6. Further reading

6.1 Library briefing papers

[European Union Committee Report: Brexit Deal or No Deal](#)
Lords Briefing pack
LBP-2018-0005, 11 January 2018

[Brexit: 'sufficient progress' to move to phase 2](#)
Commons Briefing paper
CBP-8183, 19 December 2017

[Brexit: the October negotiations](#)
Commons Briefing paper
CBP-8125, 27 October 2017

[Brexit: red lines and starting principles](#)
Commons Briefing paper
CBP-7938, 22 June 2017

6.2 Committee reports

[Transitional arrangements for exiting the European Union](#), Fourth Report of Session 2017–19, Treasury Committee, HC 473, 14 December 2017

[Brexit: deal or no deal](#), European Union Committee, 7th Report of Session 2017–19, HL Paper 46, 7 December 2017

[The progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal](#), Second Report of Session 2017–19, House of Commons Exiting the European Union Committee, HC 372, 1 December 2017

[Article 50 negotiations: Implications of 'no deal'](#), Ninth Report of Session 2016–17, Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 1077, 12 March 2017

6.3 Miscellaneous

[Speech by Michel Barnier at the Trends Manager of the Year 2017 event](#)
European Commission [Speech]
January 2018

[Brexit: European Commission recommends draft negotiating directives for next phase of the Article 50 negotiations](#)
European Commission [Press release]
December 2017

[Preparing for Brexit](#)

Greater London Authority and Cambridge Econometrics
January 2018

[OECD Economic Survey of the United Kingdom 2017](#)

OECD
October 2017

[Brexit Deal or No Deal: Where Might We Be on 30 March 2019?](#)

Institute for Government
October 2017

[Let's Get Ready for No Deal](#)

Institute of Economic Affairs
October 2017

[A trade policy for a Brexited Britain](#)

Institute of Economic Affairs
August 2017

[Cost of No Deal](#)

UK in a Changing Europe
July 2017

[Exiting the European Union Committee](#) [Commons]

[EU Select Committee](#) [Lords]

[Article 50 and negotiations with the EU](#) [Department for Exiting the European Union website]

[Brexit negotiations](#) [European Commission website]

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