

## Ongoing Brexit Discussions with the European Union Debate on 13 February 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for debate on the following two motions, expected to be taken together:

Lord Callanan to move that this House takes note of the ongoing discussions with the European Union under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.

Baroness Smith of Basildon to move that this House, further to its resolutions of 14 and 28 January, calls on Her Majesty's Government to take all steps necessary to ensure that (1) the United Kingdom does not leave the European Union on 29 March 2019 without an agreement with the European Union which has been fully ratified by both Houses of Parliament, and that (2) before the end of February 2019, motions are moved which fulfil the provisions under sections 13(1)(b) and (c) of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

The House of Lords Library published a briefing on 9 February 2019 in preparation for this debate (House of Lords Library, [Further Take-Note Debate on EU Withdrawal](#), 9 February 2019), but at the time it was published the exact wording of the motion for debate was not known, nor did the Library have details of Baroness Smith's motion. At the time of publication of that briefing, the Prime Minister was expected to make a statement to the House of Commons on 13 February 2019; this was brought forward and she made her statement on 12 February 2019. This House of Lords Library Briefing includes the briefing published on 9 February 2019 and supplements it with copies of the Prime Minister's latest statement to the House of Commons, and an exchange of letters between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

### Key Information

- [Statement by the Prime Minister, Theresa May, on 'Leaving the European Union'](#), HC Hansard, 12 February 2019, cols 731–71

*Statement by the Prime Minister to the House of Commons updating the House on the progress of the Government's negotiations with the EU. This follows the House of Commons agreeing a backbench amendment on 29 January 2019, supported by the Government, to replace the Northern Ireland backstop in the EU withdrawal agreement with "alternative arrangements to avoid a hard border". Also included are the response of the Official Opposition and follow-up questions from MPs.*

- Jeremy Corbyn, '[Letter to the Prime Minister](#)', 6 February 2019; and, Prime Minister, '[Letter to the Leader of the Opposition](#)', 11 February 2019

*Letter from the Leader of the Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn, to the Prime Minister, setting out the changes required to the political declaration for Labour to be able to support it, including a permanent customs union between the UK and the EU. Also included is the Prime Minister's reply in which she argued that a permanent customs union would prevent the UK from having an independent trade policy. Mrs May and Mr Corbyn have agreed to further talks.*

- House of Lords Library, '[Further Take-Note Debate on EU Withdrawal](#)', 9 February 2019

*This House of Lords Library Briefing updates an earlier briefing published on 31 January 2019 which detailed debates held in the Lords and Commons under section 13 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 on 28 and 29 January 2019, and the role of the House of Lords in the next steps in the Brexit process. This new briefing repeats the content of the earlier briefing, with the addition of new material to explain the context of the scheduling of the forthcoming debates in both Houses and to provide an update on recent developments in the Brexit negotiations since 31 January 2019. At the time of writing, the Prime Minister's statement was expected on 13 February 2019, but was brought forward to 12 February 2019 after publication. This briefing was published before the wording of the motion for the debate on 13 February 2019 was published.*

## Further Information

- House of Commons Library, '[Debate on a Motion Relating to the UK's Withdrawal from the EU](#)', 12 February 2019
- House of Commons, '[Order Paper](#)', 13 February 2019

*See pp 22–5 for details of a debate on the Prime Minister's statement of 12 February 2019 scheduled to take place in the House of Commons on 14 February 2019 and amendments tabled so far to the motion; the selection of amendments for debate will take place on 14 February 2019.*

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