

Further Brexit Discussions with the European Union Debate on 27 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 motion:

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

On 27 February 2019, the House of Lords is due to debate the Government's further discussions with the EU under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. This follows a commitment made by the Prime Minister on 12 February 2019 that, if by 26 February 2019 the Government had not secured a majority in the House of Commons in a second 'meaningful vote', she would make a further statement in the Commons on 26 February 2019, and a debate on an amendable motion would take place in the Commons on 27 February 2019. The Prime Minister said on 24 February 2019 that there would be no 'meaningful vote' this week, but one would be held by 12 March 2019. A debate is scheduled to take place in the House of Commons on 27 February 2019 on the amendable motion that "this House notes the Prime Minister's statement on Leaving the European Union of 26 February 2019; and further notes that discussions between the UK and the EU are ongoing".

The House of Lords Library published a briefing on 21 February 2019 in preparation for the take note debate in the House of Lords (House of Lords Library, [Further Article 50 Discussions with the EU](#), 21 February 2019). This House of Lords Library Briefing includes the briefing published on 21 February 2019 and supplements it with copies of the Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on 26 February and other recent material.

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, 26 February 2019, cols 165–202

Statement by the Prime Minister to the House of Commons updating the House on the progress of the Government's negotiations with the EU. Mrs May said in her statement that if the Government had not won a second 'meaningful vote' by 12 March 2019, then it will table a motion to be voted on by 13 March 2019 asking if the Commons supported leaving the EU without a deal; if the Commons then rejected leaving with no deal, the Government will bring forward a motion on 14 March 2019 asking whether Parliament wants to seek a short, limited extension to the Article 50 negotiating period. Also included are the response of the Official Opposition and follow-up questions from MPs. The statement was later repeated in the House of Lords ([HL Hansard, 26 February 2019, cols 140–55](#)).

- Prime Minister's Office and 10 Downing Street, ['Press Statement from the Prime Minister in Sharm el-Sheikh: 25 February 2019'](#), 25 February 2019

Press statement given by the Prime Minister following the first meeting between the EU and the League of Arab States, in which she stated that there was "a real determination to find a way through which allows the UK to leave the EU in a smooth and orderly way with a deal".

- European Council, ['Remarks by President Donald Tusk at the Press Conference after the EU-LAS Summit in Egypt'](#), 25 February 2019

Remarks by Donald Tusk to journalists after the Sharm el-Sheikh summit, in which he said that extending the Article 50 negotiating period would be a "rational solution".

- Labour Party, ['Labour to Table Amendment to Make its Credible Alternative Plan the UK's Brexit Negotiating Position'](#), 25 February 2019

Press release outlining five policy objectives the Labour Party would like to see in the political declaration on the future relationship between the UK and the EU. It explains that the Leader of the Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn, planned to table an amendment for the debate on 27 February 2019 which would seek to instruct the Government to negotiate a withdrawal agreement and political declaration that meets these aims. It also said that Labour planned to support an amendment to create parliamentary time for Yvette Cooper's private member's bill (which would oblige the Government to seek approval on 14 March 2019 for leaving the EU with no deal or for extending Article 50, if the Commons had not approved a deal by 13 March 2019), and would put forward or support an amendment in favour of a public vote on a Brexit deal.

- Department for Exiting the European Union, ['Implications for Business and Trade of a No Deal Exit on 29 March 2019'](#), 26 February 2019

This document explains the Government's latest assessment of the implications for business and international trade in the UK, if it leaves the EU without a deal on 29 March. This paper summarises Government activity to prepare for no deal as a contingency plan, and provides an assessment of the implications of a no deal exit for trade and for businesses, given the preparations that have been made.

- House of Lords Library, ['Further Article 50 Discussions with the EU'](#), 21 February 2019

This House of Lords Library Briefing updates an earlier briefing published in preparation for the Lords' take-note debate on the Brexit negotiations held on 13 February 2019. This new briefing repeats the content of the earlier briefing, with the addition of new material to provide an update on recent developments since 8 February 2019 and recent remarks made by ministers about the Lords' role in the next steps in the process.

Further Information

- House of Commons, [Order Paper](#), 27 February 2019 (see pp 6–15 for details of amendments tabled for the debate in the House of Commons; the selection of amendments will be made by the Speaker of the House of Commons)
- House of Commons Library, [What if There's No Brexit Deal?](#), 8 February 2019
- House of Commons Library, [Extending Article 50: Could Brexit Be Delayed?](#), 12 February 2019
- House of Commons Library, [What Legislation is Required for a No Deal Brexit?](#), 15 February 2019
- House of Commons Library, [Yvette Cooper's Private Member's Bill Explained](#), and [European Union \(Withdrawal\) \(No. 4\) Bill](#), both 19 February 2019
- House of Commons Library, [Extending Article 50 and European Parliament Elections](#), 19 February 2019

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