



Economic Assessments for the European Union Debate on 9 April 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Bates to move that this House approves, for the purposes of section 5 of the European Communities (Amendment) Act 1993, the Government's assessment of the medium term economic and fiscal position as set out in the latest budget document and the Office for Budget Responsibility's most recent *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* and *Fiscal Sustainability Report*, which forms the basis of the United Kingdom's convergence programme.

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

Key Information

- House of Commons, '[Written Statement: Convergence Programme](#)', 25 March 2019, HCWS1444

Statement by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Elizabeth Truss, describing how the UK is required to send an annual "convergence programme" to the European Union while it remains a member state and, if the withdrawal agreement is ratified, during the implementation period. It states that the content of the programme report will be drawn from the autumn budget 2018 report and the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) most recent Economic and Fiscal Outlook, and that these documents therefore have to be approved by both Houses of Parliament. The deposited paper referred to in the statement is the convergence programme included below.

- HM Treasury, [Budget 2018](#), 29 October 2018, HC 1629, pp 1–5; Office for Budget Responsibility, [Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#), March 2019, CP 50, pp 5–18; and [Fiscal Sustainability Report](#), July 2018, pp 3–15

Executive summaries of the 2018 budget report and latest OBR reports which form the basis of the convergence programme, and which the motion proposes should be approved by the House.

- HM Treasury, [2018–19 Convergence Programme for the United Kingdom: Submitted in Line with the Stability and Growth Pact](#), March 2019, pp 2–4

Foreword and introduction to the 2019 convergence programme, which is based on the above HM Treasury and OBR documents. This document is the deposited paper referred to in the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's written statement of 25 March 2019.

- [Debate on 'Section 5 of the European Communities \(Amendment\) Act 1993'](#), HC Hansard, 26 March 2019, cols 257–83

House of Commons debate on the motion, which it approved by 309 votes to 292. An amendment moved by Alison Thewliss (SNP MP for Glasgow Central), which would have resulted in the House declining to approve the economic assessments because they did not contain “detailed analysis of the impact of the withdrawal agreement and the framework for the future relationship with the EU on the UK’s economic and fiscal position”, was defeated by 309 votes to 288.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- [Debate on 'UK Convergence Programme'](#), HL Hansard, 16 April 2018, cols 1036–42

House of Lords debate on the equivalent motion in April 2018.

Further Information

- House of Lords Library, [Spring Statement 2019: Briefing for Lords Debate](#), 14 March 2019; and [Budget 2018](#), 7 November 2018
- House of Commons Library, ['Debate on a Motion of Section 5 of the European Communities \(Amendment\) Act 1993'](#), 22 March 2019

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