

Approaching Brexit: withdrawal or extension?

An overview of papers and outputs from the UK in a Changing Europe initiative covering key aspects of Brexit negotiations, impacts and public debate.

Three steps for Theresa May to pass her withdrawal agreement from here

Dr Alan Wager and Matt Bevington

A recent report by the UK in a Changing Europe and the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law sets out the measures Mrs May will have to take next, should her deal be voted down for a third time. These might be painful for Downing Street and would involve ceding some control to parliament, but could provide a way to keep her premiership intact.

Web: ukandeu.ac.uk/three-steps-for-theresa-may-to-pass-her-withdrawal-agreement-from-here

The UK will have very little control over trade tariffs in the event of a no deal Brexit

Dr Swati Dhingra and Josh De Lyon

No deal Brexit remains a distinct possibility. On 29 March, the UK will simply cease to be a member of the EU if a withdrawal agreement or an extension to Article 50 is not agreed.

One of the main changes that would immediately result on this day is that the UK will need to apply its own tariff rates on its imports. Politics aside, the economic reality is that the maximum tariffs that can be set for any product will be determined by the “bound rates” that the UK already has in place under the WTO.

Web: ukandeu.ac.uk/the-uk-will-have-very-little-control-over-trade-tariffs-in-the-event-of-a-no-deal-brexit/

Brexit is the catalyst for a rupture in UK politics that has been a long time in the making

Dr Patrick Diamond

The established political parties have gambled that British voters vacated the centre ground over the last decade, both responding to the so-called era of populism. The arrival of The Independent Group (TIG) of Labour and Conservative MPs means the ideological assumptions of both party leaders will be tested.

Web: ukandeu.ac.uk/brexit-is-the-catalyst-for-a-rupture-in-uk-politics-that-has-been-a-long-time-in-the-making

The EU withdrawal agreement: unpopular, yes, but things may get a whole lot worse

Professor Adam Cygan

The withdrawal agreement as it stands would probably have been negotiated irrespective of which party was in government. To square the circle of frictionless trade and no hard border, the answer must surely encompass some future customs union and regulatory alignment with the EU. The UK will be confronted by hard choices concerning the legal consequences of the future trade relationship.

Web: ukandeu.ac.uk/the-eu-withdrawal-agreement-unpopular-yes-but-things-may-get-a-whole-lot-worse

UK economy since the Brexit vote: slower GDP growth, lower productivity, and a weaker pound

Josh De Lyon and Dr Swati Dhingra

The impact of the Brexit vote can now begin to be evaluated with greater accuracy than previous forecasts, thanks to the emergence of new data. In the run-up to the UK's referendum on membership of the European Union (EU) in June 2016, a number of research reports estimated the likely economic impact of Brexit actions may impinge on the UK.

Web: ukandeu.ac.uk/uk-economy-since-the-brexit-vote-slower-gdp-growth-lower-productivity-and-a-weaker-pound/

What do the public think about the backstop?

Professor John Garry

Is the Irish border puzzle a zero-sum game where one side's win implies another's loss? Unionist politicians desperately want to avoid any kind of economic border down the Irish Sea, while nationalists fear that removing the backstop would open the door to a hardening of the north-south border. However, there does exist a compromise solution: a 2018 report on public attitudes showed both communities in Northern Ireland were supportive of a soft UK-wide Brexit.

Web: ukandeu.ac.uk/what-do-the-public-think-about-the-backstop

Can our political institutions handle the strain of Brexit?

Professor Anand Menon and Dr Alan Wagner

Last week's Parliamentary defeat for the Brexit deal has just been followed by another major event. The Parliament's speaker has ruled that the government cannot introduce the Brexit deal for another vote, citing a House of Commons precedent.

That could be a problem for Theresa May's government. It cannot readily change the measure without renegotiating the deal, which the European Union has made clear is extremely unlikely.

Web: ukandeu.ac.uk/can-our-political-institutions-handle-the-strain-of-brexit/

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