



Department
for Exiting the
European Union

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Tom Tugendhat MP
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Dear Tom,

I am writing to provide an update on international agreements. As you will be aware, the EU and the UK have agreed an extension to the Article 50 period. During the course of the extension the UK will continue to hold full membership rights, as well as its obligations. This means that international agreements, to which the UK is party through our membership of the EU, will continue to apply through the extension as they do now.

Bilateral successor agreements we have prepared with third countries and that have already been signed and / or laid for parliamentary scrutiny ahead of ratification, will not automatically enter into force. As my predecessor, Chris Heaton-Harris, explained in his letter of 29th March, this is because these agreements provide for entry into force when the previous EU agreement ceases to apply to the UK.

For multilateral agreements, in the few cases where the UK has lodged formal applications to accede, or has deposited instruments of ratification or accession, we are taking steps to ensure that these will not take effect, in a no deal scenario, until the UK has ceased to be a Member State. The UK has also made clear in the Notes Verbales submitted with these instruments that, in the event that the Withdrawal Agreement is signed and ratified, we will withdraw them before they take effect.

I will continue to keep you updated on this programme of work. In the meantime, I trust you will welcome this update and I would like to thank you and your Committee for your interest in this programme of work.

I am writing in similar terms to the Chairs of the European Scrutiny Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee and the Procedure Committee as well as the Chairs of the European Union Committee, the Constitution Committee and the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee in the House of Lords.



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