Tom Tugendhat MP  
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0PW  

29 March 2019  

Dear Tom,

Further to my letter of 21 March on international agreements, I am writing to provide some information on this programme of work and on the impact of the extension agreed between the EU and the UK. I have enclosed a list setting out the details of the progress we have made on international agreements.

As you are aware, the EU and the UK agreed an extension to Article 50, which is legally binding in international law. On Wednesday, Parliament passed the SI to update the definition of Exit date in UK law accordingly. For international agreements, to which the UK is party through our membership of the EU, these will continue to apply through the extension as they do now.

We continue to work closely with third countries and international organisations to deliver successor agreements for Exit day and we will continue to lay treaties subject to ratification before Parliament for scrutiny in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutional Reform & Governance Act 2010 (‘the CRaG Act’).

Regarding bilateral treaties that have already been signed and / or laid for scrutiny prior to ratification, I can assure you that the drafting of these agreements ensures that the entry into force provisions are not impacted by the extension. These agreements variously provide, for example, for a further step to be taken to provisionally apply an agreement or to bring the agreement into force (such as an exchange of notes confirming the completion of internal procedures), or for entry into force when the previous EU agreement ceases to apply to the UK. As for multilateral agreements, officials are working with the relevant depositaries to ensure that the UK will only accede to these agreements on the revised Exit date in the event of no deal, or otherwise at the end of the Implementation Period. The information I have previously provided lists those multilateral agreements in this programme of work.

I am, however, aware of instances where the accompanying documents to the treaties (for example the Explanatory Memoranda, Ministerial letters, and Parliamentary reports in respect of the trade agreements) refer to ‘30th March’ as the date the existing EU-third country agreement ceases to apply to the UK (on the basis of the 29th March being the date the UK was to leave the EU), and therefore, ‘30th March’ as the date the agreement could enter into force. I would ask that where this is the case, ‘30th March’ is construed as meaning the day the obligations under the relevant EU agreements cease to apply whether
that be the date that the UK leaves the EU in the event of no deal or at the end of the Implementation Period.

I am pleased to inform you that 34 agreements have now completed the scrutiny process under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act (2010), with the following completing this week:

- US and UK mutual recognition of certificates of conformity for marine equipment
- Mutual recognition agreement between the UK and the US
- Government Procurement Agreement
- Free trade agreement with Switzerland

I also wanted to let you know that the CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement and an agreement with Indonesia on forest, law enforcement, trade and governance have recently been signed and will begin the parliamentary scrutiny process shortly. Furthermore, the Civil Aviation Authority has signed an Air Safety Arrangement with Canada, which is a technical agreement between independent safety regulators.

The attached list sets out updates which will be made on gov.uk shortly. For those agreements that will not be in place or will carry a gap in a no deal scenario, Departments are doing everything possible to accelerate this work and will continue to provide as much clarity as possible.

Furthermore, my Department is publishing consolidated information on the impact of our exit from the EU on the EEA EFTA States (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), and Switzerland. Given the wide range of relevant measures we’ve taken, the number of agreements we’ve signed with these countries and the breadth of guidance we’ve issued pertinent to these countries, this page will signpost these in one place for the benefit of citizens and businesses. I have enclosed a copy of this guidance for your information.

I trust you will welcome this update which clearly demonstrates the success of the ongoing work to deliver these international agreements as we prepare to leave the EU.

I will deposit this letter and the attached list of agreements in the House Library. Furthermore to ensure the records are correct, I will continue to write to you, providing updates on a weekly basis. Do let me know if you have any questions on this programme of work to transition international agreements and I would be glad to meet you to discuss this further.

I am writing in similar terms to the Chairs of the European Scrutiny Committee, Exiting the EU Committee and the Procedure Committee as well as the Chairs of the European Union Committee, the Secondary Legislation and Scrutiny Committee and the Constitution Committee in the House of Lords.
CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Will the agreement or arrangement be in place by 12 April in event of No-Deal scenario?</th>
<th>Additional Comment</th>
<th>Lead Department</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canada Air Safety Arrangement</strong></td>
<td>This arrangement facilitates recognition of each other's certification and approval processes to undertake dual certification or approval.</td>
<td>Will be in place</td>
<td>The agreement was signed on the 30th January, but remains subject to final ratification/notice of completion by both the UK and the partner country. Bridging mechanisms and mitigations are being considered for the short gap between 12th April and entry into force. For further information please contact DEFRA (<a href="mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk">defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk</a>)</td>
<td>DOJ</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>N/A - Multilateral</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hague 2005</strong></td>
<td>The Convention aims to ensure the effectiveness of exclusive choice of court agreements between parties to international commercial transactions. It does this by prohibiting trials on jurisdiction, excluding a requirement on non-contentious courts to decide jurisdiction where there is a chosen court and enforcement of any resulting judgment.</td>
<td>Will be in place</td>
<td>The agreement was signed on the 30th January, but remains subject to final ratification/notice of completion by both the UK and the partner country. Bridging mechanisms and mitigations are being considered for the short gap between 12th April and entry into force. For further information please contact DEFRA (<a href="mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk">defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk</a>)</td>
<td>DfE</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>United States Veterinary Equivalence Agreement</strong></td>
<td>This agreement provided a framework for communication and cooperation between the veterinary authorities of the UK and the partner country. It also provided a framework for the recognition of relevant products and processes to undergo dual certification or approval. It provided rules for compliance and approval processes, therefore reducing the requirement for dual checking and approval processes, thereby reducing the requirement for dual certification and approval.</td>
<td>Will be in place</td>
<td>Will not be in place - we are working with Japan to ensure that any gap is kept to a minimum and mitigations are in place to reduce the impact. For further information please contact DEFRA (<a href="mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk">defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk</a>)</td>
<td>Defra</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Agreement on civil aviation safety between the European Community and Canada</td>
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Additional information may be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handling-civil-legal-cases-that-involve-the-partner-country](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handling-civil-legal-cases-that-involve-the-partner-country).
### Cariforum Economic Partnership Agreement

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<tr>
<td>Cariforum Economic Partnership Agreement</td>
<td>This agreement allows for preferential trading between the UK and the Cariforum States.</td>
<td>Will be in place</td>
<td>For further information please see published article <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trade-agreement-continuity">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trade-agreement-continuity</a></td>
<td>DIT</td>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>Economic Partnership Agreement between the CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part.</td>
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### Wider Trade and Customs

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<tr>
<td>Agreement on Government Procurement</td>
<td>The agreement sits under the umbrella of the WTO as a plurilateral agreement. It governs the liberalisation and operation of the parties’ procurement markets</td>
<td>Will be in place no later than 12 May 2019</td>
<td>The GPA Council invited the UK to accede on 27 February. While there may be a short period of less than a month before the GPA takes legal effect in a no deal scenario, disruption to businesses is likely to be minimal. The Government has made guidance available to businesses here [<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-procurement-agreement-uk-participation-after-eu-exit">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-procurement-agreement-uk-participation-after-eu-exit</a>] and here [<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wto-agreement-secures-13-trillion-market-for-british-contractors">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wto-agreement-secures-13-trillion-market-for-british-contractors</a>].</td>
<td>CO/DIT</td>
<td>NA - Multilateral</td>
<td>Agreement on Government Procurement</td>
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