



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 6099
euclords@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

Lord Callanan
Minister of State
Department for Exiting the European Union
House of Lords
London, SW1A 0PW

31 October 2017

Dear Lord Callanan,

FUTURE CUSTOMS ARRANGEMENTS—A FUTURE PARTNERSHIP PAPER

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union.

As you may be aware, the EU External Affairs Sub-Committee takes a strong and ongoing interest in the arrangements for trade with the EU after Brexit, which were the subject of the Committee's reports *Brexit: the options for trade* and *Brexit: trade in goods*. The Committee has considered the document *Future customs arrangements—a future partnership paper*, and intends to take oral evidence on the Government's approach to this crucial issue.

We are disappointed that the document does not provide a sufficient level of detail on either of the two proposed options. It is not possible to assess or examine the implications of either scenario, given that each is lightly sketched. We note that the White Paper on the Customs Bill (Cm9502) provides for the implementation of tax-related elements of the 'highly streamlined customs arrangement', but is not able to provide for any elements of the 'new customs partnership' option, because it is an "innovative and untested approach".

We understand that many of the elements of both a 'highly streamlined customs arrangement' and 'new customs partnership' option would be subject to negotiation with the EU. We request that you provide us with details of the preparatory work you are undertaking to prepare for these negotiations on customs, including the following areas: waiving the need for entry and exit summary declarations; membership of the Common Transit Convention; mutual recognition of the AEO scheme; a technology solution for ports; and other customs cooperation, assistance and data sharing.

I am copying this letter to The Chair of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Lynn Gardner, Clerk of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee;

Les Saunders, at the Department for Exiting the EU; Richard Cleary and Michael Shantry at the Department for Exiting the EU; and Chris Taylor at the Department for International Trade.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandy', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Baroness Verma
Chair of the EU External Affairs Sub-Committee