



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP
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Americas
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14 August 2017

The Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chair
Select Committee on European Union
Committee Office
House of Lords
Millbank House
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Tim,

Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/1425 of 4 August 2017 on a European Union stabilisation action in Mopti and Segou

I am writing with regard to the above Council Decision, which was adopted on 4 August. It authorises the establishment of a European Union stabilisation mission in Mali.

As detailed in the attached Explanatory Memorandum, the UK Government supports the establishment of the stabilisation mission and in particular welcomes its focus on helping the Malian authorities to return civil administration to the Mopti area.

This proposal was discussed at length in the EU Working Groups and by the time an agreed mandate and budget emerged there was insufficient time to submit an EM for consideration before recess. Given the situation in Mali, it was therefore necessary to agree to the adoption of this Council Decision before your Committee had an opportunity to scrutinise the document.

I am writing in similar terms to the Chair of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee, and copying this letter to the Clerks of both Committees, Les Saunders at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Philip Worley, FCO Departmental Scrutiny Head and Sheila Underwood, FCO Select Committee Liaison Officer.

Alan Duncan

THE RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP