



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Minister for Europe and the  
Americas  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

16 October 2018

Lord Boswell  
Chair  
EU External Affairs Sub-Committee  
Committee Office  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

*Dear Tim,*

## **COUNCIL DECISION AMENDING DECISION (CFSP) 2017/1869 ON THE EUROPEAN UNION ADVISORY MISSION IN SUPPORT OF CIVILIAN SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN IRAQ (EUAM IRAQ)**

I am writing with regard to the EU Council Decision concerning the proposed 18 month extension to the EU Advisory Mission in Iraq in support of civilian Security Sector Reform (SSR).

The mission's first Strategic Review was formally presented to the Political and Security Committee of the Council (PSC) on 13 July 2018, which recommended that the current mandate be extended by 18 months to allow for continued progress on civilian SSR. PSC agreed this recommendation. A corresponding budget uplift is required.

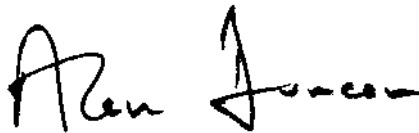
As detailed in the attached Explanatory Memorandum, EU support for Iraqi-led civilian SSR is in line with our National Security Council priorities for Iraq, which were agreed in 2017: protecting the UK from terrorist threats; defeating Daesh and limiting any future insurgency; and working towards a more resilient Iraqi state. Reforming Iraq's security sector is central to all three of these priorities. A representative, capable and inclusive civilian security sector that is responsive to all Iraqis will be critical in helping to address the legitimate grievances that led to Daesh's rise and to build a more stable and inclusive Iraq.

The mission's current mandate expires on 17 October. I understand that just before recess started my officials contacted the Committee secretariat, as it became clear that the timing of adopting this item would be constrained. My officials worked with the Committee secretariat to ensure that the Committee received this document as early as possible. However, the parliamentary recess and the Council's adoption

timetable have meant that your Committee will not have time to consider the documents for clearance prior to adoption. Given the importance of agreeing for the mandate to be extended, I regret that I must therefore override scrutiny on this occasion and agree to the adoption of the Council Decision before your Committee has had an opportunity to scrutinise the documents.

As you know, the responsibility to keep your Committee informed on issues concerning Iraq is something I take seriously and the need for the override of scrutiny on this occasion is regrettably unavoidable.

I am copying this letter to the Clerks of both Committees, Les Saunders at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Adam Nutley, FCO Scrutiny Coordinator, Nicole Mason, FCO Parliamentary Adviser, and Lynne Smith, FCO Select Committee Liaison Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Duncan'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

**RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP**