



**HOUSE OF LORDS**  
European Union Committee

House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

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

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan KCMG MP  
Minister of State for Europe and the Americas  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
Whitehall  
London, SW1A 2AH

19 October 2018

Dear Sir Alan,

**11986/18 - Council Decision amending Decision (CFSP) 2017/1869 on the European Union Advisory Mission to Iraq in support of Security Sector Reform (EUAM Iraq)**

Thank you for your Explanatory Memorandum (EM) of 21 September 2018 regarding the above document. This was considered by the External Affairs Sub-Committee on 18 October 2018.

We are disappointed by the lack of information provided in your EM, which does not allow us to adequately consider the proposal. We have a number of questions to which we would be grateful for your reply, as below.

First, your EM does not set out what specific results the mission has brought about since its inception last year, and what assessment the extension of the mandate is based on. Please provide us with your assessment of the mission's specific achievements so far, and with an overview of what specific actions will be undertaken during the next 18 months.

Second, your EM helpfully explains that "reforming Iraq's Security Sector is central to all three" of the UK's foreign policy priorities in Iraq. In addition to the UK's support for EUAM Iraq, please provide us with further information about how the UK is bilaterally supporting security sector reform in Iraq.

Third, your EM states that "We support an EU role in Iraq which takes a focused approach to SSR, is firmly based on Iraqi need, and which complements existing efforts on the ground carried out by individual EU Member States, the Global Coalition and other international actors." Is it the Government's assessment that these objectives are sufficiently addressed by EUAM Iraq?

Fourth, the budget contains a considerable increase of costs, which entails almost doubling the number of mission staff "to fulfil the mission's mandate effectively". What gaps is this staff increase seeking to address to make the mission more effective? What expertise are the additional staff expected to bring to EUAM Iraq and what work would they undertake?

Fifth, the EUAM mandate extends beyond the date of UK exit from the EU. To our disappointment, the EM does not address this at all. Would the UK be interested in participating in the mission as a third country after Brexit, unless a closer level of co-operation were to be agreed between the UK and the EU? What plans has the UK Government made for its bilateral relations with Iraq after Brexit?

We have decided to retain the item under scrutiny. We look forward to your response within the usual 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to the Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Les Saunders, at the Department for Exiting the EU; Adam Nutley, FCO Departmental Scrutiny Co-ordinator; Nicole Mason, FCO Parliamentary Adviser; and Lynne Smith, FCO Select Committee Liaison Officer.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Tim Boswell*

The Lord Boswell of Aynho  
Chairman of the European Union Committee