



Department for
International Trade

Rt Hon Greg Hands MP

Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AH

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@trade.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

The Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chair of the EU Select Committee
EU Select Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Our ref:

11th June 2018

Dear Tim,

**OTNYR Council Decision amending and extending Council Decision OTNYR –
COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX on certain commercial
policy measures concerning certain products originating in the United States of
America pursuant to Article 4(l) of Regulation (EU) No 654/2014**

Thank you for your letter dated 25 May regarding the Explanatory Memorandum (EM) in relation to the above-captioned Commission Implementing Regulation (EU). As set out in the draft Withdrawal Agreement, the UK would apply the Common Customs Tariff during the transition period. Countermeasures are increased tariffs, therefore, the UK would continue to apply such measures maintained by the EU during this period.

After the end of the transition period, whether the UK would continue to implement these tariffs or implement the second set of countermeasures would depend on the customs arrangements to be agreed with the EU. The Trade Remedies Authority, which will be an independent, arms-length body, will not be responsible for deciding whether to impose these countermeasures.

I hope this answers your questions, but please do not hesitate to write back if you require any further clarification.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee, the Clerks of both Committees, Les Saunders (Cabinet Office) and Edwina Osborne (DIT Scrutiny).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G Hands', written in a cursive style.

RT HON GREG HANDS MP

Minister of State for Trade Policy

Department for International Trade