



HOUSE OF LORDS
European Union Committee

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Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
Minister of State for Policing
and the Fire Service
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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14 November 2018

Brexit: the proposed UK-EU security treaty

Dear Minister,

I would like to thank the Government for its response to our report on *Brexit: the proposed UK-EU security treaty*. The response was comprehensive and gave full consideration to the majority of the report's conclusions and recommendations. However, the Committee still has two outstanding areas of concern, on which I would be grateful for your further comments.

In your response you disagreed with the Committee's conclusion that a single comprehensive agreement will be difficult to achieve with a compressed timetable. The Committee also suggested that, if a comprehensive security treaty cannot be agreed within the time available, a number of ad hoc security agreements could help to mitigate reduced operational capacity. Your response suggests that a comprehensive agreement could be reached more quickly and provide more flexibility than a series of ad hoc agreements. Could you explain in more detail why you believe this to be the case, and on what this conclusion is based?

The response also does not address the Committee's concerns that, should such a comprehensive agreement fail to be reached, preparations should be made for a potential operational cliff-edge at the end of the transition period. Could you provide further detail on what planning the Government has done for the possibility that current security mechanisms, which rely on cooperation with the EU, would not be available after 31 December 2020?

I look forward to hearing from you within 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Arnold Ridout, Legal Adviser to the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Les Saunders, Department for Exiting the EU; and Alex Bernal, Home Office.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Boswell

Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chairman of the European Union Committee