



# HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 4579  
Fax: 020 7219 6715  
euclords@parliament.uk  
www.parliament.uk/lords

21 February 2018

Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London, SW1P 3JR

Dear Michael,

## **European Commission Notices to Stakeholders relating to food and farming**

The European Commission has issued a number of Notices to Stakeholders, setting out the consequences for UK trading and legal arrangements in the event that no Brexit deal is reached and there is no agreement on mutual recognition.<sup>1</sup> A number of these notices fall under Defra's remit, in particular the food, farming and waste sectors.<sup>2</sup>

The Notices give rise to a number of questions, as follows:

1. Is the Government seeking to get UK food and farming certifications and similar recognised by the EU?
2. What assessment has the Government made of the impact on individuals, organisations, and the UK economy of UK certification no longer being recognised in the areas identified by the Commission?
3. What assessment has the Government made of the costs for individuals and businesses of reapplying for certification etc, across these sectors?
4. Have you identified any other aspects of food or farming where current certification may not be recognised by the EU post-Brexit?
5. Does the UK intend to recognise food and farming certificates etc issued by the EU in the event of a 'no deal' scenario where legislation transferred to the UK statute by means of the EU (Withdrawal) Bill requires such certification?
6. What steps is the Government taking to ensure food of animal origin and irradiated food can be exported to the EU even in a 'no deal' scenario? How does the


<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness_en)

<sup>2</sup> As of 21 February, topics of the relevant Notices include: seafarer qualifications; rules relating to slaughterhouses, treatment of animals at slaughter and fur farmers; the protection of animals during transport; medicinal products for human and veterinary use; GMO business operators; biocidal products; pesticides; pig breeding; mineral water labelling; animal feed; union plant variety rights; marketing of seeds and other plant reproductive propagating material; food law; and the use of the EU waste law.

prohibition of trade set out in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.3 of the Commission's Notice on food law<sup>3</sup> interact with WTO rules?

7. What provision has the Government made to provide similar advice to its own citizens working in the food, farming and waste sectors?
8. The Notices make clear that the Commission considers that the UK will become a 'third country' on 30 March 2019, unless a ratified withdrawal agreement is in place establishing another date, and so the legal repercussions outlined in these notices come into effect from that date. Is that a position that the Government shares?

We look forward to your response.



Lord Teverson  
Chair of the European Union Energy and Environment Sub-Committee

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<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/notice\\_brexit\\_eu\\_food\\_law.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/notice_brexit_eu_food_law.pdf)