



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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

27 October 2017

Lord Boswell of Aynho  
Chairman of the European Union Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A OPW

Dear Tim,

## **CFSP Report – Our priorities in 2017**

Thank you for your letter of 13 October, which sought further clarification on two points in the report and the Explanatory Memorandum.

First, you asked whether the EU's Framework Participation Agreement with the Republic of Korea could be a useful model UK-EU engagement on CSDP after Brexit. The *'Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Korea establishing a framework for the participation of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in European Union crisis management operations'* governs ROK participation in EU missions in the field of crisis management, including peace-keeping operations and humanitarian operations. We have assessed and considered all existing third country models for CSDP cooperation in our analysis of options for the future UK-EU relationship, including this EU-ROK Agreement. These include framework agreements (of which the EU-ROK Agreement is an example), which set the same terms for each mission a third country participates in, and participation agreements, which set the terms on a mission-by-mission basis.

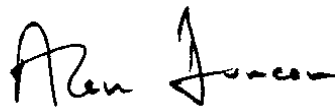
As outlined in the Government's Future Partnership Paper on Foreign Policy, Defence and Development, the UK seeks to develop a deep and special partnership with the EU that goes beyond these existing third country arrangements. Under a future partnership agreement, the UK could offer assistance through a continued contribution to CSDP missions and operations, including UK personnel, expertise, assets, or use of established UK national command and control facilities. The UK would seek to work with the EU during mandate development and detailed operational planning; the level

of UK involvement in the planning process should be reflective of the UK's contribution.

You also asked how the EU-Canada Security of Information Agreement would facilitate military-to-military co-operation. Security of Information Agreements govern the protection of classified information provided or exchanged between the parties. These Agreements therefore strengthen bilateral and multilateral dialogue, and assist practical cooperation in support of shared foreign policy and security interests. The US, Australia and NATO also have Security of Information Agreements with the EU.

The EU-Canada Agreement has passed through the relevant working groups in Brussels and is due to be signed by High Representative Federica Mogherini and Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland at the Joint Ministerial Committee in Brussels on 4 December.

I am copying this letter to Chair of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee, the Clerks of both Committees, Les Saunders at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Philip Worley, FCO Scrutiny Head, and Lynne Smith, FCO Select Committee Liaison Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Duncan'.

**RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP**