



Department for
International Trade

Baroness Fairhead

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

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

The Lord Purvis of Tweed
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Our ref: MCB2019/00320

28th January 2019

Dear Lord Purvis of Tweed,

During Committee Stage of the Trade Bill, I confirm that, in line with its broad approach to continuity agreements, the Government is working towards a new bilateral arrangement with Singapore that would ensure continuity for the effects of the EU-Singapore FTA for after the UK's exit from the EU via a straightforward, technical process.

The EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) will enter into force when it has been ratified by all EU Member States through their own domestic procedures and by Singapore, and concluded by the EU. It is not anticipated that the IPA will enter into force before the UK's exit from the EU, or indeed by the end of an Implementation Period.

The existing UK-Singapore Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) remains in place and provides continuity and certainty for investors to be able to continue to invest with confidence. The question of our future approach to investment protection and investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) with Singapore will be a matter for discussion with the Government of Singapore in due course.

I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify the position with respect to domestic legislation. I can confirm that domestic legislation is not required to implement investment protection provisions or agreements. The UK is party to over 90 bilateral investment treaties and these treaties do not require changes to domestic law. I would be pleased to invite you to meet with me, alongside officials, to discuss the UK's approach to investment in relation to trade agreement continuity and to address any further questions you may have.

I am copying this letter to Lord Stevenson of Balmacara. I am placing a copy of this letter in the libraries of both Houses.

Baroness Fairhead

Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion
Department for International Trade