



Department  
for Exiting the  
European Union

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Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP  
Chair, Exiting the EU Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

18 July 2019

Dear Hilary,

I am writing to provide an update on the ongoing programme of work to transition existing EU - third country international agreements. You will have also received a letter from the Secretary of State regarding the arrangements for transitional migration between the UK and Switzerland in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

As I am sure you will be aware, 44 such agreements have now completed the Parliamentary scrutiny process under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 ('the CRaG Act'). Since I wrote to you on 11th April, Departments have reviewed their delivery plans; I attach a list which sets out the recent progress that has been made to transition agreements, and which, in the interests of transparency, will shortly be reflected [here](#) on GOV.UK.

In the meantime, officials across government are continuing to hold constructive discussions with third countries and further agreements are expected to be signed in the coming weeks (such as the trade agreement with South Korea and custom cooperation agreements with New Zealand and China). Government will continue to lay agreements subject to ratification before Parliament for scrutiny in accordance with the provisions of the CRaG Act.

I will continue to keep you updated on this work and I would like to thank you and your Committee for your continued interest in this important programme of work.

In the interests of transparency, a copy of this letter and the attached list will be deposited in the library of both Houses.

I am writing in similar terms to the Commons' Chairs of the European Scrutiny Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee and the Procedure Committee as well as the Chairs of the European Union Committee, the Constitution Committee and the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee in the House of Lords.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Cleverly', written in a cursive style.

**JAMES CLEVERLY MP  
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Key	
Will be in place	These agreements have been agreed/signed and where required are subject to parliamentary scrutiny in the UK and the Third Country
Engagement Ongoing	Engagement is ongoing with Third Countries and we will continue to update this list
Will not be in place	These will not be in place for 31st October in a No Deal scenario

Aviation						
Name	Description	Will this agreement or arrangement be in place by 31 October in event of No Deal scenario	Additional Comment	Lead Department	Country	Source
<b>Republic of North Macedonia Air Services Arrangement</b>	This arrangement provides the legal basis for flight between the UK and North Macedonia.	Will be in place	Concluded in April 2019. For further information please contact the Department for Transport.	DTF	Republic of North Macedonia	Common Aviation Area Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
It is standard international practice for new Air Services Agreements (ASAs), or amendments to existing ASAs, to be applied administratively via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pending signature and completion of respective domestic legal requirements. This is with the exception of Switzerland, where domestic Swiss requirements mean that the replacement UK-Swiss ASA is being ratified ahead of entry into force.						

Citizens' Rights						
Name	Description	Will this agreement or arrangement be in place by 31 October in event of No Deal scenario	Additional Comment	Lead Department	Country	Source
<b>Switzerland Transitional Migration Agreement</b>	The agreement provides for temporary migration arrangements for workers in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, and will apply until December 2020.	Will be in place	Agreement was signed on 10 July, this is following the announcement of the agreement on 24 April.	DE&EU	Switzerland	Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Swiss Confederation on admission to the labour market for a temporary transitional period following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the Free Movement of Peoples Agreement

Fisheries						
Name	Description	Will this agreement or arrangement be in place by 31 October in event of No Deal scenario	Additional Comment	Lead Department	Country	Source
<b>Greenland Fishing</b>	This agreement gives vessels quota and access to Greenland's exclusive economic zone to fish for certain species. In return Greenland receives financial recompense. The UK has a small direct fishing interest in this agreement.	Agreement is to be removed from Gov.uk	This agreement was added to gov.uk in error and is therefore being removed.	Defra	Greenland	Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand
<b>High Seas Fishing Conservation</b>	This agreement seeks to create a framework for strengthening international cooperation to ensure compliance by fishing vessels on the high seas with international measures for the conservation and management of the living resources of the high seas and their responsible and sustainable use.	Will be in place	Accession to this agreement will be in place for EU Exit. Domestic processes to join this agreement continue on track. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	N/A - Multilateral	Agreement to promote compliance with international conservation and management measures by fishing vessels on the high seas
<b>Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fisheries Import [this word will be removed] Agreements (Catch certificates)</b>	Currently all third countries wishing to export fish and fish products to an EU Member State are required to provide formal notification to the EU. After the UK leaves the EU similar arrangements will be implemented in order to facilitate smooth trade with those third countries.	Will be in place	The UK government has informed partner countries of its intention to continue the use of catch certificates. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	N/A - Multilateral	IUU Fisheries Agreements (Catch certificates)
<b>Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)</b>	This is a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO), an international organisation whose parties cooperate to conserve and manage shared fish stocks.	Will be in place	Accession to this agreement will be in place for EU Exit. Domestic processes to join this agreement continue on track. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	N/A - Multilateral	Agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
<b>International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT Convention)</b>	This is a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO), an international organisation whose parties cooperate to conserve and manage shared fish stocks, including in ICCAT, the allocation of fishing opportunities for these stocks.	Will be in place	Accession to this agreement will be in place for EU Exit. Domestic processes to join this agreement continue on track. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	N/A - Multilateral	International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT Convention)
<b>Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (NAFO)</b>	This is a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO), an international organisation whose parties cooperate to conserve and manage shared fish stocks, including in NAFO, the allocation of fishing opportunities for these stocks.	Will be in place	Accession to this agreement will be in place for EU Exit. Domestic processes to join this agreement continue on track. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	N/A - Multilateral	Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (NAFO)
<b>Port State Measures</b>	This agreement seeks to create a framework for strengthening international cooperation to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.	Will be in place	Accession to this agreement will be in place for EU Exit. Domestic processes to join this agreement continue on track. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	N/A - Multilateral	Agreement on Port State measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Food & Drink						
Name	Description	Will this agreement or arrangement be in place by 31 October in event of No Deal scenario	Additional Comment	Lead Department	Country	Source
<b>International Coffee Organisation</b>	Membership of the International Coffee Organisation provides the UK a platform to contribute to the strengthening of the global Coffee sector and promotes cooperation and ties between the UK and countries that are Coffee producers or consumers.	Engagement Ongoing	The UK government intends to become an independent member once it leaves the EU, and will endeavour to have this in place upon EU exit. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	N/A - Multilateral	International Coffee Agreement 2007
<b>International Grains Council</b>	The International Grains Council provides a venue for information-sharing, analysis and consultations on grain market and policy developments. As a member of the organisation, the UK will be able to contribute to the strengthening of the global Grains sector and promote cooperation and ties between the UK and countries that are grain producers or consumers.	Engagement Ongoing	The UK government intends to become an independent member once it leaves the EU, and will endeavour to have this in place upon EU exit. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	N/A - Multilateral	Grains Trade Convention, 1995
<b>International Sugar Organisation</b>	Membership of the International Sugar Organisation provides the UK a platform to contribute to the strengthening of the global Sugar sector and promotes cooperation and ties between the UK and countries that are Sugar producers or consumers.	Engagement Ongoing	The UK government intends to become an independent member once it leaves the EU, and will endeavour to have this in place upon EU exit. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	N/A - Multilateral	International Sugar Agreement 1992

Intellectual Property						
Name	Description	Will this agreement or arrangement be in place by 31 October in event of No Deal scenario	Additional Comment	Lead Department	Country	Source

Marrakesh Treaty	The Marrakesh Treaty is an international agreement to improve the access of visually impaired people to copyright works around the world by allowing the making, distribution, and transfer between Treaty countries of accessible format copies of copyright works (e.g. braille copies of books).	Engagement Ongoing	The UK signed the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled on 28 June 2013, but its participation has been on the basis of ratification by the European Union on 1 October 2018. The UK is taking the steps necessary to ratify the agreement as a separate participating state.	BEIS	N/A - Multilateral	Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled
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Livestock						
Name	Description	Will this agreement or arrangement be in place by 31 October in event of No Deal scenario	Additional Comment	Lead Department	Country	Source
Export Health Certificates (EHCs)	The transition of these certificates will allow the continued export of Live Animals and Products of Animal Origin to countries outside of the EU/EEA/Switzerland.	Will be in place	Letters have been sent to partner countries to confirm the UK government's intention to continue to use Export Health Certificates on exit. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	149 countries or territories	To trade internationally in animal products the UK must comply with international health requirements. For trade with third countries, animal products must be accompanied by an EHC in line with World Organisation for Animal Health guidance.

Organic Equivalence						
Name	Description	Will this agreement or arrangement be in place by 31 October in event of No Deal scenario	Additional Comment	Lead Department	Country	Source
Chile Organic Equivalence Agreement	This agreement delivers continuity on promoting trade in Organic Products between the UK and Chile.	Will be in place	Agreement was signed on the 30th January, but remains subject to final ratification/notice of completion by the UK and/or the partner country. For more information please see <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/776721/CS_Chile_1_2019_Trade_Organic.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/776721/CS_Chile_1_2019_Trade_Organic.pdf</a>	Defra	Chile	Chile Organic Equivalence Agreement
Tunisia Organic Equivalence Arrangement	This arrangement sets out the basis for UK recognition of the relevant organics standards of the Tunisia, and for this to be reciprocated.	Will be in place	The UK government has confirmed with the partner country that we will continue to recognise their relevant organic standards. Reciprocally remains subject to final confirmation but we are confident that it will be in place on exit. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	Tunisia	Tunisia Organic Equivalence Arrangement
United States Organic Equivalence Arrangement	This arrangement sets out the basis for UK recognition of the relevant organics standards of US, and for this to be reciprocated.	Will be in place	The UK government has confirmed with the partner country that we will continue to recognise their relevant organic standards and for this to be reciprocated. For further information please contact defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk	Defra	United States	US Organic Equivalence Arrangement

Political						
Name	Description	Will this agreement or arrangement be in place by 31 October in event of No Deal scenario	Additional Comment	Lead Department	Country	Source
Agreement to maintain the effect of the 'EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement'	This agreement reaffirms relations with Armenia by providing a framework for dialogue and cooperation to allow for enhanced conditions for some aspects of trade.	Engagement Ongoing	This is predominantly a political agreement which provides a framework to consolidate relations. There is no impact to the bilateral political relationship by not transitioning this agreement in time for EU Exit. The agreement with Armenia provides the framework for our trading relationship alongside political and economic cooperation. We do not expect any change to the current trading arrangement.	FCO	Armenia	EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement
Agreement to maintain the effect of the 'Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and the Republic of Azerbaijan'	This agreement reaffirms relations with Azerbaijan and provides a framework for our relationship, including aspects of trade.	Engagement Ongoing	This is predominantly a political agreement which provides a framework to consolidate relations. There is no impact to the bilateral political relationship by not transitioning this agreement in time for EU Exit. The agreement with Azerbaijan provides the framework for our trading relationship alongside political and economic cooperation. We do not expect any change to the current trading arrangement.	FCO	Azerbaijan	Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part, extending the provisions of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement to bilateral trade in textiles, taking account of the expiry of the bilateral textiles Agreement
Agreement to maintain the effect of the 'Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan'	This agreement reaffirms relations with Kazakhstan by providing a framework for dialogue and cooperation to allow for enhanced conditions for some aspects of trade.	Engagement Ongoing	This is predominantly a political agreement which provides a framework to consolidate relations. There is no impact to the bilateral political relationship by not transitioning this agreement in time for EU Exit. The agreement with Kazakhstan provides the framework for our trading relationship alongside political and economic cooperation. We do not expect any change to the current trading arrangement.	FCO	Kazakhstan	Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Kazakhstan, of the other part
Agreement to maintain the effect of the 'Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Turkmenistan (PCA)'	This agreement reaffirms relations with Turkmenistan and provides a framework for our relationship, including aspects of trade.	Engagement Ongoing	This is predominantly a political agreement which provides a framework to consolidate relations. There is no impact to the bilateral political relationship by not transitioning this agreement in time for EU Exit. The agreement with Turkmenistan provides the framework for our trading relationship alongside political and economic cooperation. We do not expect any change to the current trading arrangement.	FCO	Turkmenistan	Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Turkmenistan (PCA)
Agreement to maintain the effect of the 'Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and the Republic of Uzbekistan'	This agreement reaffirms relations with Uzbekistan and provides a framework for our relationship, including aspects of trade.	Engagement Ongoing	This is predominantly a political agreement which provides a framework to consolidate relations. There is no impact to the bilateral political relationship by not transitioning this agreement in time for EU Exit. The agreement with Uzbekistan provides the framework for our trading relationship alongside political and economic cooperation. We do not expect any change to the current trading arrangement.	FCO	Uzbekistan	Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part - with protocols