



Department
for Exiting the
European Union

James Duddridge MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Exiting the European Union
9 Downing Street
SW1A 2AG

correspondence@dexeu.gov.uk
www.gov.uk

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

11 October 2019

Dear Hilary,

I am pleased to write and provide an update on the ongoing progress to transition existing EU - Third country international agreements.

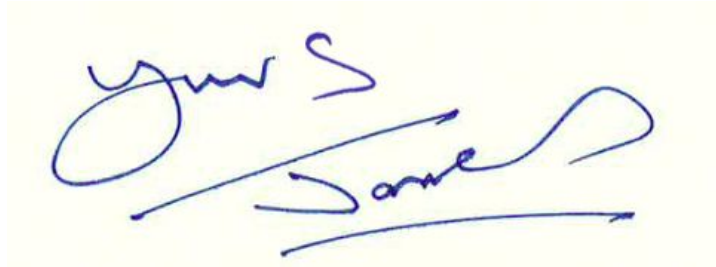
As I am sure you will be aware, 45 such agreements have now completed the Parliamentary scrutiny process in line with the requirements of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 ('the CRaG Act'), including most recently the Agreement on Government Procurement (completed on 2nd October 2019), with a further 8 currently undergoing scrutiny. Since the last update from the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State on 18 July, officials across Government have continued to work with third countries to transition existing EU-Third Country Agreements. For your information I have attached a detailed list which sets out the recent progress that has been made, and which, in the interests of transparency, will shortly be reflected on GOV.UK.

As this list shows, Government has made significant progress in transitioning these international agreements with many now ready to be applied in a no-deal scenario on 31st October (subject to final administrative and parliamentary procedures) when the UK leaves the EU. You will see that a number of agreements have been added to GOV.UK, including Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). I trust you will welcome this further information which ensures that citizens and businesses can have the most complete view of the status of international agreements on Exit, and can plan accordingly. Many of these are replacements for existing MoUs or non-treaty mechanisms, while some are temporary arrangements to minimise disruption in bilateral cooperation whilst a replacement bilateral treaty is finalised, signed and ratified. You will notice that some agreements are newly listed as 'Will not be in Place.' This refers to a no deal scenario (on 31st October) specifically; I would like to reassure you that Government is working to transition these agreements as quickly as possible.

We are working to lay further agreements subject to parliamentary scrutiny under the CRaG Act as soon as practicable and I will continue to keep you updated on this important programme of work. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and your Committee for your ongoing constructive engagement on this matter.

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 Chairs of the European Scrutiny Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee and the Procedure Committee in the House of Commons 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 blue ink on a light yellow background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'James Duddridge'.

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