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Minister for Employment Relations,
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William Cash MP
Chair - House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee
Room 270
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25

May 2011

New Bill,

EU Competitiveness Council: 30-31 May 2011

The EU Competitiveness Council will take place in Brussels on 30 and 31 May. I shall represent the UK for the Internal Market and Industry issues on 30 May and David Willetts, Minister of State for Universities and Science will represent the UK for the Research and Space issues on 31 May 2011.

The substantive Internal Market and Industry agenda items on 30 May will be discussion on the proposed Statute for the European private company; a proposal to amend EU accounting requirements for micro-entities (very small companies). There will also be discussions on the EU Patent, covering the enhanced co-operation process, the translation arrangements and the litigation system; and the adoption of Council Conclusions on the EU Single Market Act, on the Review of the EU Small Business Act, and on Smart Regulation in the EU.

The Internal Market and Industry Any Other Business items will comprise updates on: the results of the EU Informal Competitiveness Council held in Hungary from 11-13 April 2011; regulatory co-operation between Member States on a proposed EU Framework for Gambling and Betting; a proposed new European Standardisation System; information from the Swedish delegation concerning tobacco regulation in the EU; and on the results of a public consultation concerning professional qualifications in the EU.

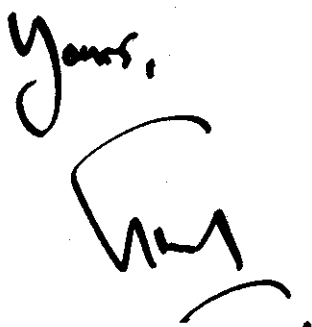
The substantive Research agenda items on 31 May will be to discuss a proposal concerning the Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community ("Euratom") for nuclear research and training activities in 2012-13; and to adopt Council Conclusions on the Eurostars Joint Programme; the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AALJP); and on development of the European Research Area (ERA) through ERA related groups. The substantive Space agenda item on 31 May will be to adopt Council Conclusions on an EU space strategy.

The Any Other Business items on 31 May will comprise updates on: the results of the EU Informal Competitiveness Council held in Hungary from 11-13 April 2011; the Ministerial group on simplification of EU research programmes; progress of the European Research Council; Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) in the ICT area; the strategy of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology; the Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation Funding; the state of play on ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) funding for 2012-2013 (requested by the UK); and reports on: the Framework Programme 7 Space Conference held in Hungary from 12-13 May 2011; the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Outer Space meeting held in Vienna from 1-10 June 2011 and the work programme of the forthcoming Polish EU Presidency (January-June 2012).

The Government's main aims will be:

- To emphasise the need for the Council's Internal Market and Industry measures to focus on helping to promote EU growth
- To agree Council Conclusions on the Single Market Act, the Review of the EU Small Business Act and EU Smart Regulation
- To support the compromise proposal to amend EU accounting requirements for micro-entities
- To agree Council Conclusions on the Euratom Framework, Eurostars and AALJP programmes and on EU space strategy

I am writing in similar terms to Lord Roper, Chair, European Scrutiny Committee, House of Lords and copying to the Clerks of both Committees, Les Saunders (Cabinet Office) and Elaine Barley (BIS Scrutiny Committee). A copy of the letter is being placed in the House Libraries.

Yours,


EDWARD DAVEY