



Baroness Anderson of Stoke-on-Trent  
Baroness-in-Waiting [Government Whip]  
and Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office  
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

Baroness Helic,  
House of Lords,  
London,  
SW1A 0PW

15 January 2026

Dear Lady Helic,

I am writing in response to a question you asked in the House on 18 December 2025 on how our association to Erasmus+ in 2027 will strengthen and contribute to better collaboration in defence-related research and development, alongside our wider defence cooperation with the UK and EU.

On our wider defence co-operation with the EU, as you will be aware, we agreed on an ambitious new Security and Defence Partnership at the 2025 Summit. We are now working quickly with the EU to implement the Partnership and have already stepped up our cooperation on key issues such as support to Ukraine, tackling hybrid threats and supporting stability in the Western Balkans.

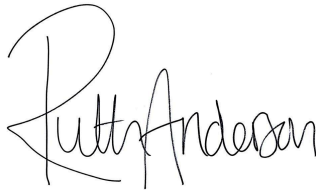
Our association to Erasmus+ in 2027 will deepen our people-to-people ties with Europe, ensuring the re-opening of structured partnerships and networks that drive quality, encourage research links and enhance international reputation. It is ultimately an investment in opportunity for our young people, our workforce and our future, opening doors for tens of thousands across the UK.

Higher education institutions in particular will be able to use Erasmus+ to collaborate on research projects, develop joint degrees, and build long-term academic networks that enhance knowledge exchange and innovation. This will open up a broad spectrum of opportunities for research and development for sectors across the UK.

The UK remains committed to working with the EU to boost our collective prosperity and security through research and innovation. Through our association to Horizon Europe, UK researchers and businesses can participate in the world's largest programme of research cooperation. Our impact is clear: last year, UK researchers and businesses working on the latest innovation on emerging technologies were given access to more Horizon Europe funding. These technologies, such as R&D in quantum, will be key for the UK's growth and economy.

Thank you for your engagement on this important matter. I will place a copy of this letter in the House library.

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ruth Anderson'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' at the beginning.

**Baroness Anderson of Stoke-on-Trent  
Baroness-in-Waiting [Government Whip]  
and Lords Spokesperson for Cabinet Office**