



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Minister for Europe and the
Americas
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

13 December 2018

Sir William Cash MP
Chair
European Scrutiny Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Bill,

COUNCIL DECISION IN SUPPORT OF COUNTERING ILLICIT PROLIFERATION AND TRAFFICKING OF SMALL ARMS, LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) AND AMMUNITION AND THEIR IMPACT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

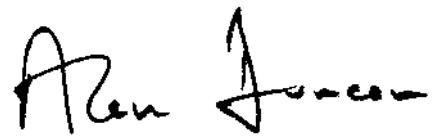
I am writing with regard to the EU Council Decision in support of Countering Illicit Proliferation and Trafficking of Small Arms, Light Weapons (SALW) and Ammunition and their Impact in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As detailed in the Explanatory Memorandum, the project will help Member States of the Organisation of American States (OAS), who have sought assistance, to implement their commitments under the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW (UNPOA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI). It will support regional coordination, provide legislative and technical assistance to arms control and law enforcement authorities and strengthen the capacity of selected communities to prevent armed violence.

In order for the Council Decision to be funded from the 2018 CFSP budget, it needs to be adopted by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 17 December. This is the final opportunity for the Council Decision to be adopted this year and if it is not adopted by this Council the programme may have to be cancelled. Unfortunately the draft Council Decision was finalised so close to this deadline that it needed to be agreed very quickly. Though the House of Lords EU Select Committee cleared the item on 11 December, it will not be possible for your Committee to consider it before the 17 December Council. Therefore I regret that I find myself in the position of having to agree to the adoption of this Council Decision before your Committee has had an opportunity to scrutinise the documents.

As you know, the responsibility to give your Committee the opportunity to scrutinise EU Council Decisions ahead of adoption is something I take seriously and the need for the override of scrutiny on this occasion is regrettably unavoidable.

A copy of this letter will be sent to The Lord Boswell of Aynho, Chair of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union, the Clerks of both Committees, Les Saunders at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Adam Nutley, FCO Scrutiny Coordinator, Nicole Mason, FCO Parliamentary Adviser, and Lynne Smith, FCO Select Committee Liaison Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Duncan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP