



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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

22 March 2019

The Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chair of the Select Committee on European Union
Committee Office
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Tim,

COUNCIL DECISION IN SUPPORT OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BTWC) IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EU STRATEGY AGAINST PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

My Explanatory Memorandum (EM) of 8 November 2018 set out the rationale for this Council Decision supporting the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention for 36 months, and undertook to update Parliament once a budget had been approved and funding information became available. The EM cleared the Chairman's Sift (1713) on 14 November 2018 and the Council Decision 2019/97/CFSP was adopted on 21 January 2019 [attached].

The approved budget for this Council Decision at EUR 3,029,856.79 will be funded in its entirety through the 2019 CFSP budget. As foreseen in my earlier EM, I am therefore pleased to confirm no additional UK bilateral contribution is required.

I will write in similar terms to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee, and copy this letter to 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.

Alan Duncan

RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP