

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From: Sir William Cash MP

6 May 2020

Kelly Tolhurst MP
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6958/20: Proposed Council Decision on EU/ASEAN comprehensive air transport agreement negotiations

The Committee have asked me to thank you for your Explanatory Memorandum on the above listed proposal of 7 April 2020.

As you highlight in your Explanatory Memorandum, owing to the current state-of-play of negotiations between the EU and the ASEAN member states, it is highly unlikely that an agreement will be signed and provisionally applied before the end of the transition period (and, as per Part Four of the Withdrawal Agreement, will apply to the UK).¹

The Committee is, therefore, interested in the Government's plans for the opening of negotiations with the ASEAN member states on a UK/ASEAN comprehensive air transport agreement and requests further information in this regard. We also request information on the current bilateral air service agreements in effect between the UK and individual ASEAN nations (including the dates on which they entered into force).

I am copying this letter to Lord Kinnoull and Christopher Johnson in the Lords; to Les Saunders at the Department for Exiting the European Union; and to Margaret Browne, Departmental Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

CHAIR

¹ Notwithstanding the possibility of extension in international law under the Withdrawal Agreement, the end of the transitionary period is taken here as 31 December 2020.