

# European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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**From: Sir William Cash MP**

14 May 2020

Nigel Adams MP  
Minister of State  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London, SW1A 2AH

## **UK contribution to EU naval Operation IRINI**

Thank you for your Explanatory Memorandum of 28 April on the establishment of the EU's new military operation in the Mediterranean to enforce the UN arms embargo against Libya (Operation IRINI).<sup>1</sup> We note the Government's interest in the mission, and its concerns about its implementation in practice given the COVID-19 crisis and the continued violence on the ground in Libya.

The Committee notes that, while your Memorandum helpfully provided an estimate of the limited cost to the UK taxpayer of having to pay towards IRINI's activities as part of the Brexit financial settlement, it did not refer whether the Government is intended to make any further contributions, for example in the form of naval or aerial assets to boost the Mission's likelihood of success in enforcing the arms embargo.

We therefore ask you to write to us by the end of May to set out whether the Government has committed – or is considering committing – making any further voluntary contributions to Operation IRINI, and if so, the nature of those additional contributions.

I am copying this letter to Chairs and Clerks of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Defence Committee and the International Development

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<sup>1</sup> EU documents Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/472 and Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/471.

Committee; to the Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, the Foreign Secretary; to Lord Kinnoull and Christopher Johnson in the Lords; to Les Saunders at the Cabinet Office; and to Adam Nutley at your Department.

**CHAIR**