



HOUSE OF LORDS
European Union Committee

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 4579
Fax: 020 7219 6715
euclords@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

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The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear George,

The future of chemical regulation

Thank you for joining us for an evidence session on 8 July: we appreciate your time. We have further questions on each of the topics discussed, and will pursue these in the relevant correspondences.

We would like to draw your attention to our serious concerns about the future of chemical regulation in the UK. In 2018 the EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee published its *Brexit: chemical regulation* report.¹ In that report, and in subsequent correspondence with Thérèse Coffey in her role as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment,² the Committee highlighted:

- Industry's emphatic desire to continue to participate in REACH (the EU's chemical regulation regime) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) after leaving the EU
- A potential lack of access to essential safety information for up to two years, based on your own plans
- Significant costs to businesses arising from having to register with both the EU and UK systems, as well as purchasing or replicating testing data, and the challenges arising from potentially divergent regimes
- The risk of a lack of oversight of the decision-making process within UK REACH
- The need for significant extra resources for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to enable them to effectively manage a new regulation regime.

We are therefore concerned that you have decided not to seek to continue to participate in ECHA, and that the other challenges remain, a year and a half later.

¹ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldeucom/215/215.pdf>

² <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/eu-energy-environment-subcommittee/inquiries/parliament-2017/future-of-reach/future-reach-publications/>

We are aware that the Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, in his role as Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee, wrote to you on this matter on 6 July,³ and look forward to seeing your response.

We will be returning to this issue in the autumn.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robn".

Lord Teverson
Chair of the EU Environment Sub-Committee

³ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/1773/documents/17213/default/>