



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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6th Report of Session 2019–21

# **Scrutiny of international agreements**

## **Treaties considered on 11 February 2020**

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### *The European Union Committee*

The European Union Committee is appointed each session “to scrutinise documents deposited in the House by a Minister, and other matters related to the European Union”.

In practice this means that the Select Committee, along with its Sub-Committees, scrutinises the UK Government’s policies and actions in respect to the EU, and more generally represents the House of Lords in its dealings with the institutions and Member States of the EU.

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Energy and Environment Sub-Committee  
External Affairs Sub-Committee  
Financial Affairs Sub-Committee  
Home Affairs Sub-Committee  
Internal Market Sub-Committee  
Justice Sub-Committee

### *Membership*

The Members of the European Union Select Committee are:

<a href="#"><u>Baroness Brown of Cambridge</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lord Kerr of Kinlochard</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lord Ricketts</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Lord Cavendish of Furness</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Earl of Kinnoull (Chair)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lord Sharkey</u></a>
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<a href="#"><u>Lord Faulkner of Worcester</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Baroness Neville-Rolfe</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lord Wood of Anfield</u></a>
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<a href="#"><u>Lord Jay of Ewelme</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Baroness Primarolo</u></a>	

### *Further information*

Publications, press notices, details of membership, forthcoming meeting and other information is available at <http://www.parliament.uk/hleu>.

General information about the House of Lords and its Committees are available at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/lords>.

### *Committee Staff*

The current staff of the Committee are Christopher Johnson (Principal Clerk), Stuart Stoner (Clerk), George Webber (Second Clerk), Tim Mitchell (Legal Adviser), Alex Horne (Legal Adviser) and Samuel Lomas (Committee Assistant).

### *Contact Details*

Contact details for individual Sub-Committees are given on the website. General correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the European Union Committee, Committee Office, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW. Telephone 020 7219 5791. Email [euclords@parliament.uk](mailto:euclords@parliament.uk).

### *Twitter*

You can follow the Committee on Twitter: [@LordsEUCom](https://twitter.com/LordsEUCom).

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## SUMMARY

This is the European Union Committee's twenty-first report on Brexit-related treaties, or international agreements, laid before Parliament in accordance with section 20 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (the CRAG Act).

The report addresses one agreement, considered at our meeting on the 11 February 2020, which is being reported for information

- Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a Partnership between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part (CP 203)

# Scrutiny of international agreements: treaties considered on 11 February 2020

## CHAPTER 1: AGREEMENT REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

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### Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a Partnership between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part (CP 203, 2019)<sup>1</sup>

1. The UK-Uzbekistan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was laid on 20 December 2019, and the scrutiny period is scheduled to end on 11 February 2020. It was considered by the EU External Affairs Committee at its meeting on 6 February.
2. The precursor agreement to the UK-Uzbekistan Agreement is the EU-Uzbekistan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement,<sup>2</sup> which entered into force in 1999. The UK Agreement seeks to replicate the terms of the EU Agreement. Alterations reflect the new bilateral context, such as removing references to the EU and EU institutions. Further changes have been made in response to developments in Uzbekistan, for example, taking out the phrase “newly independent States”—which is a reference to former Soviet republics gaining their independence during the 1990s.
3. The Agreement commits the Parties to cooperation through regular political dialogue in a broad number of areas, including trade and investment, financial services, procurement, environment and human health matters, international peace and security, the rule of law, and human rights.
4. Title Three of the Agreement covers trade in goods and ensures that trade between the UK and Uzbekistan can continue on ‘most-favoured-nation’ terms. This had to be explicitly set out as Uzbekistan is not a member of the WTO and, consequently, not subject to the ‘most-favoured-nation’ principle. The volume of trade between the UK and Uzbekistan is very small: total imports in 2016 were under £10 million; while exports were under £70 million.<sup>3</sup> The Agreement also provides for equal treatment of nationals in employment terms; the equal treatment of companies; and outlines measures to enable the supply of services across borders. Title Four replicates the terms of the UK-Uzbekistan Bilateral Investment Treaty, which provided further guarantees for companies operating in either territory.

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1 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a Partnership between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, CP 203, 2019: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/854351/CS\\_Uzbekistan\\_1.2019\\_UK\\_Uzbekistan\\_Partnership\\_and\\_Cooperation\\_Agreement.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/854351/CS_Uzbekistan_1.2019_UK_Uzbekistan_Partnership_and_Cooperation_Agreement.pdf) [accessed 3 February 2020]

2 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their member states, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, *OJ L229/3*, (31 August 1999)

3 Office for National Statistics, ‘Who Does the UK Trade With?’ (3 January 2018): <https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/internationaltrade/articles/whodoestheuktradewith/2017-02-21> [accessed 6 February 2020]

5. The UK Agreement, like the precursor EU Agreement, provides for Uzbekistan to receive technical assistance on matters relating to democracy, human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of illegal activities. In addition, under Title Ten, Uzbekistan may receive financial assistance (bilateral, multilateral or through regional organisations) to meet the objectives of the Agreement.
6. The Agreement establishes a Partnership and Cooperation Dialogue, charged with the supervision of all aspects of the Agreement. Its membership and how it would operate in practice, however, is yet to be determined.
7. Article 83 of the precursor EU Agreement establishes a bilateral channel for parliamentary dialogue through the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee. This has not been read across to the UK Agreement. Officials have previously explained that this approach reflects the Government's general policy of not seeking to bind the UK Parliament without consultation. We have questioned this in relation to other agreements, such as the *Association Agreement with Chile* (CP 35, 2019).<sup>4</sup>
8. **We report the UK-Uzbekistan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement to the House for information.**

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4 European Union Committee, *Scrutiny of International Agreements: treaties considered on 26 February 2019* (31st Report, Session 2017–19, HL Paper 300) para 45

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF MEMBERS, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND SUB-COMMITTEE STAFF

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### Members of the European Union Select Committee

The Earl of Kinnoull (Chair)  
 Baroness Brown of Cambridge  
 Lord Cavendish of Furness  
 Baroness Couttie  
 Baroness Donaghy  
 Lord Faulkner of Worcester  
 Baroness Hamwee  
 Lord Jay of Ewelme  
 Lord Kerr of Kinlochard  
 Lord Lamont of Lerwick  
 Lord Morris of Aberavon  
 Baroness Neville-Rolfe  
 Lord Oates  
 Baroness Primarolo  
 Lord Ricketts  
 Lord Sharkey  
 Lord Teverson  
 Baroness Verma  
 Lord Wood of Anfield

### Declarations of interest

The Earl of Kinnoull (Chair)  
*Farming interests as principal and as charitable trustee, in receipt of agricultural subsidy*  
*Chairman, Culture Perth and Kinross, in receipt of governmental subsidy*  
*Chairman, United Kingdom Squirrel Accord, in receipt of governmental monies*  
*Shareholdings as set out in the register*

Baroness Brown of Cambridge  
*Vice Chair of the Committee on Climate Change*  
*Chair of the Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change*  
*Chair of the Henry Royce Institute for Advanced Materials*  
*Chair of STEM Learning Ltd*  
*Non-Executive Director of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult*  
*Chair of The Carbon Trust*  
*Council member of Innovate UK*

Lord Cavendish of Furness  
*Director, Burlington Slate Limited*  
*Shareholder, Holker Holdings Limited*  
*Shareholder, Cartmel Steeplechases (Holker) Limited*  
*Shareholder, Holker Estates Co Limited*  
*Shareholder, Holker Homes Limited*  
*Shareholder, Burlington Slate Limited*  
*Roose and Walney Sand and Gravel Company Limited (The) (Dormant)*  
*Holker Estates Co Limited*

*Holker Holdings Limited*

*Cartmel Steeplechases (Holker) Limited*

*Corrie and Co Limited*

*Guides over the Kent and Levens Sands Limited*

*Beneficiary of a Family Trust which owns land in South Cumbria,  
including residential and business property*

*Owner of a flat in London SW1 from which rental income is received*

*Owner of woodlands based in South Cumbria*

**Baroness Couttie**

*Non-Executive Director, Mitie*

*Commissioner, Guernsey Financial Services Commission*

**Baroness Donaghy**

*Former President of the Trades Union Congress*

*Former member of the European Trades Union Congress*

**Lord Faulkner of Worcester**

*Chairman, Great Western Railway Advisory Board*

*Chairman, Alderney Gambling Control Commission*

*Her Majesty's Government's Trade Envoy to Taiwan*

**Baroness Hamwee**

*Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson on Immigration*

**Lord Jay of Ewelme**

*Trustee (Non-Executive Director), Thomson Reuters Founders Share  
Company*

*Vice Chairman, European Policy Forum Advisory Council*

*Member, Senior European Experts Group*

*Trustee, Magdalen College, Oxford Development Trust*

**Lord Kerr of Kinlochard**

*Chairman, Centre for European Reform*

*Deputy Chairman, Scottish Power PLC*

*Member, Scottish Government's advisory Standing Council on Europe*

**Lord Lamont of Lerwick**

*Director, Jupiter European Opportunities Trust*

*Director, Compagnie Internationale de Participations Bancaires et  
Financieres (CIPAF)*

*Director, Chelverton UK Dividend Trust*

*Adviser, Halkin Investments*

*Adviser, Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum (OMFIF)*

*Adviser, Meinhardt Engineering Group, Singapore*

*Adviser, Stanhope Capital LLP*

**Lord Morris of Aberavon**

*No relevant interests declared*

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe**

*Former Commercial Secretary, HM Treasury*

*Former Minister of State for Energy and Intellectual Property*

*Chair, UK ASEAN Business Council*

*Non-Executive Director, Capita Plc*

*Non-Executive Director, Secure Trust Bank Plc*

*Non-Executive Director, Health Data Research UK*

*Trustee (Non-Executive Director), Thomson Reuters Founders Share  
Company*

*Shareholdings as set out in the register*



Lord Oates

*Director, Centre for Countering Digital Hate*  
*Chairman, Advisory Board, Weber Shandwick UK*  
*Non-Executive Director, NHSBT*

Baroness Primarolo

*Non-executive director and chair, Thompson's Solicitors*  
*Chair, Remuneration Board, National Assembly for Wales*

Lord Ricketts

*Non-Executive Director, Group Engie, France*  
*Strategic Adviser, Lockheed Martin UK*  
*Charitable activities as set out in the Register of Interests*

Lord Sharkey

*No relevant interests declared*

Lord Teverson

*Trustee, Regen SW*  
*In receipt of a pension from the European Parliament*

Baroness Verma

*No relevant interests declared*

Lord Wood of Anfield

*Chair of the United Nations Association (UNA-UK)*  
*Director, Good Law Project*

### **Sub-Committee Members and staff**

#### *EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee*

Lord Teverson (Chair)  
 Lord Addington  
 Lord Arbuthnot of Edrom  
 Baroness Bryan of Partick  
 Baroness Byford  
 Lord Cameron of Dillington  
 Lord Kerr of Kinlochard  
 Baroness McIntosh of Pickering  
 Lord Maxton  
 The Duke of Montrose  
 The Earl of Stair  
 Lord Young of Norwood Green

For relevant interests see: [https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-energy-environment-subcommittee/scrutiny-2017-19/DoI\\_Scrutiny\\_2017-19.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-energy-environment-subcommittee/scrutiny-2017-19/DoI_Scrutiny_2017-19.pdf)

The Sub-Committee staff are Jennifer Mills (Clerk) Oliver Rix (Policy Analyst) and Jodie Evans (Committee Assistant).

*EU External Affairs Sub-Committee*

Baroness Verma (Chair)  
Lord Alderdice  
Baroness Brown of Cambridge  
Baroness Chalker of Wallasey  
Lord Davies of Stamford  
Lord Faulkner of Worcester  
Baroness Finn  
Lord Fraser of Corriegarth  
Lord Oates  
The Earl of Sandwich  
Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean  
Lord Wood of Anfield

For relevant interests see: <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-external-affairs-subcommittee/members-interests-2-2019.pdf>

The Sub-Committee staff are Jennifer Martin-Kohlmorgen (Clerk) and Laura Ayres (Committee Assistant).

*EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee*

Lord Sharkey (Chair)  
Lord Bruce of Bennachie  
Lord Cavendish of Furness  
Baroness Couttie  
Lord Desai  
Lord Giddens  
Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke  
Baroness Neville-Rolfe  
Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd  
Viscount Trenchard  
Lord Turnbull  
Lord Vaux of Harrowden

For relevant interests see: <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-financial-affairs-subcommittee/declarations-of-interests-session-2017-19/Interests-2017-19.pdf>

The Sub-Committee staff are Dee Goddard (Clerk), Erik Tate (Policy Analyst) and Hadia Garwell (Committee Assistant).

*EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee*

Lord Jay of Ewelme (Chair)  
Lord Best  
Baroness Jolly  
Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate  
Lord Lexden  
Lord McNally  
Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan  
Baroness Primarolo  
Lord Ricketts  
Baroness Scott of Bybrook  
Lord Soley  
Lord Watts

For relevant interests see: <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-home-affairs-subcommittee/scrutiny-work/Scrutiny-interests.pdf>

The Sub-Committee staff are Simon Pook (Clerk), Genevieve Richardson (Policy Analyst) and George Stafford (Committee Assistant).

#### *EU Internal Market Sub-Committee*

Baroness Donaghy (Chair)  
 Lord Berkeley  
 Lord Carter of Coles  
 Baroness Kramer  
 Lord Lamont of Lerwick  
 Lord Lansley  
 Lord Lilley  
 Lord Mountevans  
 Baroness Prashar  
 Lord Robathan  
 Lord Russell of Liverpool  
 Lord Shipley  
 Lord Wigley

For relevant interests see: <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-internal-market-subcommittee/Declarations-of-Interests-for-Scrutiny-work-2017-19.pdf>

The Sub-Committee staff are Dominique Gracia (Clerk), Francesca D'Urzo (Policy Analyst) and Glenn Chapman (Committee Assistant).

#### *EU Justice Sub-Committee*

Lord Morris of Aberavon (Chair)  
 Lord Anderson of Ipswich  
 Lord Anderson of Swansea  
 Baroness Deech  
 Lord Dholakia  
 Lord Gold  
 Baroness Goudie  
 Baroness Hamwee  
 Lord Polak  
 Lord Rowlands

For relevant interests see: <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-justice-subcommittee/Scrutiny-Interests/declarations-of-interest-for-scrutiny-work-2017-19.pdf>

The Sub-Committee staff are Alex McMillan (Clerk) and Amanda McGrath (Committee Assistant).

A full list of Members' interests can be found in the Register of Lords' Interests: <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-financial-interests/house-of-lords-commissioner-for-standards-/register-of-lords-interests/>