



Justice Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 8196/8198 Email justicecom@parliament.uk
Website www.parliament.uk/justicecttee

Laura Robinson
Treaty Section
Room WH 2.143
King Charles St
London
SW1A 2AH

16 December 2020

Dear Laura Robinson

Convention on Jurisdiction and the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters and Amendments to the Convention of 2011/2014/2016

Thank you for your letter to the Committee notifying us that the Convention referred to above was presented to Parliament on 10 November 2020.

The Committee supports the Government's application to accede to the Lugano Convention 2007.

In 2017, the Justice Committee's report, [Implications of Brexit for the justice system](#), concluded:

We recommend that the four principal aims of the Government's approach to justice matters in Brexit negotiations be:

- (1) Continuing cooperation on criminal justice as closely as possible;
- (2) Maintaining access to the EU's valuable regulations on inter-state commercial law;
- (3) Enabling cross-border legal practice rights and opportunities; and
- (4) Retaining efficient mechanisms to resolve family law cases involving EU Member States and the UK.

The Committee recognises that the legislative framework on treaty scrutiny in the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2005 does not guarantee a substantive scrutiny role for the House of Commons. The Committee notes that the Government is committed to enabling the International Trade Committee in the Commons to scrutinise

future trade agreements. However, there is no Committee in the Commons responsible for scrutinising non-trade international agreements.

We would like to take this opportunity to register our interest in scrutinising any future international agreements that relate to the justice system. In order to facilitate such scrutiny the Committee would ask that the Committee is provided with access to the same level of information as the International Trade Committee is given for Free Trade Agreements. The Committee would welcome private briefings on the relevant negotiations, as was offered to the International Trade Committee on 24 June 2020 by the Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade, so as to enable us to begin the process of scrutinising an agreement before it is formally laid. We would also welcome the sharing of any information, if necessary on a confidential basis, that would enable the Committee to take a comprehensive and informed position on the final agreement. The Committee would ask that it is informed of any relevant negotiations at the earliest possible opportunity.

I am writing in similar terms to Bethan Ryman at the Ministry of Justice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Neill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sir Robert Neill MP
Chair
Justice Committee