



The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

11 September 2024

Dear Home Secretary,

**Unnumbered document: Working Arrangement Establishing Operational Cooperation between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the Home Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

The previous Government sent us an Explanatory Memorandum (EM) dated 23 February 2024. It was considered by the European Affairs Committee at its meetings of 21 May and 10 September 2024. We have decided to retain an interest in this matter.

The calling of the General Election in late May has unavoidably delayed our response to this letter.

On the basis that dialogue and cooperation are vital to tackle the problems of irregular migration and cross-border crime currently faced by both the EU and UK, the Committee broadly welcomes this Working Arrangement (WA) between the EU's border agency (Frontex) and the Home Office. However, the context within which we are considering this matter has changed significantly since the EM was first deposited.

As the new Government has expressed a desire to explore a wider defence and security agreement with the EU we would welcome an early opportunity to discuss this matter (and others) directly with you. We note that our officials have already been in contact to arrange a mutually convenient time.

We do not expect a response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Ricketts

Chair of the European Affairs Committee