



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Anneliese Dodds MP

Minister of State for Development
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Tel: 0207 008 5000

**Mail: fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/fcdo**

Rt Hon. Lord Peter Goldsmith KC
Chair of International Agreements Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

24 September 2024

Dear Lord Goldsmith,

10th Report of Session 2023–24, Scrutiny of international agreements: European Forest Institute Host Country Agreement

I am writing in response to the International Agreements Committee’s report of European Forest Institute Host Country Agreement by which the Committee has reported to the House for information. I address the matters that the Committee has highlighted for attention at paragraph 13 of the report:

*13. The Government aims to complete the necessary procedures so that the Agreement can enter into force by 1 September 2024 and the EFI London office can commence its activities in 2025. FCDO have allocated £350,000 to support the establishment and maintenance costs of the office for the financial year 2024–25 but have indicated that the Government has “not committed itself to ongoing financial support”. **Given that the Host Country Agreement is intended to provide a long-term framework for the operation of an EFI office in the UK, we invite the Government to explain how the office will be funded in future years.***

As confirmed with the European Forest Institute (EFI) throughout the process of negotiating and signing the Treaty, the £350,000.00 allocation of funding from FCDO non-ODA International Programmes budgets in FY 2024-25, will be a one-time allocation to support costs associated with set up of the new UK office. The ongoing operational costs of the EFI office in the UK will be funded by the EFI itself as per Article 7 of the EFI Host Country Agreement, which states: “The Host Country recognises that certain services and support are necessary for the proper and effective operation of the Premises. The Host Country undertakes to use reasonable endeavours to facilitate the supply at the Premises of such services and support, **the costs of which shall be borne by the Institute**”.

The financial resources for the functioning of the Institute are provided primarily from associate and affiliate members by means of membership fees, as well as through voluntary contributions by members, as detailed in Article 10 of the EFI Convention.

It should be noted that due to the General Election, the Agreement will not enter into force by the stated 1 September 2024. The Government endeavours to bring the Agreement into force as soon as is practicable under direction of the incumbent government.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anneliese Dodds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Rt Hon. Anneliese Dodds MP
Minister of State for Development