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The Rt Hon Lord Peter Goldsmith KC
Chair, International Agreements Committee
House of Lords
London
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[Our ref: XXXX]

25 November 2024

Dear Peter

International Sugar Agreement 1992 amendments

In May 2023 the International Agreements Committee scrutinised Articles for Reform proposed by the International Sugar Organisation (ISO) to the International Sugar Agreement 1992 (ISA). As noted in the Explanatory Memorandum, the amendments to the ISA were due to enter into force on 31 October 2023, subject to at least two-thirds of ISO members' votes accepting the amendments. The Committee reported the amendment proposals to the House for information, and the UK deposited their Instrument of Acceptance with the UN on 25 August 2023.

I am writing as a matter of courtesy to inform the Committee that due to the length of time needed by some member countries of the ISO to complete their own constitutional processes, the powers under Article 44 of the ISA were used to conduct a Special Vote at the ISO Council meeting in June 2024, and it was agreed by majority to extend the deadline for deposits of Instruments of Acceptance to 30 June 2026. Provided the required number of ISO members' votes is reached, the amendments to the ISA will now enter into force on 1 January 2027.

The extension of the deadline does not amend the ISA treaty; however, I felt it would be pertinent to inform the Committee that the ISA amendments that were previously scrutinised would not take effect until 1 January 2027 at the earliest.

Sincerely,

THE RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP