



HOUSE OF LORDS

International Agreements Committee

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 4840
Fax: 020 7219 6715
hlintagreements@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel Kt
Minister for Investment
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

4 February 2021

Publication of reports and request to extend CRAG scrutiny period for the UK's Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya

Dear Gerry,

I am writing to let you know that we recently published our first two reports as a new, standalone, Select Committee and reported the Agreements with Kenya, Singapore and Canada for the special attention of the House. Our reports are available on our website here:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/448/international-agreements-committee/publications/reports/>

The underlying reason for drawing the Singapore and Canada Agreements to the special attention of the House, is that both Agreements include either a commitment to negotiate supplementary Agreements, or a commitment to comprehensive renegotiation. These additional aims set out in the Agreements make them politically important and raise questions of policy that we would welcome a debate on.

In respect of the UK's Agreement with Kenya, the Committee concluded that the explanatory materials did not set out in sufficient detail the policy implications of rolling over the EU-East African Community Agreement to Kenya on a bilateral basis. Serious concerns have been raised by several stakeholders about the impact of the UK Agreement on East African Community relations and regional cohesion. The report therefore urges the Government to submit a supplementary Explanatory Memorandum that provides the Government's assessment of the implications of the new Agreement.

In these circumstances, we do not consider it appropriate for the UK Government to proceed to ratification of the UK-Kenya Agreement on the current timetable, with the CRAG scrutiny period due to expire on 10 February. There needs to be adequate time for the additional information to be submitted and the House to debate it. The Committee has therefore recommended that the CRAG period be extended for this Agreement, and you will have seen that I have put down a motion reflecting this request for resolution by the House. Ironically, it is the limitations imposed by the scrutiny timetable set by CRAG that make the scheduling of a

debate on this motion before the scrutiny period expires problematic, illustrating the problems inherent in the CRAG scrutiny provisions. A debate would need to take place by next Tuesday. Consequently, as an alternative to a debate on the motion for resolution, I would like to request from you an undertaking that the Government will not ratify the Kenya Agreement until the additional information has been provided and a debate on a 'take note' basis has taken place, which business managers have confirmed to us would be prioritised.

Given the urgency of the matter, I'd be grateful if you could respond to this letter by Tuesday, 9 February.

I am copying this letter to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, Chair of the Commons International Trade Committee; the Minister for Trade Policy, the Rt Hon Greg Hands MP; and the Minister for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena MP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'The Lord Goldsmith', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon the Lord Goldsmith QC
Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Committee