



# HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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Baroness Goldie DL  
Minister of State  
Ministry of Defence  
Floor 5, Zone B  
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9 February 2021

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 26 January 2021, which was considered by the Security and Justice Sub-Committee at its meeting of 9 February 2021.

We are grateful for your engagement with our questions and your confirmation that the Government will keep third country participation in PESCO under review, including through engagement with European partners, defence industry and other non-EU NATO Allies.

We are pleased to read that “future interest in PESCO projects [will] ... be determined on a case-by-case basis, considering for example whether the project might be the most appropriate way to fulfil an identified UK capability requirement or to contribute to NATO commitments.” We hope that this means that the Government will remain open to the possible benefits of third country participation in individual projects.

Finally, we thank you for clarifying the Government’s specific concerns about the requirements of third countries, namely regarding intellectual property rights and export controls.

Your letter has adequately addressed our concerns and we do not expect a response.

I am copying this letter to Lord Kinnoull, Chair Lords EU Select Committee; Sir William Cash, Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the European Scrutiny Committee; Les Saunders, Cabinet Office; Jeremy Quin MP, Minister for Defence Procurement; James Ward at the Ministry of Defence; and Adam Nutley at the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

Yours sincerely

Lord Ricketts

Chair of the EU Security and Justice Sub-Committee