



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Affairs Committee

House of Lords
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The Lord Livermore
Growth Minister,
Financial Secretary to the Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
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29 April 2026

Dear Minister,

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2026/833 of 30 March 2026 on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Specialised Committee on Participation in Union Programmes established by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, as regards the amendments to Protocol I thereto

Thank you for your Explanatory Memorandum (EM) dated 15 April 2026 which was considered by the European Affairs Committee at its meeting of 28 April.

We would like to request further information on a number of issues.

Financial arrangements

In your EM, the Government notes that the UK “will contribute c.£570m to the Erasmus+ programme in 2027”, adding that the UK will “receive most” of its contribution to disburse among the UK beneficiaries of the programme. Could you provide us with more detailed information on the estimated total size of the grants available to UK participants in 2027?

Turing Scheme

Your EM did not include any information about the potential impact of the UK’s participation in Erasmus+ on its post-Brexit replacement, the Turing Scheme. We would ask you to address this oversight and to explain how you see the relationship between the UK’s participation in the Erasmus+ programme and the Turing Scheme developing? Will these arrangements operate in parallel and is the Government planning to provide financial support to both programmes? If, however, UK participation in Erasmus+ marks the end of the Turing Scheme, what assessment have you made of the impact on UK students of this loss? We would also ask you to provide figures on the cost of the Turing Scheme, and on the number of UK beneficiaries who have spent, or will spend, time in the EU under the Turing and Erasmus+ schemes, respectively.

UK stakeholder interest

We are keen to learn about the outcomes of engagement with key UK stakeholders, including universities, non-governmental organisations, and charities, which are all key participants in the Erasmus+ programme. Does the Government have any early assessments of the scale of interest among UK stakeholders in participation in the Erasmus+ programme, including estimates of the number of universities keen to participate in the programme, and the likely numbers of students both visiting the UK and those interested in going abroad? Also, what is the scale of interest in taking part in other parts of the programme, including Youth Exchanges and vocational training? Finally, we would ask you to outline the Government's plans for ensuring that those from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to participate in Erasmus+.

Assessment of the 2027 participation

Finally, we are keen to learn how the assessment of the 2027 UK participation in the Erasmus+ programme will inform the Government's decision on whether (or not) to participate in the current programme's successor, which will be aligned with the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework. What criteria will be taken into account? How will you measure the 'success' or 'failure' of the UK's participation in Erasmus+? How will you assess whether the UK's participation has offered 'value-for-money'? When will the assessment take place? Will the Government's conclusions be made public and will they be formally shared with this Committee?

We retain our interest in this matter and look forward to the Government's response within the usual 10-day deadline.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Stirrup', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lord Stirrup

Chair of the European Affairs Committee