



HOUSE OF LORDS

International Agreements Committee

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Lord Grimstone of Boscobel Kt
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7 May 2021

Services Mobility and Police Cooperation Agreements with Switzerland

Dear Gerry,

Thank you for your response of 20 April regarding the Committee's report on Police Cooperation and Services Mobility Agreements with Switzerland. There were some questions in our report that remain unanswered, as well as points which we would be grateful if you could clarify.

First, we would welcome an indication of the timescales for negotiating the expansion of the Swiss Continuity Trade Agreement (which is subject to a 24-month *rendez-vous* clause), and to clarify whether the negotiations will include a long-term and comprehensive services chapter.

Second, we would also like confirmation of the specific sectors covered by the negotiations for a comprehensive mutual recognition agreement.

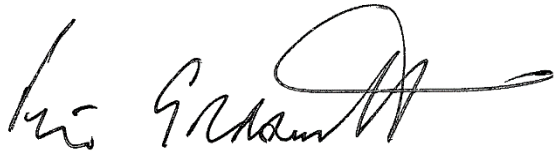
Third, we would welcome a more detailed explanation of how the safeguards included in the new Swiss Data Protection Act will apply to the exchange of information under the Police Cooperation Agreement.

Finally, we note your reference to handling "in confidence and with discretion" the concerns raised by the devolved administrations about proposed international agreements. We agree and consider that the Committee is qualified to handle sensitive matters, including, in appropriate cases, in confidence.

We would be grateful for a response to this letter within 10 working days.

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 '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