



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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The Rt Hon Conor Burns MP
Minister of State for Trade Policy
Department for International Trade
Whitehall
London, SW1A 2EG

13 February 2020

Dear Conor,

I5088/19 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 654/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the exercise of the Union's rights for the application and enforcement of international trade rules

I5090/19 - Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, Review of the scope of the Regulation No 654/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014

Thank you for your letter of 31 January regarding the above documents. It was considered by the EU External Affairs Sub-Committee at its meeting on 13 February.

We are grateful for your comprehensive response. We agree that the immediate focus should be on finding a solution to the Appellate Body impasse. However, we note that if these efforts fail, the UK will need to consider how it will deal with the deficiencies in the WTO dispute settlement process. The Committee continues to take an active interest in this matter and we would therefore welcome being kept updated on developments related to the Enforcement Regulation, any multi-party interim appeal arrangements and the WTO's appeals process.

I am copying this letter to Les Saunders at the Cabinet Office and Edwina Osbourne, DfIT Departmental Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Kinnoull
Chair of the European Union Committee