5 December 2016

The Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chair
Select Committee on European Union
Committee Office
House of Lords
Millbank House
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Tim,


I am writing with regard to the draft Council Decision and Explanatory Memorandum regarding the budget for the closure of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL), which passed scrutiny in House of Lords on 19 October 2016. As a courtesy I wish to inform you of amendments made to the Council Decision, and accompanying Budget Impact Statement, which was adopted on 21 November 2016.


The overall budget decreased from €14,000,000 to €11,600,000. This reflects a reduction in the timeframe required for liquidation. Original plans were based on a maximum liquidation period of 12 months. However this has been reduced to a maximum of 8½ months, comprising 5 months for phase one and 3½ months for
phase two. The contingency is the only budget line to have increased. This rose from €79,996 to €91,473 and now represents 0.79% of the sub-total, rather than 0.57%.

In addition, further language was incorporated into the Budget Impact Statement. This commits the EEAS, Commission and EUPOL to monitor closely the work carried out; ensure that timelines are respected; report back to the Council and seek ways of accelerating the liquidation process. Further detail has also been included on the planned drawdown of staff, providing a breakdown of staff numbers in each department by month. The total number of staff required for liquidation remains 111.

I am copying this letter to the Clerk of the Committee, Les Saunders at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Faisal Moosa, FCO Departmental Scrutiny Co-ordinator, and Sheila Underwood, FCO Select Committee Liaison Officer.

RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP