



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

Minister for Europe and the  
Americas  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

08 September 2017

The Chair  
European Scrutiny Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

*Dear Chair,*

**Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/1504 of 24 August 2017 amending Decision (CFSP) 2016/849 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1501 of 24 August 2017 amending Regulation (EC) No.329/2007 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

I am writing with regard to the EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/1504 and Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1501, concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). These legal acts transpose certain exemptions for two of the four entities designated through a new UN Security Council Resolution 2371 (2017).

As detailed in the attached Explanatory Memorandum, the UK and the international community have taken further action to address the continuing nuclear threat from DPRK. The UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2371 (2017) on 5 August extending sanctions on DPRK's illegal nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Nine individuals and four entities were also designated. Foreign Trade Bank and the Korean National Insurance Company ('KNIC'), may impact embassy operations in DPRK, so were provided a specific exemption in certain cases under paragraph 26 of UNSCR 2371. The attached Council Decision and Council Regulation transpose this exemption into EU law. They were published in the EU's official journal on 26 August 2017.

In order to fulfil our UN obligations, the decision was taken to adopt the listings immediately. Unfortunately, in order to avoid hindering operations of BE Pyongyang, I found myself in the position of having to agree to the adoption of these documents before your Committee had the opportunity to scrutinise them.

As you know, the responsibility to keep your Committee informed on issues is something I take seriously and the need for the override of scrutiny on this occasion was regrettably unavoidable.

I am writing in similar terms to The Lord Boswell of Aynho, Chair of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union, and copying this letter to the Clerks of both Committees, Les Saunders at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Philip Worley, FCO Departmental Scrutiny Head and Lynne Smith, FCO Select Committee Liaison Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Duncan'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

**RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP**