



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

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Sir William Cash MP  
Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

5 March 2018

Dear Sir William

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, and European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: On the implementation, functioning and effectiveness of the .eu Top Level Domain (15472/17).**

Thank you for your Committee's report of 18th January on the above EU Communication. I am writing to address the five points you raised in this report. I have endeavoured to provide as full an update as possible in light of ongoing Brexit negotiations.

**1. Whether it considers that UK users who have already registered .eu domain names will have to cease to use them upon EU exit?**

Currently, UK based citizens or business can obtain an .eu domain for up to 10 years. As we have suggested before and as far as we understand, the European Commission has not yet made any decisions on whether UK based businesses, citizens or organisations can retain the use of .eu after we exit the European Union. We are currently considering our position on this issue.

**2. Summarise the stakeholder engagement the Government has undertaken and the views it received through this engagement**

The Government has engaged with various UK business organisations and trade associations and asked them whether any of their members have raised the issue of EU exit and .eu. I can report that of those that replied, all said that none of their members have raised this issue. We will carry out further engagement with business and other organisations to seek further views. I would also like to note that the Government has received minimal correspondence on this issue.

**3. Clarify how this engagement has informed the Government's negotiating position, including whether the Government desires to retain the ability of UK persons, businesses and organisations to continue to use the .eu domain name**

The results of this and future engagement will help inform our negotiating position. Currently, we are still still considering our position on this issue.

**4. Clarify to what extent workarounds exist which would enable different types of .eu domain name users, including multinationals, small businesses and individuals to continue to use .eu domain names post-exit, in the absence of any agreement on this issue**

Any workaround would depend on the size of the business. Large UK multinationals which have multiple offices across the European Economic Area (EEA) could possibly retain their use of .eu, as it is available to any business, organisation or citizen based in an EEA state. However, for solely UK-based businesses, small or otherwise, and UK-based citizens, it is possible that they may not be able to retain the use of a .eu domain in the absence of a post-exit agreement on this issue. As suggested in the answer to question one, we understand that the Commission has not yet made any decisions regarding the use of .eu by UK-based businesses, etc., after we leave the European Union.

**5. Update the Committee regarding whether the Government has raised this issue with the Commission and whether it has received any further clarification about how it intends to proceed.**

The Government has not raised this issue with the Commission, as we have not yet entered the phase of negotiations regarding our future economic partnership with the EU.

We also now understand that the Commission will consider revising the regulation that underpins the use of .eu. (Regulation (EC) No 733/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 April 2002 on the implementation of the .eu Top Level Domain).

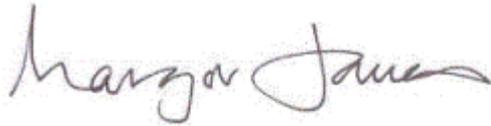
We understand that the revised draft Regulation will be published in late April 2018. The latest information suggests that it will be a shorter, principles-based regulation. It will still be restricted to businesses, etc., based in EEA states, but it may be widened to include EU citizens resident in non-EEA states. The UK will play a full part in the negotiation of this draft Regulation.

**Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport**

I trust that this helps to provide your Committee with further clarity.

I am copying this letter to the Chairman of the European Union Committee, Les Saunders (DExEU), Matthew Hull (DCMS) and Agim Zekaj (DCMS).

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margot James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**MARGOT JAMES MP**  
Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries