



Department
for Education



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chairman of the European Union Committee
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

Sam Gyimah MP
Minister of State for Universities, Science,
Research and Innovation.

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

+44 (0) 20 7215 5000
www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus
enquiries@beis.gov.uk

www.gov.uk

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Dear Lord Boswell,

5282/18: Proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking

I am writing to update you on the progress of discussions in the Council on the above proposal and to seek a scrutiny waiver on this file.

As you know, the UK has played an active role in official level discussions setting up this initiative. These discussions have rapidly reached their conclusion such that there will be a vote on whether to support this file or not at COREPER on **20 June**. The timing of this vote has moved more quickly than we anticipated. I appreciate that this provides less time for than ideal for you to consider the matter.

The UK Government has not yet taken a decision about joining Euro-HPC. This is something UKRI are still considering as part of their Research Infrastructure Roadmap. I feel it is important to support the progression of this file as it will enhance high-performance computing capabilities in Europe, potentially benefitting UK researchers should we choose to participate.

However, there is a small risk that in the final round of discussions, changes will be made to the text that restrict the right to vote in the governing body of the Joint Undertaking to EU Member States. This would clearly not be in the interests of the UK and is not a position that the Government could support. In this scenario, I recommend that the UK should abstain. It is likely that a UK abstention will result in no clear consensus on this file and as such it would not move forward. However, if the final text does not restrict the right to vote we would recommend voting to support the file.

I hope that this provides enough information and that you will feel able to remove the current scrutiny reserve placed on the file.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee, Les Saunders (DExEU) and Jenny Steinitz (BEIS).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Gyimah', written in a cursive style.

SAM GYIMAH MP