



Department  
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**Sam Gyimah MP**

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

Dear Lord Boswell,

4 September 2018

### **5282/18: Proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing the European HighPerformance Computing Joint Undertaking**

I am writing to you with an update on the European High-Performance Computing (EuroHPC) Joint Undertaking. As I wrote in my letter to the Committee of 18<sup>th</sup> June, the UK has played an active role in official level discussions on the EuroHPC establishing regulation. These discussions have now reached their conclusion such that I expect the proposal to be formally adopted by Ministerial vote at the end of September. I intend to vote in favour on this matter.

At the time of my previous letter, the proposed EuroHPC regulation would have ruled out voting rights for participating states associated to Horizon 2020. I was concerned that this could undermine potential UK involvement in EuroHPC in future and set a precedent that would affect similar initiatives funded through the next Framework Programme.

The final text, however, includes a complex but ultimately satisfactory amendment that safeguards voting rights for participating states associated to Horizon 2020 (or its successor programmes) for research and innovation activities. As such, I am content with the proposed regulation. I believe it is important to support the progression of this file as it will enhance highperformance computing capabilities in Europe, potentially benefitting UK researchers should we choose to participate at a later date.

As I have previously explained, no decision has been taken on whether the UK will join EuroHPC. This is something UKRI are considering as part of their Research Infrastructure roadmap. We will also have to consider the UK's future relationship with the EU when it comes to deciding whether and how to participate.

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

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee, House of Commons, and the Clerks of both Committees, Les Saunders, DExEU, and Callum Gray, BEIS.

Yours ever,

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

**SAM GYIMAH MP**

