



Department  
for Education



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Boswell of Aynho  
Chairman, European Union Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
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**Sam Gyimah MP**  
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22 October 2018

Dear Lord Boswell,

**5282/18: Proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing the European High-Performance 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 on 3 September, the UK has played an active role in official level discussions on the EuroHPC establishing regulation. The proposal has now been formally adopted by Ministerial vote at the 28 September Competitiveness Council. After the UK successfully helped to negotiate the retention of voting rights for associated states, I voted in favour on this matter. The EuroHPC Joint Undertaking will be legally created by the end of October.

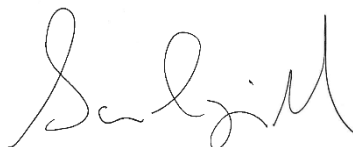
As I have previously explained, no decision has been taken on whether the UK will join EuroHPC for the longer term. This is something UKRI are considering as part of their Research Infrastructure roadmap. We will also have to consider the UK's future relationship with the EU when it comes to deciding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

In the short term, we are considering participating in EuroHPC for the duration of Horizon 2020. This would allow the UK to continue accessing Horizon 2020 R&I funding for High-Performance Computing projects in 2019 and 2020, which the Commission has recently mandated will only be available to EuroHPC members. This funding significantly benefits UK industry and academia. As with our longer term participation, we will need to consider the UK's future relationship with the EU and the UKRI Roadmap in making a decision.

Future official discussions will take place at EuroHPC Governing Board meetings. We will attend these meetings as a EuroHPC Observer State. There are no commitments required for doing this. Although Observer States have no voting rights, we will be able to fully participate in Governing Board discussions. This would allow us to continue influencing the file so that, should we join EuroHPC until the end of Horizon 2020, the work programme and strategic priorities will be more closely aligned with UK objectives.

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**