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Sir William Cash MP
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Dear Sir Bill,

Council Number 2018/0064: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Labour Authority (ELA).

I am writing to update you on progress ahead of the expected vote on the adoption of the proposal to establish a European Labour Authority. I last wrote to you in November 2018, providing an update on the file and explaining my reasoning for voting in favour of the file at EPSCO on 6 December 2018.

A General Approach was reached at EPSCO with all bar two Member States voting in favour. The UK was able to support the General Approach after the Council Presidency found a compromise by removing social security coordination from the scope of the ELA Mediation Board. The UK had been vocal in our concern about the potential for duplication and loss of expertise as well as the lack of added value this would bring.

Trilogue negotiations have been taking place since early January, and reports to COREPER are that they are progressing substantially, with an agreement expected to be finalised by mid-February.

If the final text is in line with the General Approach on key points, I propose that the UK supports the final agreement.

Our strong preference would be to keep social security coordination outside the scope of the ELA mediation process, however we may be able to support inclusion so long as the integrity and role of the social security Administrative Commission is protected.

The UK supports the overall aims of the proposal, and is content that its adoption would not impose additional legislative obligations on Member States nor impact national competencies. I am copying this letter to the Chair of the House of Lords European Scrutiny Committee, Lord Boswell, Les Saunders, DExEU, and to Callum Gray, Departmental Scrutiny Coordinator for BEIS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

KELLY TOLHURST MP

Parliament Under-Secretary for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy