



Home Office

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Lord Boswell of Aynho
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14 MAR 2019

Dear Tim

EM 12112/18: Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010

Thank you for your letter dated 20 February 2019 on the above Regulation. In response to your question regarding the expected timetable for the adoption of the EUAA proposal, based on current timelines we do not expect the Agency to become operational during the transition period.

The transition from the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to the EUAA is part of the EU's wider reforms of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). So far, the CEAS package has been difficult to move forward largely due to the recast Dublin IV Regulation, which includes mandatory burden sharing. The UK has always been clear that we cannot support the inclusion of mandatory burden sharing. As a result, while the EUAA Regulation is ready to be approved by the European Parliament, there is no consensus for the full CEAS package to move forward until all the individual measures are agreed.

Ahead of the European Parliament being dissolved for the European elections scheduled for 23 May, there has been no agreement on the reforms in the CEAS package. Therefore, with this delay, it is unlikely this Regulation will be ratified and come into force before the end of the transition period in December 2020.

I trust this letter assists you in your further scrutiny.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons Committee; Arnold Ridout, Legal Adviser to the Commons Committee; Les Saunders, Department for Exiting the EU; and Alex Bernal, Departmental Scrutiny Coordinator.

*Yours ever
Caroline*

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