



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Minister for Europe and the
Americas
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

22 March 2019

The Chair European Scrutiny Committee
House of Commons
14 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NB

Dear Chair,

COUNCIL DECISION IN SUPPORT OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BTWC) IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EU STRATEGY AGAINST PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

My Explanatory Memorandum (EM) of 8 November 2018 set out the rationale for this Council Decision supporting the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention for 36 months, and undertook to update Parliament once a budget had been approved and funding information became available. The EM cleared Parliamentary scrutiny in November 2018 and the Council Decision 2019/97/CFSP was adopted on 21 January 2019 [attached].

The approved budget for this Council Decision at EUR 3,029,856.79 will be funded in its entirety through the 2019 CFSP budget. As foreseen in my earlier EM, I am therefore pleased to confirm no additional UK bilateral contribution is required.

I will write in similar terms to the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union, and copy this letter to the Clerks of both Committees, Les Saunders at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Adam Nutley, FCO Scrutiny Coordinator, Nicole Mason, FCO Parliamentary Adviser, and Lynne Smith, FCO Select Committee Liaison Officer.

Alan Duncan

THE RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP