



Dr Liam Fox MP
3 Whitehall Pl
Westminster
London SW1A 2HP

25th February 2019

Dear Dr Fox,

We welcome the decision by the Department for International Trade to publish an update on the state of play regarding the rolling over of the FTA framework that the UK currently enjoys as a member of the EU. We are also glad that continuity agreements have been signed with Switzerland, Chile, the Faroe Islands, Eastern and Southern Africa, Israel and the Palestinian Authority and welcome the Mutual Recognition Agreements with the United States of America, Australia, and New Zealand.

However, we were concerned that this is far from all the 36 trade agreements spanning more than 60 countries that makes up the whole EU trading framework. It is vital that our businesses know that they can continue with the same provisions with regard to trade with third countries with whom the EU has trade agreements if we become a third country on 29th March.

While the Withdrawal Agreement includes a provision that the EU shall notify such countries that the UK is to be treated as an EU member state for the purpose of these trade agreements during the transition period (footnote to Article 129-1), this is not binding on our trading partners and would therefore require that they give their consent to this arrangement.

In order to ensure that there is as much clarity as possible for businesses that export beyond the EU, and for those businesses that rely on the EU trade framework to import components, we would be grateful if you could publish a list of all the countries that have stated that they will continue to treat the UK as if it were an EU member state for the purposes of the FTA they have with the EU for the duration of the transition period.

With best wishes,

Molly Scott Cato MEP

Jude Kirton-Darling MEP