

Lord Kinnoull  
Chair of the European Union Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

31 October 2019

Dear Charles,

### **UK/Korea: Free Trade Agreement**

In line with the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee's procedure for considering the implications for Wales arising from UK international agreements, we have recently considered the UK/Korea: Free Trade Agreement (with Exchange of Notes) [CS Korea No.1 /2019].

We are also aware of your Committee's recent report on the Agreement and welcome your conclusions.

As our work identified a number of similar issues with the Agreement, I thought it might be useful to share these with you, though I appreciate that the CRaG Act scrutiny deadline for the Agreement will have passed by the time you are able to consider this correspondence.

We believe that further analysis of the **Most Favoured Nation** provisions is needed, to identify possible implications for the negotiation of a future UK–EU agreement. We have commissioned some further research into this. Whilst this research will not be available to inform our view on this agreement, it should assist us as we approach our consideration of a future UK–EU agreement in the future. We support the conclusions drawn in paragraph 60 of your report on the Agreement.

We also share your observation that, pursuant to provisions within Article 15.5(2) of the Agreement, **the Trade Committee will be able to amend the Agreement's**



**Annexes, Appendices, Protocols and Notes without parliamentary scrutiny.** We support your conclusion that changes to international agreements should be reported to Parliament.

We remain concerned about **the lack of consultation with the Welsh Government prior to the signature** of international agreements. We understand that whilst the situation has improved marginally, the Welsh Government only received sight of the Agreement text once it was stable and, essentially, unamendable ahead of signature.

Finally, **the Agreement represents an incomplete roll-over of the original EU agreement.** We are conducting further analysis of the implications for Wales arising from this.

Thank you for your consideration of the above points.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'R'.

David Rees AM

Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

