

Press release: Foreign Secretary talks Middle East and Russia in Washington, welcomes US appetite for Free Trade Agreement post-Brexit

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt will travel to New York later today, following two days of high-level meetings in Washington with Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Chief of Staff to the President General John Kelly and Adviser to the President Jared Kushner.

The Foreign Secretary discussed a range of foreign policy priorities including: Iran and Russia; ways to support UN efforts to bring peace to Yemen; progress on the Middle East Peace Process; and how to ensure the UK-US alliance grows even stronger after the UK's exit from the European Union.

Mr Hunt also met a number of US diplomats expelled from Russia following the decision by Washington to expel 60 Russian diplomats as part of the coordinated response to the Salisbury attacks.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said:

The United States is our closest ally and I was delighted to meet Vice President Pence, Secretary Pompeo, and other key figures in the US administration to discuss the foreign policy challenges we face together. The UK and US, and our joint defence of our shared values, will always be crucial to maintaining the international rules-based system that has kept us safe for decades.

Our discussions showed real enthusiasm from the US administration, from the President down, for a UK/US Free Trade Agreement to be reached as soon as possible after we leave the EU, something that will benefit businesses on both sides of the Atlantic.

We are enormously grateful for the solidarity shown by the US as they stood with us when a chemical weapon was inexcusably used in Salisbury earlier this year. Today I was able personally to thank US diplomats expelled from Russia in retaliation.

Further information

- Follow the Foreign Secretary on Twitter [@Jeremy_Hunt](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Follow the Foreign Office on Twitter [@foreignoffice](#) and [Facebook](#)

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Media enquiries

For journalists

Email

newsdesk@fco.gov.uk

Newsdesk

020 7008 3100

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Further information

Correspondence: EU energy legislation: letter announcing an upcoming statutory instrument

Letter from Claire Perry, Minister for Energy and Clean Growth, providing detail on an upcoming piece of secondary legislation, which amends several pieces of EU energy legislation which will become retained direct EU law to deal with deficiencies arising from EU exit.

This is one of several upcoming statutory instruments to amend energy legislation as the UK leaves the EU. This instrument amends provisions which confer powers to make further legislation. The government intends to amend other provisions of those Regulations by separate statutory instruments, which have not yet been published. EU regulations amended by this instrument are:

- 'The Electricity Regulation' (Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity)
 - 'The Gas Regulation' (Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks)
 - 'REMIT' (Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency)
 - 'The Security of Gas Supply Regulation' (Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply)
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Press release: Minister for Africa statement on the Malian elections

Foreign Office Minister of State for Africa Harriett Baldwin said:

I congratulate President Keïta of the Republic of Mali on his election success and look forward to continuing to work with his government on issues that matter to both our countries. These elections were conducted despite challenging security conditions and terrorist attempts to disrupt the process.

We urge all candidates and political stakeholders to maintain a peaceful atmosphere and settle disputes through legal and constitutional means.

The UK continues to support Mali and its people in overcoming the challenges the country faces. We urge President Keïta to build on recent positive steps in the peace process in order to secure lasting peace and stability in the country and to improve the lives of all Malian people, including those facing increasing insecurity in the central region.

Further information

- Follow Foreign Office Minister Harriett Baldwin on Twitter [@hbaldwin](#)
- Follow the Foreign Office on Twitter [@foreignoffice](#) and [Facebook](#)

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Email
newsdesk@fco.gov.uk

Newsdesk
020 7008 3100

Press release: Minister for Africa statement on the Malian elections

Minister for Africa statement on the Malian elections – GOV.UK

Harriett Baldwin congratulates President Keïta of Mali and urges him to build on positive steps in the peace process.



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Further information

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