

News story: UK offers deep security partnership with EU post-Brexit in the face of growing global threats

The UK Government has offered to contribute military assets to EU operations, cooperate on sanctions and agree joint positions on foreign policy as part of a deep security partnership with the EU after Brexit.

In a renewed demonstration of the UK's commitment to European security, the latest future partnership paper signals the Government's willingness to partner with the EU in the face of ever-growing global threats.

It makes clear the UK will seek to use our assets, capabilities and influence to combat the shared challenges facing the continent -- including illegal migration, terrorism, cyber and state-based threats and amounts to a security partnership 'that is deeper than any other third country and that reflects our shared interest'.

There is a significant amount of collaboration between the UK and EU on defence, security and development.

The paper lays out how Britain will want to build a new partnership with the EU that goes beyond existing third country arrangements, and reflects our shared interests and values of upholding democracy and protecting peace across Europe and the world.

Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union David Davis said:

After we leave the European Union we will continue to face shared threats to our security, our shared values and our way of life. It's in our mutual interest to work closely with the EU and its member states to challenge terrorism and extremism, illegal migration, cyber-crime, and conventional state-based military aggression.

Today's paper highlights Britain's world class diplomacy and defence capabilities, our leading contribution to international development, and our desire to continue to use these as part of a deep and special partnership with the EU.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

As we leave the EU, the UK's commitment to European security is undiminished. We will pursue a global foreign policy, and continue to work in partnership with our neighbours to promote peace, democracy and security in our continent and across the world.

In recent years, the European Union has helped achieve crucial foreign policy goals – from bringing Iran to the negotiating table, to uniting in response to Russian aggression in Ukraine. We want this EU role to continue after we leave.

This is why, in addition to stronger relations with EU member states, we also envisage a strong UK-EU partnership on foreign and defence policy following our departure. This will allow us to continue our work in tackling the shared challenges we face worldwide.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

At a time of increased threats and international instability the UK remains unwavering in its commitment to uphold European security. With the largest defence budget in Europe, the largest Navy British troops and planes deployed across land, air and sea in Europe, our role in the continent's defence has never been more vital.

As we leave the EU, the UK and our European allies will ensure a close partnership that meets these shared challenges head-on.

The paper highlights the UK's successful military cooperation with the EU on tackling piracy off the Horn of Africa, to joint defence projects with the EU – including the Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft.

The UK has the largest defence budget in Europe, and is the only European country that meets both the NATO target of spending 2 per cent of GDP on defence, with 20 per cent of this on equipment, and the UN target of spending 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) on international development.

The UK has also committed to invest at least 50 per cent of development spend in fragile states and regions. The UK and France are the two European permanent members of the UN Security Council and the only European countries with an independent nuclear deterrent, while UK proscriptions and asset freezes are the basis of many of the EU sanctions on terrorist organisations.

[News story: Congratulations to Professor Lynda Warren OBE](#)

We are delighted to announce that Professor Lynda Warren, former Deputy Chair of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2017 for services to environmental protection in the UK and abroad.

Lynda is Emeritus Professor of Environmental Law at Aberystwyth University and Honorary Professor at Bangor and Birmingham Universities. She had been a member of CoRWM since it was established in 2003, and was latterly Deputy Chair until she left in November 2016.

Professor Warren said:

I am, of course, extremely pleased to have been given this award especially because it has been made in recognition of my work on radioactive waste, an area of environmental management that does not always receive the attention it deserves.

Lynda has over 25 years' experience of radioactive waste management policy. Before she joined CoRWM she was a member of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee, chairing its working group on Dounreay. She has been a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution; the Board of Natural Resources Wales; Defra's Science Advisory Council and the Board of British Geological Survey. She is an associate of Integrated Decision Making Ltd, a consultancy engaged in environmental policy advisory work, mainly in the nuclear sector.

Professor Laurence Williams, CoRWM Chair, said:

I am delighted that Lynda has been awarded an OBE. Her contribution to environmental protection in general and to the work of CoRWM in particular has been outstanding. It is fitting that Lynda's dedication to finding a solution to the management of UK's radioactive waste has been rewarded.

Press release: Invite to Bedford energy from waste drop-in

A community drop-in is being held in Marston Moretaine for the public to find out about the Environment Agency's role in the energy from waste (EfW) incinerator facility proposed at Rookery Pit, Stewartby.

The Environment Agency will be asking people for comments on the applications for an environmental permit it has received from Covanta Energy Limited.

The event is being held at Forest of Marston Vale Centre, Station Road, Marston Moretaine, Bedford, MK43 0PR on Wednesday 20 September, 1:00pm – 7:00pm.

The Environment Agency's role is to make sure that energy from waste facilities are designed, built and run to meet legal environmental standards (the Industrial Emissions Directive) and to meet the conditions of their environmental permit (the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016).

If a permit were to be issued the Agency would be the regulator for on-going compliance monitoring of the incinerator.

The Environment Agency will only issue a permit if it is satisfied that the plant will be designed, built, operated and maintained in such a way that the requirements of the relevant EU Directives are met and that human health and the environment are protected. This will be decided following consultation with the relevant Local Authorities and their Health Departments, the Food Standards Agency, Public Health England, the Health and Safety Executive and other identified statutory consultees.

The public consultation period will run from 11 September to 23 October 2017.

The start of the consultation period has also been advertised on the Environment Agency website on gov.uk.

On-line option

People unable to attend the drop-in or wanting to provide formal comments to be considered during the determination by the Environment Agency, should send them to psc@environment-agency.gov.uk or write to: Environment Agency, Permitting Support Centre, Land Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF. Please quote permit application number EPR/WP3234DY/A001.

To provide comments online and to view the documents that form part of this consultation, follow this [link](#)

Interested parties can also make an appointment to view a copy of the draft permit and draft decision document at the local Environment Agency office, located at: Bromholme Lane, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 4NE.

[Press release: CMA warns creative sector about illegal price collusion](#)

In the run-up to London Fashion Week, the [letter](#) highlights a [recent case](#) where 5 model agencies and their trade association were fined over £1.5 million for colluding instead of competing on the prices they charged for modelling services. The model agencies regularly and systematically exchanged confidential and commercially sensitive information and discussed prices in the context of negotiations with particular customers. In some cases, they agreed to fix minimum prices or agreed a common approach to pricing.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has also written directly to a number of other businesses in the fashion sector to warn them that this type of illegal behaviour will not be tolerated.

The creative sector is an important and rapidly growing part of the UK economy – worth £84.1 billion. But research has shown that businesses in the sector have a particularly low understanding of competition law. Over 50% of creative firms surveyed by the CMA stated that they didn't know competition law well, if at all.

This puts them at risk of not recognising if they – or others – are breaking the law.

In the recent modelling sector case, an email to a prospective member described how the trade association could be used as “a good source for sharing information between members; problem clients, usage of models' images on social media etc...” In reality, the trade association was used to share confidential and commercially sensitive information to influence members to resist the prices offered by customers because they were considered to be too low.

Stephen Blake, Senior Director, Cartels and Criminal Group, said:

The creative industries are incredibly important to the UK economy. We have some of the best creative talent in the world, and we recognise the valuable contribution these individuals make.

Because of this, it's also vital that businesses in the creative sector know that certain behaviour is illegal under UK competition law. The consequences can be serious. As we approach London Fashion Week, when the spotlight is on the fashion industry, we are publishing an open letter urging businesses to be clear on the boundaries of the law. We know the majority want to do the right thing and there are some clear steps they can take to help ensure they do so.

If companies believe they have information about an existing cartel or want to know what one is the [Stop Cartels](#) webpage explains all and tells people how to report one.

Notes for editors

1. The CMA is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It is an independent non-ministerial government department with responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries and enforcing competition and consumer law. For CMA updates, follow us on Twitter [@CMAgovuk](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
2. The CMA conducted [IFF research](#) with businesses in 2014 to assess levels

of awareness and understanding of competition law.

3. If the CMA finds that a business has broken competition law, the consequences can be serious and far-reaching: (a) a business can be fined up to 10% of its worldwide turnover; (b) company directors can be disqualified from managing a company for up to 15 years; (c) individuals personally involved in [cartels](#) can face up to 5 years in prison.
4. Information about the modelling sector case can be found on the [case page](#).
5. Anyone who has information about a cartel is encouraged to call the CMA cartels hotline on 020 3738 6888 or email cartelshotline@cma.gsi.gov.uk. More information can be found on the [Stop Cartels](#) webpage.
6. For more information on the CMA's leniency and informant reward policies, go to [leniency](#) and [rewards](#).
7. Media enquiries should be directed to press@cma.gsi.gov.uk or call 07774 134814.

Press release: Auditor concerns expressed on the accounts of 97 large charities

[Analysis by the Charity Commission](#) has found that in the year ending 31 December 2016, 97 charities, which have a collective total income of approximately £195 million, filed accounts that included a formally modified audit opinion. This is an auditor's statement that the accounts are, or could be, materially misstated, perhaps because there were gaps in the evidence that supported the accounts.

The Commission's proactive analysis of the accounts subject to the modified opinion found that:

During the analysis, the Commission found that the trustees of several of the charities that had not complied with the SORP stated they did not consider that obtaining professional property or pension liability valuations was a good use of charitable funds. The Commission does not consider this to be an acceptable reason for the charities' non-compliance.

After analysing the accounts, the Commission provided regulatory advice and guidance to 36 charities and made it clear that it expected them to take action to address the issues highlighted by their auditors. It also engaged further with 10 charities where the auditor had highlighted serious failings that the Commission was not previously aware of and where it did not appear that the trustees were taking action to address them.

Nigel Davies, Head of Accountancy Services at the Charity Commission said:

We expect trustees to work with their auditors to resolve any issues to do with their accounts and so it is worrying that the accounts of 97 large charities were filed with significant inconsistencies and deficiencies or audit concerns on them. A charity's accounts must be accurate, transparent and complete to ensure that they don't misrepresent the charity's financial circumstances and mislead existing and potential supporters, funders or beneficiaries.

If a charity does receive a modified audit opinion, its trustees need to work with their auditors to resolve any outstanding issues and to ensure that internal financial controls are operating and adequate accounting records are kept. We expect trustees to take compliance with accounting requirements seriously. Trustees should also provide assurance to us and to their supporters that they are taking action to address the concerns identified by their auditors.

The Commission recently introduced a requirement for auditors to report to the appropriate charity regulator when they have given a modified audit opinion as soon as possible. This requirement came into force on 1 May 2017.

The full report is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Ends

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Notes to editors

1. The Charity Commission is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
2. Search for charities on our [online register](#).