



## Craig Whittaker MP

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### **EU Withdrawal Bill Amendments: Update**

Thank you for contacting me about the EU (Withdrawal) Bill.

I have every confidence in the ability of the Government to secure a deal that guarantees a deep and special partnership with the EU. The Prime Minister has said that she wants the best possible access to European markets for UK businesses and I wholeheartedly agree with this aim. It is in the interests of both sides to secure a good deal.

On the process in Parliament, the Government has already said that MPs would have at least three formal opportunities to have a say on the UK's withdrawal from the EU in addition to the many debates that take place in Parliament every week.

Before the amendment was voted on, my ministerial colleagues had said that MPs would have a vote on whether to accept the final deal or not as soon as possible after the end of the negotiations. It is still the intention that this should take place and before the European Parliament votes on the agreement.

The Prime Minister had also separately promised that a Bill would be brought forward so that the withdrawal agreement reached with the EU could be put into UK domestic law. This would give MPs another chance to debate, scrutinise and vote on the deal reached with the EU.

Further agreements reached on the UK and the EU's future relationship would additionally be implemented through legislation where necessary. This would give MPs an opportunity again to scrutinise the deal reached with the EU.

Given these reassurances, I was disappointed that my colleague Dominic Grieve MP pressed his amendment to a vote. This will not stop, delay or reverse the Government's decision to leave the EU in accordance with the outcome of the referendum.

I do not believe that there should be a second referendum. The referendum campaign was fought, turnout was high and the public has given its verdict. The Government will deliver the result.

I also do not believe that the UK should continue its membership of the EU's single market after leaving the EU. Remaining a member would require the UK to continue accepting freedom of movement and we would also have to accept the EU's rules and regulations with no say over them.

As for the Customs Union, I want to be clear that the UK is leaving the EU and the UK now has the ability to shape its own trade policy. This would not be the case if we remained in the Customs Union. We must now capitalise on harnessing new export opportunities, attracting

inward investment and building UK dynamism by making the UK the best place in the world to do business.

New bills on trade and customs will help the United Kingdom to implement an independent trade policy. This will allow the UK to operate standalone customs and an indirect tax regime on exit from the EU, whatever the outcome of the negotiations. I am pleased that in order to provide continuity for businesses, the customs legislation will mostly be based on existing EU law. The Government has an open mind on how new customs arrangements are implemented with the EU and new customs arrangements should be as free and frictionless as possible.

The UK and the EU have secured reciprocal rights for British citizens in the EU and EU citizens living in the UK. The rights of EU citizens in the UK will be upheld by UK law in the Withdrawal and Implementation Bill.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Whittaker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig Whittaker MP