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Non-EU UK Treaty Obligations: An Overview

1 Introduction

This paper has been compiled to support the Committee for the Executive Office in its consideration of the potential impacts for Northern Ireland of UK withdrawal from the European Union¹. EU-related commitments comprise one set of UK international obligations, which may be subject to disengagement following a UK withdrawal from the EU. But there are other international commitments which will remain in force.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office lists in the region of 14,000 international treaties² to which the UK is a party. It would not be within the scope of this paper to list all of the UK international commitments other than those relating to the EU. Rather, some examples of the nature and scope of such international treaties are provided below for illustrative purposes only.

It should also be noted that the landscape of international treaties can be complex, as the UK is subject to inter-locking arrangements that have EU and non-EU elements attached to them. There is also no indication as to what extent EU commitments will

¹ See Research and Information Service Research Paper 46/16 *EU Referendum Update*, 30 August 2016:

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/research-and-information-service-raise/research-publications-2016/>.

² 'Treaties Online', Foreign and Commonwealth Office website:

<http://treaties.fco.gov.uk/treaties/treaty.htm;jsessionid=62975AD07DDD51E1C5071CA9E2CDCD79>.

remain following UK withdrawal, particularly in the context of future relationships with the EU and their related obligations.

International instruments and treaties constitute a body of international law, although there is some debate as to the extent to which such instruments are justiciable in UK courts. States may bring cases to the International Court of Justice at The Hague to settle disputes or for an advisory opinion on a particular matter³. The Court considers such cases using international law as a guide.

The paper considers international commitments to which the UK is party from major sources – the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation – and briefly summarises commitments from other sources, including other UN agencies that oversee international conventions and obligations under other international entities. The paper then gives a brief summary of recent treaties concluded by the UK.

³ International Court of Justice website: <http://www.icj-cij.org/homepage/index.php>.

2 Council of Europe

Sometimes confused as an organ of the European Union⁴, the Council of Europe is a separate body of 47 member states. It has a Secretary General and the decision-making body of the Council is the Committee of Ministers, which comprises the foreign ministers or their representatives of the member states⁵.

Core to the work of the Council of Europe is the protection of human rights. There are 221 Council of Europe Treaties, some examples of which are given in this section⁶. These will remain in force after the UK has left the EU.

Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms⁷

Otherwise known as the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), this convention was signed by the UK on 14 November 1950 and ratified 8 March 1951⁸. Since the Convention came into force, 16 Protocols have added additional rights to those of the Convention, but these additional rights are only binding on states that have ratified those Protocols.

The Convention is enforced through the European Court on Human Rights. Individuals may bring cases to the Court when local remedy has been exhausted. Judgements of the Court are binding on the state concerned⁹.

The substantive articles of the ECHR were brought into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998¹⁰. The Northern Ireland Act 1998¹¹ also provides that the Northern Ireland Assembly may not legislate or the Northern Ireland Government act in contravention of Convention rights¹².

European Social Charter

Signed by the UK on 18 October 1961 and ratified on 11 July 1962, the Charter is the counterpart of the ECHR in the area of social and economic rights. The rights of the Charter include the right to work, the right to organise, the right to bargain collectively, the right to social security, the right to social and medical assistance, the right to the

⁴ The European Union has a Council as one of its institutions, unrelated to the Council of Europe (Council of the European Union website: https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/council-eu_en).

⁵ 'Structure', Council of Europe website, accessed 19 September 2016: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/structure>.

⁶ 'Full list', Council of Europe Treaty Office website, accessed 19 September 2016: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list>.

⁷ Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/005>.

⁸ The rights are: right to life, prohibition of torture, prohibition of slavery and forced labour, right to liberty and security, right to a fair trial, no punishment without law, right to respect for private and family life, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, right to marry, right to an effective remedy, prohibition of discrimination.

⁹ European Court of Human Rights website: <http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home>.

¹⁰ Human Rights Act 1998: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents>.

¹¹ Northern Ireland Act 1998: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/47/contents>.

¹² See Research and Information Service Briefing Paper 20/14 *Human Rights and Equality Proofing of Public Bills*, 10 February 2016: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/research-and-information-service-raise/research-publications-2016/research-publications-2014/>.

social, legal and economic protection of the family, and the right to protection and assistance for migrant workers and their families¹³.

State compliance with the Charter is monitored through the European Committee of Social Rights¹⁴ through two mechanisms:

- Collective complaints
- Examination of state reports

The UK has not signed the 1995 Protocol for the collective complaints procedure. However, states are required to report to the Committee annually and the Committee publishes comments in relation to each state's compliance with the Charter.

European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

This Convention provides for the setting up of an international committee empowered to visit all places where persons are deprived of their liberty by a public authority¹⁵. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (or Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT))¹⁶ visits places of detention in contracting states under the auspices of this Convention.

The UK signed the Convention on 26 November 1987 and ratified on 24 June 1988. The Committee visited the UK in April 2016, but did not visit any places of detention in Northern Ireland.

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

This Charter was signed by the UK on 2 March 2000 and ratified on 27 March 2001. On the one hand, the treaty is a commitment to certain principles for the preservation of minority languages and on the other, it is a series of measures to promote the use of minority languages on the territory of a signatory state¹⁷. Commitments to these measures are assessed by a Committee of Experts, which constitutes the enforcement mechanism for the Charter¹⁸.

The Committee last reported on the UK in 2014 and is due to assess the UK again in July 2017.

¹³ European Social Charter: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/035>.

¹⁴ European Committee of Social Rights web pages: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/turin-european-social-charter/european-committee-of-social-rights>.

¹⁵ European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/126>.

¹⁶ European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment website: <http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/default.htm>.

¹⁷ European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/148>.

¹⁸ Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages web pages: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/minlang/aboutcommittee/default_en.asp.

Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

This convention is aimed at supporting victims of human trafficking and also measures for the disruption and conviction of human traffickers. The Convention was signed by the UK on 23 March 2007 and ratified on 17 December 2008.

The implementation of the Convention is overseen by the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), which visits parties to the Convention and reports on progress¹⁹. The first GRETA visit to the UK was in 2012. The second evaluation round was commenced in 2015.

Other Treaties

Council of Europe treaties can impact on a range of areas of life in Northern Ireland. A non-exhaustive list at Appendix 1 gives some examples, grouped thematically, of treaties that contain particular obligations.

¹⁹ Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings web pages: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking>.

3 United Nations

The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 and now has 193 member states²⁰. While the UN and its many organs has a range of functions, for the purposes of this paper, the organisation also acts a repository for international agreements, treaties and conventions. There are over 560 separate treaties and agreements in the UN depository covering a wide range of areas of international engagement²¹. Broadly, the treaties to which the UK is party are here divided between international human rights instruments and other international commitments in the form of conventions.

International Human Rights Instruments

Human rights standards are set out by a range of conventions, each with varying mechanisms for enforcement²². In addition to each subject-specific examination of state parties to individual conventions by the relevant committees, the Universal Periodic Review looks at the human rights standards in each UN member state across all human rights standards²³. The UK was last reviewed in 2012 and is due another review in February 2017.

The following is a summary of the main human rights instruments to which the UK is signatory:

Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination²⁴ – Signed by the UK on 11 October 1966 and ratified on 7 March 1969. The treaty is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination²⁵, which last examined the UK in August 2016.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²⁶ - Signed by the UK on 16 September 1968 and ratified on 20 May 1979. The treaty is monitored by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²⁷, which last examined the UK in June 2016.

²⁰ 'Overview', UN website, accessed 20 September 2016: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/overview/index.html>.

²¹ Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General, UN Treaty Collection:

https://treaties.un.org/Pages/Content.aspx?path=DB/MTDSGStatus/pageIntro_en.xml.

²² For a summary of human rights instruments and their application to Northern Ireland see Research and Information Service Research Paper 75/11 *Equality and Human Rights Legislation in Northern Ireland: A Review*, August 2011:

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/research-and-information-service-raise/research-publications-2016/publications-2011/>.

²³ 'Universal Periodic Review', Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights website, accessed 21 September 2016:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>.

²⁴ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx>.

²⁵ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination web pages:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx>.

²⁶ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>.

²⁷ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights web pages:

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cescr/pages/cescrindex.aspx>.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²⁸ – Signed by the UK on 16 September 1968 and ratified on 20 May 1979. The treaty is monitored by the Human Rights Committee²⁹ which last monitored the UK in July 2015.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women³⁰ – Signed by the UK on 22 July 1981 and ratified on 7 April 1986. The treaty is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women³¹, which last examined the UK in July 2013, with future examination as yet planned.

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment³² – Signed by the UK on 15 March 1985 and ratified 8 December 1988. The treaty is monitored by the Committee Against Torture³³, which last examined the UK in June 2013. A list of issues prior to the next reporting cycle was published in April 2016.

Convention on the Rights of the Child³⁴ – Signed by the UK on 19 April 1990 and ratified 16 December 1991. The treaty is monitored by the Committee on the Rights of the Child³⁵, which last examined the UK in June 2016. The role of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) is to safeguard and promote the rights and interests of children and young people in Northern Ireland, taking the Convention as a guide³⁶.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities³⁷ – Signed by the UK on 30 March 2007 and ratified on 8 June 2009. The treaty is monitored by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities³⁸, which has not yet examined the UK and no date has as yet been announced. The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission are jointly designated as the independent mechanism to promote, protect and monitor implementation of Convention in Northern Ireland³⁹.

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has a statutory role of providing advice on human rights standards to the Northern Ireland Executive and Northern

²⁸ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CCPR.aspx>.

²⁹ Human Rights Committee web pages: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/CCPRIndex.aspx>.

³⁰ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>.

³¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women web pages: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/CEDAWIndex.aspx>.

³² Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CAT.aspx>.

³³ Committee Against Torture web pages: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CAT/Pages/CATIndex.aspx>.

³⁴ Convention on the Rights of the Child: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>.

³⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child web pages: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx>.

³⁶ 'What we do', website of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, accessed 21 September 2016: <http://www.niccy.org/about-us/what-we-do/>.

³⁷ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>.

³⁸ Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities web pages: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>.

³⁹ 'What is UNCRPD?', Equality Commission website, accessed 21 September 2016: <http://www.equalityni.org/Delivering-Equality/Addressing-inequality/UNCRPD-Disability/Policy-responses/What-is-UNCRPD>.

Ireland Assembly. The Commission also has a role in monitoring the implementation of international human rights instruments in Northern Ireland⁴⁰.

International Conventions

The UK is party to a range of UN agreements, treaties and conventions, too numerous to detail here. The list at Appendix 2 provides an overview of some examples of treaties that may impact on aspects of life or the economy of Northern Ireland. They are grouped into thematic sections.

⁴⁰ 'About us', Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission website, accessed 21 September 2016: <http://www.nihrc.org/about-us>.

4 International Labour Organisation

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is a UN agency which brings together governments, employers and worker representatives of 187 member states to set labour standards⁴¹. The standards are laid down as conventions and protocols. Consisting of Fundamental Conventions, Governance Conventions and Technical Conventions. The UK has ratified all eight Fundamental Conventions, three of the four Governance Conventions and 76 of the 177 Technical Conventions.

The Fundamental Conventions are as follows:

<i>Fundamental Convention</i>	<i>Ratified</i>
Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) ⁴²	03 Jun 31
Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) ⁴³	27 Jun 49
Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) ⁴⁴	30 Jun 50
Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) ⁴⁵	15 Jun 71
Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) ⁴⁶	30 Dec 57
Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) ⁴⁷	08 Jun 99
Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) ⁴⁸	07 Jun 00
Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) ⁴⁹	22 Mar 00

⁴¹ 'About the ILO', ILO website, accessed 21 September 2016: <http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/lang--en/index.htm>.

⁴² Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312174:NO.

⁴³ Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312232:NO.

⁴⁴ Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312243:NO.

⁴⁵ Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312245:NO.

⁴⁶ Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312250:NO.

⁴⁷ Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:102651.

⁴⁸ Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312283:NO.

⁴⁹ Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312327:NO.

The three Governance Conventions are as follows:

<i>Governance Convention</i>	<i>Ratified</i>
Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81) ⁵⁰	28 Jun 48
Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122) ⁵¹	27 Jun 66
Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144) ⁵²	15 Feb 77

Appendix 3 lists the Technical Conventions ratified by the UK which are still in force.

The ILO has a supervisory system by which states report on progress in implementing Conventions and Recommendations and a Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations⁵³ assesses compliance. Composite reports are published annually⁵⁴.

⁵⁰ Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312226:NO.

⁵¹ Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312267:NO.

⁵² Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144):

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312289:NO.

⁵³ Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations web pages:

<http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/applying-and-promoting-international-labour-standards/committee-of-experts-on-the-application-of-conventions-and-recommendations/lang--en/index.htm>.

⁵⁴ Information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations, ILO website:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/libdoc/ilo/P/09661/>.

5 Other Agreements

This section briefly covers some other areas where the UK has particular commitments, other than those relating to the EU. The first five organisations described here are UN bodies which administer specific international instruments. The remainder are examples of stand-alone international bodies to which the UK is party.

International Maritime Organisation

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships. The IMO sets standards for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping⁵⁵. There are 58 IMO conventions, key amongst which are:

- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended⁵⁶
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto and by the Protocol of 1997 (MARPOL)⁵⁷
- International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) as amended, including the 1995 and 2010 Manila Amendments⁵⁸

World Intellectual Property Organisation

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), an agency of the UN, is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation with 189 member states⁵⁹. The UK is party to 21 treaties relating to international intellectual property and copyright.

United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO)

UNESCO is a UN organisation founded in 1945, currently comprising 195 members. UNESCO *“contributes to the building of peace, the alleviation of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture,*

⁵⁵ 'Introduction to IMO', International Maritime Organisation website, accessed 22 September 2016:

<http://www.imo.org/en/About/Pages/Default.aspx>.

⁵⁶ International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974:

<http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Safety-of-Life-at-Sea-%28SOLAS%29%2c-1974.aspx>.

⁵⁷ International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL):

<http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-%28MARPOL%29.aspx>.

⁵⁸ International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW):

<http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-on-Standards-of-Training%2c-Certification-and-Watchkeeping-for-Seafarers-%28STCW%29.aspx>.

⁵⁹ 'What is WIPO?', WIPO website, accessed 22 September 2016: <http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/marrakesh/>.

communication and information"⁶⁰. Conventions, ratified by the UK, associated with UNESCO include the following:

- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005
- International Convention against Doping in Sport 2005
- Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region 1979
- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was set up in 1947 with the aim is to promote pan-European economic integration⁶¹. There are 58 United Nations inland transport related legal instruments administered by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and updated regularly, significant examples are as follows:

- The **1968 Convention on Road Traffic** provides rules on all aspects of international road traffic and safety, and serves as a reference for national legislation. It describes all road user behaviour, such as what drivers and pedestrians must do at crossings and intersections. It promotes safe road use behaviour.
- The **1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals** provides over 250 commonly agreed road signs and signals, road markings, and specifies the norms for traffic lights. It also classifies road signs into three classes (danger warning, regulatory and informative), defines each and describes their physical appearance to ensure visibility and legibility. It focuses on safe infrastructure which will contribute to safer roads and mobility.
- The **1958 Agreement concerning the Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts** provides the legal framework for adopting uniform UN Regulations for all types of wheeled vehicles manufactured, specifically related to safety and environmental aspects. It covers over 130 UN regulations (such as headlamps, braking, tyres, safety belts). It promotes safe and environmentally friendly vehicles.

⁶⁰ 'Introducing UNESCO', UNESCO website, accessed 22 September 2016: <http://en.unesco.org/about-us/introducing-unesco>.

⁶¹ 'Mission', UNECE website, accessed 26 September 2016: <http://www.unece.org/mission.html>.

United Nations Environment Programme

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the global environmental authority that promotes the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system⁶². Two of the international instruments under the remit of UNEP are:

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)⁶³
- Convention on Biodiversity⁶⁴

World Trade Organisation

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) became the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 1995 and now comprises 164 member countries. The members of the WTO operate under a set of agreed trading principles and rules, trade negotiations are undertaken under the auspices of the WTO and disputes can also be settled⁶⁵. Current membership of the WTO requires adherence to a set of agreements and understandings around goods, services and intellectual property and dispute settlement⁶⁶. Many of these agreements relate to standards in products, agricultural practices, sanitary measures, inspection regimes and rules of origin⁶⁷.

Energy Charter Treaty

The Energy Charter is an international legal entity independent of other international agencies that was originally intended to promote co-operation in all aspects of energy provision at the end of the Cold War, but has since expanded to wider energy interests. There are 53 individual state signatories to the treaty and the EU and EURATOM are also signatories, making 55 parties in all⁶⁸. The treaty includes a dispute settlement process that includes state-state and investor-state arbitration. The UK signed the original European Energy Charter on 17 December 1991 and signed the most recent treaty, the International Energy Charter, on 20 May 2015.

OSPAR Commission

OSPAR (derived from the Oslo and Paris commissions) is a mechanism by which 15 governments and the EU combine for the protection of the North-East Atlantic. Core to this is the OSPAR Convention, which is signed and ratified by all members, including the UK⁶⁹. Commitments in the Convention include the prevention of pollution in the

⁶² 'About UNEP', UNEP website, accessed 26 September 2016: <http://www.unep.org/about/>.

⁶³ CITES website: <https://cites.org/>.

⁶⁴ Convention on Biodiversity website: <https://www.cbd.int/>.

⁶⁵ 'What we do', WTO website, accessed 21 September 2016:

https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/what_we_do_e.htm.

⁶⁶ 'Understanding the WTO: The Agreements', accessed 21 September 2016:

https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm1_e.htm.

⁶⁷ WTO Legal Texts, accessed 21 September 2016: https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/legal_e.htm#civil.

⁶⁸ Energy Charter website: <http://www.energycharter.org/>.

⁶⁹ 'About OSPAR', OSPAR website, accessed 26 September 2016: <http://www.ospar.org/about>.

North-east Atlantic and the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area.

International Union for Conservation of Nature

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership union composed of both government and civil society organisations⁷⁰. The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, contains commitments to the preservation of specified wetlands. The UK has 170 such Ramsar wetlands, 18 of which are in Northern Ireland⁷¹.

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) is an international organization, established by the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean. The objective of NASCO is to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon through international cooperation⁷². The Convention is an example where the UK is party through the EU as signatory. Following a withdrawal from the EU, the UK may become a signatory in its own right.

⁷⁰ 'About', IUCN website, accessed 26 September 2016: <https://www.iucn.org/secretariat/about>.

⁷¹ Ramsar website: <http://www.ramsar.org/>.

⁷² 'About NASCO', NASCO website, accessed 28 September 2016: <http://www.nasco.int/about.html>.

6 Overview

This paper has presented a very broad summary of some of the binding international agreements to which the UK is party, other than EU commitments. There is a myriad of treaties, bilateral and multilateral, which carry obligations within the UK. While most may not have direct relevance for Northern Ireland, many will have effects in Northern Ireland or provide opportunities for businesses in Northern Ireland.

A survey of the most recent treaties is given as a flavour of the range and nature of international agreements⁷³. The tables at Appendix 4 show the most recent multilateral and bilateral treaties concluded by the UK.

The survey shows 18 multilateral treaties of which seven were concluded under the auspices of the EU, two through the Council of Europe, one under the UN, seven pertaining to other organisations and entities to which the UK is party and one trilateral (with France and Germany).

Broadly, the list of bilateral treaties gives a general picture of the kinds of agreements that have been possible with non-EU Member States as an EU Member State and with other EU states.

The agreement with the Republic of Ireland on the mutual recognition of driving disqualifications has its origins in the EU Convention on Driving Disqualification⁷⁴. The UK withdrew from the EU Convention, so this agreement constitutes a bilateral arrangement.

In summary, the following chart shows a cross-section of UK international obligations that have relevance for Northern Ireland. The chart is not exhaustive – it is intended to give a broad overview of some of the external influences not relating to the EU to a range of activities.

The following chart gives an overview of where international standards not relating to the EU for a variety of sectors lie. The list is not exhaustive, but is illustrative of the origins of obligations to which the UK is signatory.

⁷³ Survey taken using the Foreign and Commonwealth Office treaties search facility, 22 September 2016: <http://treaties.fco.gov.uk/treaties/treaty.htm;jsessionid=62975AD07DDD51E1C5071CA9E2CDCD79>.

⁷⁴ Convention 98/C 216/01 on Driving Disqualifications: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=URISERV%3A133065>.

Sector	Treaty Body
Human rights	CoE; UN
Employment	ILO
Business	WTO; CoE; UN; WIPO
Environment	CoE; UNESCO; UN; UNEP; IUCN
Seafaring/ fishing	IMO; CoE; UN; OSPAR
Culture and Heritage	UNESCO; CoE
Social protection	CoE
Health	CoE
Education	CoE; UNESCO
Justice and crime	CoE; UN
Agriculture/ animal welfare	CoE
Energy	Energy Charter
Transport	UNECE

Appendix 1: Council of Europe Treaties Ratified by the UK

Treaty	Explanation	Signed	Ratified
<i>Health</i>			
European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance	Parties undertake to ensure that the nationals of other Parties, who are lawfully present in their territory and who are without sufficient resources, are entitled to the same social and medical assistance as their own nationals	11 Dec 53	07 Sep 54
European Agreement on the Exchange of Therapeutic Substances of Human Origin	The Agreement aims to ensure mutual assistance between Parties in the supply of therapeutic substances of human origin should the need arise. The expression "therapeutic substances of human origin" refers to human blood and its derivatives.	21 Nov 63	08 Dec 64
European Agreement on Mutual Assistance in the matter of Special Medical Treatments and Climatic Facilities	The object of this Agreement is to make available the special treatments and climatic facilities existing in other countries to persons who, though affiliated with a medical benefit scheme, are unable to obtain appropriate treatment in their country of residence.	14 May 62	14 May 62
European Agreement on the Exchanges of Blood-Grouping Reagents	The Agreement allows the Parties to make blood-grouping reagents available to other Parties who are in urgent need of them and to charge only those costs of collection, processing and carriage of such substances and the cost (if any) of their purchase.	21 Nov 63	8 Dec 64
European Agreement on the Instruction and Education of Nurses	The goal of this Agreement is to harmonise the instruction and education of nurses with a view to promoting social progress and guarantee the standards required of nurses for their establishment in the territory of other Parties without discrimination.	21 Dec 67	21 Dec 67
European Agreement on the Exchange of Tissue-Typing Reagents	For the purpose of this Agreement, the Parties undertake to make tissue-typing reagents available to other Parties who are in need of them, by the most direct route, subject to the condition that no profit is made on them and that they shall be used solely for medical and scientific purposes and free of import duties.	08 Feb 79	09 Mar 79
<i>Education</i>			
European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities	Parties recognise, for the purpose of their own universities, the equivalence of diplomas affording admission to the universities of the other Parties where such admission is subject to the control of the State	11 Dec 53	22 Mar 54

European Convention on the Academic Recognition of University Qualifications	The holder of a degree or diploma awarded following study at a university of one Party to the Convention may take up further study (generally a postgraduate course) in any other Party under the same conditions as are applicable to nationals of that state who have a "similar national university qualification".	14 Dec 59	12 Feb 61
European Agreement on Travel by Young Persons on Collective Passports between the Member Countries of the Council of Europe	Young persons up to their 21st birthday are eligible to be accorded a collective travel document if they satisfy the requirements of this Agreement.	16 Dec 61	22 Jun 64
European Agreement on continued Payment of Scholarships to students studying abroad	The Agreement aims at encouraging the exchange of students between Parties through the application by national authorities of student scholarship schemes also for study periods in other Parties.	19 Oct 71	19 Oct 71
Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region	The Convention has been jointly drafted by the Council of Europe and UNESCO. It is designed to streamline the legal framework at European level and to replace in the long run six conventions adopted in this matter by the Council of Europe or UNESCO.	07 Nov 97	23 May 03
<i>Justice</i>			
European Convention on Extradition	The European Convention on Extradition provides for the extradition between Parties of persons wanted for criminal proceedings or for the carrying out of a sentence.	21 Dec 90	14 May 91
European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters	Parties agree to afford each other the widest measure of mutual assistance with a view to gathering evidence, hearing witnesses, experts and prosecuted persons, etc.	21 Jun 91	29 Aug 91
European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism	The Convention is designed to facilitate the extradition of persons having committed acts of terrorism.	27 Jan 77	28 Feb 78
European Agreement on the Transmission of Applications for Legal Aid	The Agreement is designed to eliminate economic obstacles to proceedings and to permit persons in an economically weak position more easily to exercise their rights Parties.	27 Jan 77	17 Jan 78
Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	The Convention is primarily intended to facilitate the social rehabilitation of prisoners by giving foreigners convicted of a criminal offence the possibility of serving their sentences in their own countries.	25 Aug 83	30 Apr 85
European Convention on the Compensation	This Convention puts upon States that become a Party to it the obligation to compensate the victims of intentional and	24 Nov 83	07 Feb 90

of Victims of Violent Crimes	violent offences resulting in bodily injury or death.		
European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches	Under the Convention, Parties undertake to co-operate between them and encourages similar co-operation between public authorities and independent sports organisations to prevent violence and control the problem of violence and misbehaviour by spectators at sports events.	19 Aug 85	19 Aug 85
Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime	The aim of this Convention is to facilitate international co-operation and mutual assistance in investigating crime and tracking down, seizing and confiscating the proceeds thereof.	08 Nov 90	28 Sep 92
Convention on Cybercrime	The Convention is the first international treaty on crimes committed via the Internet and other computer networks, dealing particularly with infringements of copyright, computer-related fraud, child pornography and violations of network security.	23 Nov 11	25 May 11
Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	The Convention is a comprehensive treaty mainly focused on the protection of victims of trafficking and the safeguard of their rights. It also aims at preventing trafficking as well as prosecuting traffickers.	23 Mar 07	17 Dec 08
Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism	The Council of Europe decided to update and widen its 1990 Convention to take into account the fact that not only could terrorism be financed through money laundering from criminal activity, but also through legitimate activities.	06 Jan 14	10 Apr 15
<i>Broadcasting</i>			
European Agreement on the Protection of Television Broadcasts	The Agreement enables television organisations in Parties to authorise or prohibit, throughout the territory of the Parties to the Agreement, the re-broadcasting, diffusion by wire, audiovisual recording and other means by which their broadcasts are utilised.	13 Jul 60	09 Mar 61
European Convention on Transfrontier Television	This Convention is the first international treaty creating a legal framework for the free circulation of transfrontier television programmes in Europe, through minimum common rules, in fields such as programming, advertising, sponsorship and the protection of certain individual rights.	05 May 89	09 Oct 91
European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production	The aims of this Convention are to promote the development of European multilateral cinematographic co-production, to	05 Nov 92	09 Dec 93

	safeguard creation and freedom of expression and defend the cultural diversity of the various European countries.		
<i>Business</i>			
Convention on the Unification of Certain Points of Substantive Law on Patents for Invention	The Convention aims to unify the conditions required in order that a patent could be granted for an invention in each of the Parties, and to lay down the criteria to be applied by courts in defining the extent of the protection conferred by a patent.	27 Nov 63	09 Nov 77
European Agreement for the Prevention of Broadcasts transmitted from Stations outside National Territories	The Agreement aims to prevent the establishment of broadcasting stations which are installed or maintained on board ship, aircraft, or any other floating or airborne objects and which, outside national territories, transmit broadcasts intended for reception within the territory of one of the Parties.	22 Jan 65	02 Nov 67
Convention on Insider Trading	The Convention provides for mutual assistance through the exchange of information between those responsible at national level for the surveillance of stock exchange transactions in order to discover and identify as rapidly as possible the preparation of irregular operations of insider trading.	13 Sep 89	21 Dec 90
<i>Social Security</i>			
European Code of Social Security	The Code aims at encouraging the development of social security in all member States of the Council of Europe in order that they may gradually reach the highest level possible.	14 Mar 67	12 Jan 68
European Convention on the Adoption of Children	The Convention ensures that national law on the protection of children applies not only to adoptions of children from the Parties but also to those of children from other States.	24 Apr 67	12 Dec 67
European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children	The Convention protects custody and access rights in international situations and provides for free, prompt, non-bureaucratic assistance from central authorities designated by each Party in discovering the whereabouts and restoring custody of a child improperly removed.	20 may 80	21 Apr 86
<i>Law</i>			
European Convention on Information on Foreign Law	Under the terms of the Convention, the Parties undertake to supply information, when problems of foreign law arise into course of legal proceedings, concerning their law and procedure in civil and commercial fields as well as on their judicial system.	07 Jun 68	16 Sep 69
<i>Environment</i>			

European Agreement on the Restriction of the Use of certain Detergents in Washing and Cleaning Products	The Agreement aims to ensure the control of fresh water pollution not only from the standpoint of human needs but also to ensure the protection of nature in general.	16 Sep 69	16 Sep 69
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	The Convention aims to ensure conservation of wild flora and fauna species and their habitats.	19 Sep 79	28 May 82
European Landscape Convention	The Convention aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe.	21 Feb 06	21 Nov 06
<i>Agriculture and Animal Welfare</i>			
European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport	The Convention sets compulsory norms for space, ventilation and hygiene, transportation means, food and water, loading and unloading of animals and veterinary assistance for the international transport of animals.	26 Feb 69	01 Jul 74
European Convention on State Immunity	The Convention aims to establish common rules relating to the scope of the immunity of one Party from the jurisdiction of the courts of another Party.	16 May 71	03 Jul 79
European Convention on the Social Protection of Farmers	The Convention provides social protection for rural populations similar to that enjoyed by other groups of the population.	13 Sep 77	07 Aug 79
European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes	The Convention applies to animals bred or kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for other farming purposes. It concerns in particular animals in intensive stock-farming systems. The protection guaranteed by the Convention aims to avoid unnecessary suffering or injury, having regard to the condition of housing, food or administered care.	10 Mar 76	08 Jan 79
European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes	The Convention is designed primarily to reduce both the number of experiments and the number of animals used for such purposes.	18 Mar 86	17 Dec 99
<i>Culture</i>			
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage	The Convention applies to all remains and objects, or any other traces of human existence, which bear witness to epochs and civilisations for which excavations and discoveries are the main source, or one of the main sources, of scientific information.	06 May 69	08 Dec 72

Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage.	03 Oct 85	13 Nov 87
<i>Data Protection</i>			
Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data	This Convention is the first binding international instrument which protects the individual against abuses which may accompany the collection and processing of personal data and which seeks to regulate at the same time the transfrontier flow of personal data.	14 May 81	26 Aug 87
<i>Governance</i>			
European Charter of Local Self-Government	The Charter commits the Parties to applying basic rules guaranteeing the political, administrative and financial independence of local authorities.	03 Jun 97	24 Apr 98
<i>Protection of Minorities</i>			
Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	The Convention is the first legally binding multilateral instrument concerned with the protection of national minorities in general. Its aim is to protect the existence of national minorities within the respective territories of the Parties.	01 Feb 95	15 Jan 98

Appendix 2: United Nations Treaties Ratified by the UK

Treaty	Signed	Ratified
<i>Health</i>		
WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control	16 Jun 03	16 Dec 04
<i>Justice</i>		
Convention against Organised Crime	14 Dec 00	09 Feb 06
Convention on the Suppression of Financing Terrorism	10 Jan 00	07 Mar 01
Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings	12 Jan 98	07 Mar 01
<i>Seafaring</i>		
Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone	09 Sep 58	14 Mar 60
Convention on the High Seas	09 Sep 58	14 Mar 60
Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas	09 Sep 58	14 Mar 60
Convention on the Continental Shelf	09 Sep 58	11 May 64
Convention on the Law of the Sea		25 Jul 97
<i>Trade</i>		
Arms Trade Treaty	03 Jun 13	02 Apr 14
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction	03 Dec 97	31 Jul 98
<i>Environment</i>		
Convention on Long-Range Trans-Boundary Air Pollution	13 Nov 79	15 Jul 82
Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer	20 May 85	15 May 87
Basel Convention on Trans-Boundary Movement of hazardous Waste	06 Oct 89	07 Feb 94
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context	26 Feb 91	10 Oct 97
Convention on the law of the Non-Navigation Use of International Watercourses		13 Dec 13
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	25 Jun 98	23 Feb 05
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	11 Dec 01	17 Jan 05

Appendix 3: Technical Conventions of the International Labour Office Ratified by the UK

Technical Convention	Ratified
Unemployment Convention, 1919 (No. 2)	14 Jul 21
Right of Association (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 11)	06 Aug 23
Workmen's Compensation (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 12)	06 Aug 63
Workmen's Compensation (Accidents) Convention, 1925 (No. 17)	28 Jun 49
Equality of Treatment (Accident Compensation) Convention, 1925 (No. 19)	06 Oct 26
Sickness Insurance (Industry) Convention, 1927 (No. 24)	20 Feb 31
Sickness Insurance (Agriculture) Convention, 1927 (No. 25)	20 Feb 31
Protection against Accidents (Dockers) Convention (Revised), 1932 (No. 32)	10 Jan 35
Old-Age Insurance (Industry, etc.) Convention, 1933 (No. 35)	18 Jul 36
Old-Age Insurance (Agriculture) Convention, 1933 (No. 36)	18 Jul 36
Invalidity Insurance (Industry, etc.) Convention, 1933 (No. 37)	18 Jul 36
Invalidity Insurance (Agriculture) Convention, 1933 (No. 38)	18 Jul 36
Survivors' Insurance (Industry, etc.) Convention, 1933 (No. 39)	18 Jul 36
Survivors' Insurance (Agriculture) Convention, 1933 (No. 40)	18 Jul 36
Workmen's Compensation (Occupational Diseases) Convention (Revised), 1934 (No. 42)	29 Apr 36
Unemployment Provision Convention, 1934 (No. 44)	29 Apr 36
Recruiting of Indigenous Workers Convention, 1936 (No. 50)	22 May 39

Contracts of Employment (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1939 (No. 64)	24 Aug 43
Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1939 (No. 65)	24 Aug 43
Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946 (No. 80)	28 May 47
Social Policy (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947 (No. 82)	27 Mar 50
Labour Standards (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947 (No. 83)	27 Mar 50
Right of Association (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947 (No. 84)	27 Mar 50
Labour Inspectorates (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947 (No. 85)	27 Mar 50
Contracts of Employment (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1947 (No. 86)	27 Mar 50
Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97)	22 Jan 51
Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102)	27 Apr 54
Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 1958 (No. 108)	18 Feb 64
Fishermen's Articles of Agreement Convention, 1959 (No. 114)	20 Dec 74
Radiation Protection Convention, 1960 (No. 115)	09 Mar 62
Final Articles Revision Convention, 1961 (No. 116)	09 Mar 62
Hygiene (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1964 (No. 120)	21 Apr 67
Medical Examination of Young Persons (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No. 124)	13 Dec 66
Accommodation of Crews (Fishermen) Convention, 1966 (No. 126)	13 Aug 85
Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135)	15 Mar 73
Paid Educational Leave Convention, 1974 (No. 140)	04 Dec 75

Rural Workers' Organisations Convention, 1975 (No. 141)	15 Feb 77
Human Resources Development Convention, 1975 (No. 142)	15 Feb 77
Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 (No. 148)	08 Mar 79
Labour Administration Convention, 1978 (No. 150)	19 Mar 80
Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151)	19 Mar 80
Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160)	27 May 87
Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006)	07 Aug 13
Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187)	29 May 08

Appendix 4: Recent Multilateral and Bilateral Treaties Signed by the UK

Multilateral Treaties

<i>Multilateral Treaty</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Date</i>
Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism [CETS No.217]	Council of Europe	22 Oct 15
Protocol amending the Common Aviation Area Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and the Republic of Moldova, to take account of the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Croatia	EU	22 Jul 15
Articles of Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	29 Jun 15
Agreement on the Status and Functions of the International Commission on Missing Persons	International Commission on Missing Persons	15 Dec 14
Protocol of Accession by the Government of the Russian Federation to the Convention of 16 December 1988 Concerning the Construction and Operation of a European Synchrotron Radiation Facility	European Synchrotron	15 Jul 14
Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other	EU	27 Jun 14
Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part	EU	27 Jun 14

Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other	EU	27 Jun 14
Protocol to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Serbia, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union	EU	25 Jun 14
Decision of the Board of Supervisors modifying Annex IV to the Convention between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of the French Republic, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Italian Republic on the Establishment of the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (Organisation Conjointe de Cooperation en matiere dArmement, OCCAR) (with four annexes) signed at Farnborough on 9 September 1998	OCCAR	10 Jun 14
Council Decision of 26 May 2014 on the system of own resources of the European Union	EU	26 May 14
Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia	Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia	06 May 14
Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the European Satellite Navigation Programmes	EU	18 Dec 13
Amendment to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter, 1972 (London Protocol) to Regulate Marine Geoengineering	International Maritime Organisation	Date not given

Minamata Convention on Mercury	UN	11 Oct 13
Protocol No.16 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (CETS No.214)	Council Of Europe	02 Oct 13
Fifth Protocol to the Convention of 19 January 1967, as amended by the Protocol of 6 July 1971, between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Construction and Operation of a Very High Neutron Flux Reactor, as further amended by the Agreement of 19 July 1974 between the above-mentioned two Governments and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning that Governments Accession to the Convention, by the Protocol of 27 July 1976, the Second Protocol of 9 December 1981, the Third Protocol of 25 March 1993 and the Fourth Protocol of 4 December 2002 between the above-mentioned three Governments	Trilateral	01 Jul 13
Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, adopted on June 27 2013	World Intellectual Property Organisation	27 Jun 13

Bilateral Treaties

<i>Bilateral Treaty</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Date</i>
Convention between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Turkmenistan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital Gains	Turkmenistan	09 Jun 16
Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	USA	09 Jun 16

concerning the use of Wideawake Airfield on Ascension Island by Civil Aircraft (Air Links and Alternate Aerodrome Agreement)		
Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the accession of Montenegro	USA	19 May 16
Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications and Degrees between the Republic of Chile and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Chile	13 May 16
Agreement on the Treatment of Debt between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Cuba	Cuba	29 Apr 16
Convention between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Tax Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital Gains	UAE	12 Apr 16
Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United Arab Emirates concerning the Convention between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Tax Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital Gains	UAE	12 Apr 16
Security Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Turkey concerning the Protection of Defence Classified Information	Turkey	25 Feb 16
Convention between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and	Uruguay	24 Feb 16

the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital		
Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Barbados concerning Air Services	Barbados	09 Feb 16
Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Argentina concerning the Clearance of Arrears (The United Kingdom/Argentina Debt Agreement No.6 (2014))	Argentina	23 Dec 15
Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Kenya concerning Defence Cooperation	Kenya	09 Dec 16
Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of India for Co-Operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy	India	13 Nov 16
Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ghana on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	Ghana	12 Nov 16
Treaty between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	Kazakhstan	03 Nov 15
Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Driving Disqualifications between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ireland	Ireland	30 Oct 15
Exchange of Notes to Amend the Film Co-Production Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of South Africa	South Africa	28 Oct 15
Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and the Government of	Iraq	08 Oct 15

the Republic of Iraq on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons		
Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the French Republic concerning Centres of Excellence implemented as part of the One Complex Weapons Sector Strategy	France	24 Sep 15
Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg concerning the Protection and Promotion of Classified Information	Luxembourg	08 Sep 15