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The Rt. Hon. The Lord Woolf
Chairman Financial Markets Law Committee
C/o Bank of England
Threadneedle Street
London
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Our ref: 209984

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Dear Lord Woolf,

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Thank you for your letter of 25 July to Bridget Prentice enclosing a copy of your Committee's paper on the Brussels1 Regulation. I have recently taken over Ministerial responsibility for the European and International portfolio in the department.

The paper is extremely welcome. It helpfully contains some detailed solutions to certain problematic issues; in particular those raised by the Court of Justice in, among others, *Gasser*. I welcome the offer of discussions between your Secretariat and my team here in the Ministry of Justice.

As you know the European Commission is shortly due to issue a paper setting out its proposals for the reform of the Regulation. In the light of this I suggest that the appropriate time for discussions with your Secretariat would be following our receipt of that paper. That will be the time when we will have to engage in detail with the future reform of this instrument and ensure that the UK's response to the Commission meets the needs of our stakeholders. This will require a significant degree of public consultation.

I have asked my officials to make the appropriate contacts with your Secretariat. I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

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