



## **BIA responds to the announcement that UK Cabinet has approved the draft Brexit deal**

**15 November 2018**

In response to the announcement that UK Cabinet has approved the draft Brexit deal, **BIA CEO, Steve Bates, said:** "We welcome this week's progress on Brexit discussions with the initial agreement between the EU and UK on a withdrawal agreement and the political agreement on the outline of a future relationship. The BIA will now monitor and inform its members of the political debate that will ensue in the finely balanced UK parliament. There is significant detail to digest and we are engaging with members and others to understand the implications of the deal for the life sciences sector, and plan to produce a detailed briefing on this next week.

"The withdrawal agreement builds on previous draft withdrawal documents. It includes detail on people, goods on the market, medicines regulation, intellectual property, state aid rules, the Irish border and access to EU databases.

"On the political declaration, we are initially focusing on what is meant by the future relationship mentions of, "cooperation in matters of health security in line with existing union arrangements with third countries, and in international fora." It also includes cooperation in science and innovation. Text detailing a free trade area with "deep regulatory and customs cooperation", mentions commitment to alignment of rules and IP protection to stimulate innovation.

"There remains a long way to go for certainty on Brexit for life sciences businesses but this is a key step on that journey."