



Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010

2010 CHAPTER 25

PART 2

RATIFICATION OF TREATIES

20 Treaties to be laid before Parliament before ratification

- (1) Subject to what follows, a treaty is not to be ratified unless—
 - (a) a Minister of the Crown has laid before Parliament a copy of the treaty,
 - (b) the treaty has been published in a way that a Minister of the Crown thinks appropriate, and
 - (c) period A has expired without either House having resolved, within period A, that the treaty should not be ratified.
- (2) Period A is the period of 21 sitting days beginning with the first sitting day after the date on which the requirement in subsection (1)(a) is met.
- (3) Subsections (4) to (6) apply if the House of Commons resolved as mentioned in subsection (1)(c) (whether or not the House of Lords also did so).
- (4) The treaty may be ratified if—
 - (a) a Minister of the Crown has laid before Parliament a statement indicating that the Minister is of the opinion that the treaty should nevertheless be ratified and explaining why, and
 - (b) period B has expired without the House of Commons having resolved, within period B, that the treaty should not be ratified.
- (5) Period B is the period of 21 sitting days beginning with the first sitting day after the date on which the requirement in subsection (4)(a) is met.
- (6) A statement may be laid under subsection (4)(a) in relation to the treaty on more than one occasion.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, Section 20. (See end of Document for details)

- (7) Subsection (8) applies if—
- (a) the House of Lords resolved as mentioned in subsection (1)(c), but
 - (b) the House of Commons did not.
- (8) The treaty may be ratified if a Minister of the Crown has laid before Parliament a statement indicating that the Minister is of the opinion that the treaty should nevertheless be ratified and explaining why.
- (9) “Sitting day” means a day on which both Houses of Parliament sit.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 20 excluded (23.1.2020) by [European Union \(Withdrawal Agreement\) Act 2020](#) (c. 1), **ss. 32, 42(6)** (c) (with s. 38(3))
- C2** S. 20 excluded (31.12.2020) by [European Union \(Future Relationship\) Act 2020](#) (c. 29), **ss. 36, 40(6)** (e)
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Commencement Information

- I1** S. 20 in force at 11.11.2010 by [S.I. 2010/2703](#), **art. 2(b)**

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, Section 20.