



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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David Rees AM
Chair, External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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12 February 2020

Dear David,

The House of Lords European Union Committee has very much welcomed dialogue with the devolved legislatures since the 2016 referendum. Following the Committee's reappointment last month, I am writing to you to set out its approach to continuing engagement with the devolved legislatures in the months ahead.

The Committee has identified a number of work priorities between now and the end of the transition period in December 2020. We would welcome engagement with your Committee, and other relevant Committees in the National Assembly for Wales and the other devolved legislatures, to support this work.

In particular, we will continue to scrutinise draft EU legislation during the transition period, and we have secured a commitment from the UK Government to continue to deposit EU documents in, and to provide Explanatory Memoranda to, the UK Parliament. I understand that House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee officials currently share EU documents and Explanatory Memoranda with National Assembly for Wales officials. I trust this will continue. We will also share with you the results of our weekly sift of EU documents, along with any reports and significant correspondence on individual legislative proposals. In turn, we would welcome any information which relevant Committees in the Assembly wish to share regarding their views on EU legislative proposals, including in particular any which you judge raise matters of 'vital national interest', and which therefore may fall within the ambit of section 29 of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020.

With this in mind, I would like to invite the views of National Assembly for Wales Committees on the European Commission's 3 February 2020 Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations for a new partnership with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, together with the UK Government's Written Ministerial Statement on UK/EU relations of the same date. The EU Committee will be considering a draft report on the Commission document at its meeting on Wednesday 5 March. If you would like to share your Committee's views, I would be grateful to receive them by Wednesday 26 February.

Finally, I can assure you of our continuing commitment to dialogue with Committees of the National Assembly for Wales with regard to our other priorities over the coming year. These include:

- **Scrutiny of the future relationship negotiations;**
- **Scrutiny of the formal mechanisms for dialogue between the UK and the EU**, including the Joint Committee on the Withdrawal Agreement, and the Specialised Committees that report to it;
- **Scrutiny of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland**, including the implications for Wales of its operation.
- **Inter-parliamentary engagement**, where we will continue to prioritise dialogue with the devolved legislatures, the European Parliament and EU national parliaments. In particular, we remain committed to the Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit, and recognise the value of applying this model for sectoral dialogue between relevant committees in each of the legislatures.

I have written in similar terms to Chairs and Conveners of other relevant Committees in the National Assembly for Wales, Scottish Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kinnoull', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lord Kinnoull
Chair of the European Union Committee