



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Lord Kinnoull
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BY E-MAIL

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Dear Lord Kinnoull,

Many thanks for your letter of 12 February 2020 and I very much welcome the spirit of your letter and the on-going dialogue between the legislatures from across the United Kingdom since the 2016 referendum. In this regard, the Committee welcomes the provision, by your Committee, of the weekly sift of EU documents and looks forward to receiving similar documentation from the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee. This form of co-operation is extremely helpful in order to ensure that EU legislation continues to be scrutinised during the transition period.

In your letter, you outline some of the key areas where continuing dialogue is a priority for the House of Lords EU Select Committee over the course of 2020. The areas you outline overlap significantly with the scrutiny plans of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs (CTEEA) Committee for the year ahead. The Committee has taken evidence recently on the Protocol on Northern Ireland and also with regard to issues which are likely to arise in terms of the future relationship negotiations. I attach links to the Official Report of these evidence sessions below which may be of interest—

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12464>

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12483>

With regard to the future relationship negotiations, some of the key issues to have emerged initially relate to the proposed timescale for the negotiations and the extent to which it will be possible to negotiate any form of ‘comprehensive’ agreement within this calendar year. The extent to which devolved administrations and legislatures will have any input into these negotiations also remains a key consideration allied to concern with regard to the lack of transparency in terms of the UK Government’s negotiating position. The Committee intends to take evidence from the Scottish and UK Governments regarding the future relationship negotiations in the coming weeks.

In terms of the CTEEA's Committee future scrutiny plans with regard to Brexit, these are two-fold. Firstly, the Committee intends to focus its scrutiny of the future relationship negotiations, prior to the summer recess, upon issues associated with the level-playing field and the treatment of fisheries and financial services within the future economic relationship with the EU. Secondly, the Committee will be taking evidence on the External Affairs policy of the Scottish Government, including consideration of how Scottish interests can best be represented vis-à-vis the EU as part of a 'third' country.

Lastly, in terms of inter-parliamentary engagement, I look forward to continued dialogue within the Inter-Parliamentary Forum on Brexit. In this regard, I welcome your recognition of applying this model for dialogue between relevant committees in each of the legislatures. In terms of dialogue with the European Parliament, this is a key priority for the Committee and I welcome the recent establishment of the European Parliament Friendship Group on Scotland. I would, of course, welcome dialogue on how engagement can be further enhanced with the European Parliament.

Yours Sincerely,

Joan McAlpine
Convener, Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee