



Department
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The Earl of Kinnoull
Chairman
Select Committee on the European Union
House of Lords
London
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28 May 2020

Dear Lord Kinnoull,

EM 13389/19: RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION AUTHORISING THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND A PROTOCOL WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK AND THE HOME RULE GOVERNMENT OF GREENLAND

13389/19 ADD 1: ANNEX TO THE RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

13389/19 ADD 2: COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION ACCOMPANYING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

13389/19 ADD 3: COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT: EVALUATION ACCOMPANYING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

Thank you for your letter dated 15 May 2020.

When looking to secure fishing opportunities for the UK fleet following the Transition Period, our priority will be to seek a fair and balanced deal across all of the UK's arrangements with other coastal States, which maximises our fishing opportunities and ensures the sustainable management of shared stocks in line with the scientific advice.

The UK is seeking to establish new frameworks that will facilitate cooperation on issues such as the sustainable management of stocks as well as the establishment of fishing opportunities. These frameworks will facilitate the ability to hold annual negotiations on a number of different fisheries matters.

With regard to Greenland, the UK Government does not intend to use a financial model for future fisheries arrangements; therefore, any future UK-Greenland fisheries arrangements will not be equivalent to any EU-Greenland sustainable fisheries partnership agreement.



The UK has long held the position that financial payments for fishing quota are not a desirable means of securing such opportunities.

In my last letter, I detailed the focus of recent UK engagements with Greenland in respect of fisheries, which included long-term bilateral arrangements. The UK and Greenland Governments enjoy a good working relationship with regard to fisheries; this relationship is likely to evolve further and for the positive as the UK goes forward as a fully independent coastal State.

I previously copied to you my recent letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee, which I hope you found useful. I enclose a copy again here for ease of reference. Given the sensitive nature of bilateral relationships in development, this is as much detail as I am currently able to provide, since to go further could prejudice the progress of the UK Government's discussions with our Greenlandic counterparts.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee. I am also copying this letter to the Clerks of the Commons and Lords Committees, Jessica Mulley and Chris Johnson respectively; Les Saunders, Cabinet Office; and Steve Wigham, Defra Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

Yours sincerely,



VICTORIA PRENTIS MP

Enc. Letter to Sir William Cash MP dated 07 May 2020 (re. EM 13389/19)