

# European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel (020) 7219 3292 Email [escom@parliament.uk](mailto:escom@parliament.uk) Website [www.parliament.uk/escom](http://www.parliament.uk/escom)

From: Sir William Cash MP

23 July 2020

Simon Clarke MP  
Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

## **UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Proposals for Regulations on EU structural funds post-2020 (39801, 39807, 39808, 39811) (EU documents 9511/18, 9522/18, 9573/18, and 9536/18)**

We have considered your letter of 3 June and taken note of your later letter dated 19 June to the Chairs of various other Select Committee.

We note that you remain unable to set out any details of the Shared Prosperity Fund, or even a timetable for doing so. From the perspective of this Committee, it makes it impossible for us to assess the advantages or disadvantages of seeking participation in relevant aspects of future EU structural funds, such as the European Territorial Cooperation goal, aside from PEACE PLUS.

In a recent Explanatory Memorandum<sup>1</sup> to us covering amended proposals for the future structural funds, the Minister for Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility (Lord Callanan) said:

Following a comprehensive value-for-money assessment of ongoing participation in EU programmes, HMG will not be pursuing participation in ETC, including ETC health programmes, in the MFF 2021-2027. As a structural fund, the new UKSPF will replace ESIF including ETC funding.

We do not take a position on the desirability or otherwise of participating in the ETC programmes (other than PEACE PLUS) and we recognise that proposals

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://europeanmemoranda.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/files/2020/06/EM\\_COM\\_\(20\)\\_450-451-452\\_June\\_2020\\_PDF.pdf](http://europeanmemoranda.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/files/2020/06/EM_COM_(20)_450-451-452_June_2020_PDF.pdf)

to achieve similar goals under the SPF may well be better value for money. It is incumbent on us as a scrutiny committee, however, to insist that the Government shares its analysis with us in order that Parliament is in a position to critically assess the Government's approach.

We therefore ask that the value for money assessment referred to be shared with us by 1 September in order that we are able to take forward our scrutiny of these matters. We would also welcome any further details that you are able to share at that stage concerning the SPF, as well as information on the progress of negotiations concerning the UK's participation in PEACE PLUS.

We are copying this letter to Clive Betts MP, Chair of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee and Mike Winter, Clerk of the Committee; Simon Hoare MP, Chair of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee and Nicholas Beech, Clerk of the Committee; Rt Hon. Stephen Crabb MP, Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee and Adam Evans, Clerk of the Committee; Pete Wishart MP, Chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee and Leoni Kurt, Clerk of the Committee; Rt Hon. Hilary Benn MP, Chair of the Future Relationship with the EU Committee and Gordon Clarke, Clerk of the Committee; the Earl of Kinnoull, Chair of the EU Select Committee in the House of Lords and Christopher Johnson, Clerk of the Committee; your Departmental EU Scrutiny team; and Les Saunders and Donald Harris in the Cabinet Office.

**CHAIR**