



Mariya GABRIEL

*Commissioner for Innovation, Research,
Culture, Education and Youth*

Brussels, 29 April 2022

Dear Lord Kinnoull,

First, thank you for your letter of the 3 March. Let me assure you that the European Commission fully recognises the mutual benefit of cooperation in science, research and innovation with the United Kingdom. As you rightly point out, securing association is a 'win-win' for both sides.

However, the current political setting of this relationship should be recalled: there are at present serious difficulties in the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and parts of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

We look forward to a prompt resolution, and to the enhanced cooperation opportunities in research, space and other areas with the establishment of the association to Union programmes, including Horizon Europe.

In the meantime, entities from the United Kingdom still benefit from transitional arrangements, which allow them to apply to Horizon Europe calls for proposals and undergo the evaluation procedures as if the association had already entered into force. However, grant agreements involving funding to such entities may only be signed once association is effective. These transitional arrangements are in place for entities from any candidate Associated Country in Horizon Europe. These measures specifically aim at ensuring cooperation in research and innovation can continue between our European and UK teams.

Yours sincerely,

Mariya Gabriel

*Lord Kinnoull
Chair of the House of Lords European Affairs Committee,
UK Parliament
House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW*