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The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office
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21 July 2020

Dear Michael

We enclose a joint letter sent by us, as Chairs of the two Select Committees charged with scrutiny of the negotiations on the future UK-EU relationship, to the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Speaker. In it we set out our support for continuing interparliamentary dialogue, which we believe will need clear foundations in any UK-EU agreement from the outset.

The Government's position thus far has been to support interparliamentary dialogue in principle, but to underline that the establishment of such dialogue is a matter for Parliament, not the Government. We acknowledge the point of constitutional principle, but note that the Government alone represents the UK in these negotiations.

We therefore urge the Government to ensure that as part of the current negotiations there is agreement on the formal framework for the institutional arrangements necessary to support an effective inter-parliamentary dialogue from the start of 2021.

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Chair, Committee on the Future Relationship
with the European Union

Lord Kinnoull
Chair, European Union Committee