



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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Sir William Cash MP
Chair, European Scrutiny Committee
House of Commons
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12 October 2022

Dear Sir Bill,

Thank you for your letter about last week's European Political Community (EPC) meeting. I am replying on behalf of the Prime Minister who attended the meeting alongside more than 40 other leaders.

Let me start by saying that both she and I share your approach on this matter. The UK government's guiding conditions for participating in the meeting were that it must: i) focus on political objectives with outcomes that support UK interests; ii) be genuinely European-wide and separate from the EU; and iii) be intergovernmental without creating new institutional structures.

The UK took part as an independent sovereign nation, to pursue our national interest and collaborate with our allies on issues which matter to the British people, not least standing up to Vladimir Putin and securing support for Ukraine at this crucial point.

On that last point and our first condition, the key outcome of the meeting was a strong show of unity from across Europe in support of Ukraine and against Russian tyranny. The Prime Minister spoke of this in the plenary, also encouraging cooperation on pan-European issues such as energy security and illegal migration. The Prime Minister joined a working discussion on 'Energy, economy and climate', setting out how Europe should respond to Russia's weaponisation of energy supply and ramp up production in the short, medium and long-term. The Prime Minister also held productive bilateral meetings with a number of European leaders.

While, there are no formal readouts of the plenary or working groups to share, I attach copies of the [Czech host's opening statement](#) and to [No10's summary of the meeting](#) which also details of progress which the Prime Minister secured on energy and illegal migration with France (set out in further detail in the [UK-France Joint Statement](#)), the Czech Republic, Norway and others.

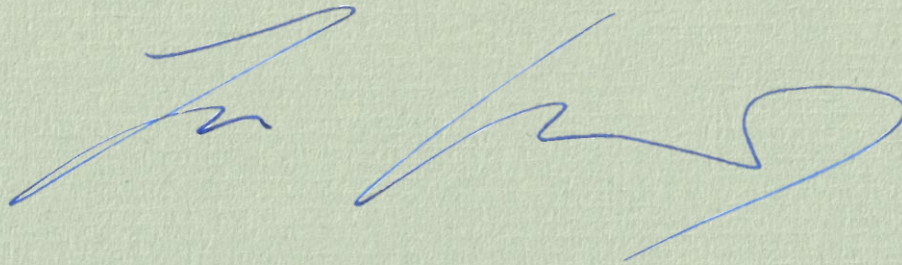
On the second condition, the meeting brought together governments from across Europe, around a third of whom are outside the EU. As the Prime Minister said in advance of the Summit, a post-Brexit Britain, should be involved in discussions that affect the entire continent and all of us in the UK.

On the third condition, the event did not create new structures or institutions. There were no formal conclusions or secretariat. And I can reassure the committee that there is no

question of UK participation in this forum, now or in the future, compromising UK autonomy or sovereignty. I also know that point remains fundamental for many other of the states which attended.

As with any similar forum, we will consider future participation as long as it remains in our interests and meets our guiding principles. The next host is likely to be Moldova and we will engage with them as hosts, as well as other partners, to shape the event to that effect.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Secretary