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European Union Committee

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5 November 2020

Lord Callanan
Minister for Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0ET

Dear Martin,

EM 15051/19: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: The European Green Deal

Thank you for your letter dated 7 October 2020 on the European Green Deal Communication, which was considered by our Environment Sub-Committee on 4 November 2020.

We recognise that some of these issues are within other Government departments' remits and would be grateful if your officials would share this letter appropriately.

Thank you for your commitment to continue working with international partners, including the EU, to drive up standards and climate action to deliver on the Paris Agreement. We are also grateful for your responses regarding engagement with the devolved administrations, the carbon border adjustment mechanism, the absence of economic viability in the Government's target for packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable, the National Action Plan for the Sustainable use of Pesticides, and new genomic techniques.

In our last two letters we asked how the Government's commitment to match or exceed the ambition of the EU's Ecodesign standards would apply to the EU's standards as they evolve in future. Thank you for clarifying the guiding principles – cost-effective environmental benefits and working for UK businesses – that will be used to determine when to exceed the EU's Ecodesign standards on a product by product basis.

We hope that BEIS and Defra will take proactive steps to support the development of the Office for National Statistics National Materials Datahub project.

In our last letter we asked why the Government is disregarding the interim targets in the Waste Framework Directive. Your response emphasises the role of other policy actions over interim targets. We note that interim targets and other policy actions could positively reinforce one another.

The European Green Deal is major package of policies which we believe the Government should monitor closely, given their potential implications for the United Kingdom. We will continue to follow developments, and urge you to do the same.

We are now content to close this correspondence.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash, the Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons Committee; Les Saunders, Cabinet Office; and the BEIS Parliamentary Scrutiny Team.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Kinnoull', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lord Kinnoull
Chair of the European Union Committee