

# 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

25 January 2023

Rt Hon. Graham Stuart MP  
Minister of State for Energy and Climate  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET

**COM(2022) 651: Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the EU-UK Specialised Committee on Energy established by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, concerning the EU-UK electricity trading arrangements (42147)**

We considered your Explanatory Memorandum of 13 December 2022 on the above document at our meeting of 25 January 2023.

We welcome the positive developments in this area, which have been regrettably delayed by the disagreements between the UK and EU over the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

The Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) on possible designs of the ‘multi-region loose volume coupling’ (MRLVC) mechanism identified a benefit as being to support the development of an offshore renewable energy grid in the North Sea. We consider this to be an important benefit given the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the North Sea Energy Cooperation group of countries. Noting some of the points arising from the CBA, we would welcome your responses to the following questions:

- Do you agree that a commercial and regulatory framework for a North Sea offshore renewable energy grid needs to be considered alongside the MRLVC, so that any necessary modifications can be made to the MRLVC?

- Do you agree that the data access limitations set out in Annex 29 of the TCA on the design of MRLVC could ultimately limit the effectiveness of North Sea offshore renewable energy cooperation?
- To what extent would you support amendments to Annex 29 to maximise the effectiveness of North Sea offshore renewable energy cooperation?

We look forward to a response to our queries within ten working days.

I am copying this letter to Darren Jones MP, Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee and Kenneth Fox, Clerk of the Committee; Lord Kinnoull, Chair of the House of Lords European Affairs Committee, and to Nick Boorer, that Committee's Clerk; to the Parliamentary Scrutiny team in your Department; and to Les Saunders in the FCDO.

**CHAIR**