



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Victoria Prentis MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

House of Lords European Union Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

26 October 2020

Dear Lord Teverson,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September, I have set out below an update on the negotiations including on progress made and when I believe an agreement will be reached.

On fisheries, we have negotiated in good faith, but the gap between the two sides remains very large. The EU continues to demand the continuation of the status quo on both quota shares and access to waters. This is unacceptable to the UK, and fails to recognise our status as an independent coastal State and the scale of change required before any future fisheries agreement could be acceptable to us.

The Government still believes that an agreement would be beneficial for the UK and the EU. Talks have now resumed following Michel Barnier's statement to the European Council on 21 October whereby the EU acknowledged the need for both sides to compromise and to begin negotiating on a consolidated legal text. The UK Government still believes that the best and most established means of regulating our future relationship on fisheries between two independent coastal States is through a separate framework agreement.

We hope this can be achieved, and that we can successfully negotiate an agreement in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we of course continue to make preparations for annual negotiations with other coastal states to be ready for the 2021 fishing season, whatever the outcome of negotiations with the EU.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Prentis

VICTORIA PRENTIS MP

