



Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Email: freucom@parliament.uk Website: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/366/committee-on-the-future-relationship-with-the-european-union/>

The Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10 December 2020

Dear Jacob

The Select Committee met this morning and discussed future parliamentary scrutiny of our relationship with the European Union. They asked me to write to you regarding the following particular matter.

When the Committee was established at the start of the year we all envisaged that negotiations would have been completed in October, leaving plenty of time for the Committee to consider the outcome. The negotiations have, however, run on well beyond that point and there will now be insufficient time available to us for the kind of detailed scrutiny of any deal that the House would expect before the temporary Standing Order that established the Committee lapses. If there is not a deal, we will also not have time to take evidence and report on the implications for our future relationship with the EU and the steps that would then have to be taken.

In order to allow us to fulfil these responsibilities as we had expected to be able to, the Committee would request you to extend our term for six months from 16 January or perhaps until the House rises for the summer recess in 2021. It would be helpful if a motion to extend the temporary Standing Order that established the Committee could be brought forward before the House rises for the Christmas recess so that we can plan accordingly.

If you need any further information, I would be happy to speak to you. Your team can contact Gordon Clarke, the Clerk of the Committee at clarkeg@parliament.uk or on 020 7219 2712 to arrange this.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Yours,

Hilary Benn
Chair of the Committee