



## Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Email: [freucom@parliament.uk](mailto: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  
Westminster  
SW1A 0AA

7 January 2021

Dear Jacob,

Thank you for your reply of 30 December to our request for an extension to the term of office of the Committee, in which you explained you were consulting with Cabinet colleagues. There is now little over a week before the Committee's standing order lapses.

Following the conclusion of negotiations, we have asked the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Lord Frost to appear to give evidence to us on the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and on the implications of the new relationship with the European Union. Both have said they are not available in the coming week. An extension is therefore now required in order to enable us to hear evidence from them so that we can report further to the House.

As previously expressed, an extension for six months, or until the rise of House for the summer recess, would give sufficient time to fulfil the mandate that the Committee was given by the House to scrutinise the negotiations and the Agreement.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Government Chief Whip and the Opposition Chief Whip.

Yours,

Hilary Benn  
Chair of the Committee



**LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
THE RT. HON. JACOB REES-MOGG M.P.**



The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn M.P.,  
Chairman, Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: JRM/NMP855  
January 2021

*Dear Hilary,*

Thank you for your letter requesting a six month extension for the Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union.

As a former member, I am well aware of the important role your Committee has played throughout the negotiations and I would like to reassure you that the Government remains committed to scrutiny of its relationship with the European Union. The Prime Minister has delivered a great deal for the entire United Kingdom in record time, which is fantastic news for families and businesses in every part of the UK. There will be plenty of opportunities for questions, statements and debates, as well as the detailed analysis of the House select committees in the months ahead.

Whilst this is ultimately a matter for the House, it is the view of the Government that your Committee's work should come to an end in line with the current temporary Standing Orders, which were agreed by the House. The Government has carefully assessed the many routes of scrutiny available to the House, including the current committee structure and the flexibility provided under Standing Orders to allow the detailed scrutiny of our new relationship with the EU, such as committees' powers to work together and invite members of other committees to participate in their proceedings. I can assure you that Government departments will continue to work closely with the House and its select committees in scrutinising all areas of Government policy, including our new trading relationship with the European Union.

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

With every good wish,

*Yours ever,  
Jacob*



LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
THE RT. HON. JACOB REES-MOGG M.P.



The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn M.P.,  
Chairman, Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: JRM/NMP855  
30 December 2020

*Hilary*

Thank you for your recent letter requesting a six month extension for your Committee, to allow you to scrutinise the new free trade agreement which has been struck with the EU. I was delighted to see the Future Relationship Bill in Parliament today, which I am sure you will agree represents a great step forward for the UK.

I am discussing your request with fellow ministers and others and will respond as soon as possible.

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

With every good wish,

*JRM*  
*JRM*



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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](mailto: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