

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From: Sir William Cash CH MP

8 May 2024

Andrew Bowie MP
Minister of State for Nuclear and Renewables
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
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Trade and Cooperation Agreement: Energy cooperation

We considered your Explanatory Memorandum on the above listed proposal at our meeting on 8 May 2024. We seek clarity on why a formal framework for cooperation between UK and EU and gas transmission system operators (TSOs) and regulators is necessary, when previous informal arrangements appeared sufficient.

When you write, we request an explanation as to why a framework for formal cooperation has taken so long to come to fruition, but also how it is going to help deepen energy cooperation in a way that was not possible previously.

Lastly, we are pleased to see that the Government has interacted with UK TSOs and regulatory authorities on the contents of the guidance and intends to ask for their comments once published. We would like reassurance that the Government intends to remain engaged once the framework comes into force to ensure that it is functioning as it should.

We request a response to this letter with a month.

I am copying this letter to Lord Ricketts, Chair of the House of Lords European Affairs Committee, and to Jarek Wisniewski, that Committee's Clerk; to the Parliamentary Scrutiny team in your Department; and to Les Saunders in the FCDO.

CHAIR