



# HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon  
Minister of State  
Foreign, Commonwealth and  
Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London, SW1A 2AH  
United Kingdom

27 January 2021

Dear Lord Ahmad

Thank you for your letter, dated 15 January 2021, on the impact of the end of the transition period, and the conclusion of the UK-EU future relationship negotiations, on the UK Overseas Territories. The House of Lords European Union Select Committee considered this document at its meeting on 26 January 2021.

We regret that the Overseas Territories have not been given the opportunity to be included in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Can you explain in more detail the basis and rationale for the EU's position that it had no competence or mandate to negotiate a future relationship with the Overseas Territories? What are the political and economic implications for the Overseas Territories of their exclusion? Is there any prospect of this situation being rectified in the future so as to establish a basis for a tariff- and quota-free trading relationship between the Overseas Territories and the EU? If so, on what timetable will it be possible for dialogue with the EU to take place?

We note in particular the serious economic implications for the Falkland Islands, and for its trade in Loligo squid, as set out in the attached letter received from the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly. Can you foresee any opportunity for tariff- and quota-free exports from the Falkland Islands to the EU being restored? How and when will you raise the Falkland Islands' specific concerns with the EU? How will you support the Falkland Islands Government in ensuring the continued sustainability of its fisheries industry in the context of such a significant challenge? In view of the close economic and trading ties between the Falkland Islands' and Spanish fishing industries, what dialogue have you had with the Spanish Government about these issues, and any steps that it could take to mitigate the economic impact of the imposition of tariffs and quotas?

We are disappointed at the continued lack of clarity regarding the Government's proposals for future UK spending in the Overseas Territories, in particular given, as the letter from the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly makes clear, the Overseas Territories have been seeking clarity on this matter since the referendum on EU membership in 2016. When do you expect your consultation with the Overseas Territories to conclude, and for new funding structures to come into operation? How will you support the Overseas Territories in covering any funding gap from the loss of EU funding in the meantime?

We also note your response regarding continued cooperation between Anguilla and French Saint Martin and Dutch Sint Maarten. Can you clarify whether the requirement for British Citizen and British Overseas Territories Citizens resident in Anguilla to possess a work permit to work in Saint Martin is a new one, and whether there is a connection with UK withdrawal from the EU? Have there been any other changes in Anguilla's relationship with Saint Martin and Sint Maarten? What is the view of the Government of Anguilla on the impact of these changes?

I would be grateful for an opportunity to meet you to discuss these points, and the concerns of the Overseas Territories, further. In the meantime, we request a response to this letter by 10 February 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Kinnoull', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Lord Kinnoull  
Chair of the European Union Committee