



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

The Rt Hon. David Lammy MP

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and
Development Affairs

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH



Ministry
of Defence

The Rt Hon. John Healey MP

Secretary of State for Defence

Horse Guards Avenue
London
SW1A 2HB

Lord de Mauley
Chair, International Relations and
Defence Committee
House of Lords
London, SW1A 0AA

08 May 2025

Dear Lord De Mauley,

As you know, and as per manifesto commitments, the Government has been working to develop our relationship with the European Union on foreign, security and defence policy. We informed Parliament via WMS in October 2024 of the Foreign Secretary's attendance at the EU Foreign Affairs Council and agreement to advance work towards a Security Partnership to address common threats and challenges.

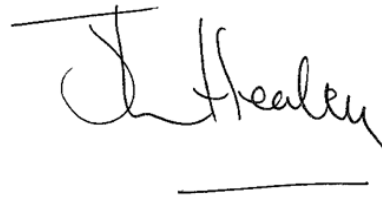
We are writing to confirm that the Council of the European Union has asked the European External Action Service to negotiate a Security and Defence Partnership (SDP) with the UK and that negotiations have therefore begun. Through these negotiations we will pursue an agreement which strengthens and enables cooperation between the UK and EU on security and defence issues, in support of our common objectives and in tackling shared threats. The Partnership will build on the EU's existing partnership agreements with other third countries, while recognising the unique nature of our security relationship. The Government is committed to ensuring that any future partnership recognises NATO is the cornerstone of our shared European Security, as well as our efforts to enhance our bilateral ties with our European partners.

We welcome your continued engagement on this matter and look forward to updating Parliament on the signing of any agreement. We have similarly written to the Foreign Affairs Committee, European Affairs Committee and International Agreements Committee.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Lammy'.

THE RT HON. DAVID LAMMY MP
Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth & Development Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Healey'.

THE RT HON. JOHN HEALEY MP
Secretary of State for Defence