



Rt Hon. Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
His Majesty's Paymaster General
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The Lords Ricketts GCMG GCVO
Chair
European Affairs Committee
House of Lords
SW1A 0PW

Dame Emily Thornberry MP
Chair
Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

17 December 2025

Dear Lord Ricketts and Dame Emily,

As you know, the first ever UK-EU Summit was held in May this year. Since then, the Government has been focused on implementing the commitments set out in the Common Understanding, as agreed at the Summit.

I wanted to inform you that the UK and European Commission have concluded negotiations for the UK's association to Erasmus+ in 2027. UK association to Erasmus+ will unlock world-class opportunities across the education, training, sport and youth sectors. It is an investment in opportunity for our young people, our workforce and our future, opening doors for thousands across the UK and renewing our people to people ties with Europe and beyond.

We are pleased that the European Commission has agreed financial terms - a 30% discount in 2027 compared to default Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) terms - that represent a fair balance between the UK's contribution and the benefits the programme offers, paving the way for UK participation in the programme. We also agreed there will be a review of the UK's participation in the programme ten months after our association, including data concerning demand for funding in the UK. Going forward, our experience of associating in 2027 will inform any future participation in Erasmus+ under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The Government will now work at pace to maximise take-up across all sectors so that the benefits of Erasmus+ association can be fully realised.

The UK and European Commission have also concluded exploratory talks on the UK's participation in the EU's internal electricity market; the details of this will be set out in an exchange of letters next week, which my officials will share with you. Closer cooperation on electricity will bring real benefits to businesses and consumers, drive growth, reduce costs across the UK and EU, and support our energy security objectives. This would replace the unstable arrangements of our prior deal. This cooperation also underscores the UK's global leadership in the clean energy transition, allowing us to work with the EU to deliver a greener, more resilient and efficient grid. The UK and EU will now proceed swiftly with negotiations on a UK-EU electricity agreement.

The Government remains committed to implementing the other outcomes agreed at the May 2025 summit in a timely manner. In particular, the UK and the EU have a shared aim to conclude negotiations on a UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary Area, linking our Emissions Trading Schemes, and a Youth Experience Scheme, by the time of the next UK-EU Summit in 2026.

Finally, I wanted to thank your Committees for the constructive approach you have taken to engaging with the Government, both up to and following the Summit, as we continue to use our strengthened relations with the EU to deliver a long-term UK-EU strategic partnership.

I am copying this letter to the Chairs of the Energy, Education, and Culture, Media and Sport Committees.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Thomas-Symonds', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**RT HON NICK THOMAS-SYMONDS MP
MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
HIS MAJESTY'S PAYMASTER GENERAL**