



The Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office, His Majesty's
Paymaster General
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

12 March 2026

Dear Minister,

COM(2025)804: Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the participation of the United Kingdom in the internal electricity market of the Union and on the financial contribution of the United Kingdom towards reducing economic and social disparities between the regions of the Union.

Thank you for your Explanatory Memorandum (EM) dated 4 February 2026, which was considered by the House of Lords European Affairs Committee at its meeting of 10 March 2026.

These are important negotiations that fall within the scope of the Government's reset of UK/EU relations. To facilitate our scrutiny of this matter, we ask how you intend to keep us (and Parliament) informed of their progress. We note, in this regard, that you have not provided us with a timetable indicating how long you expect these negotiations to last.

We therefore ask you to provide us with more details about the starting date of talks; your plan to update Parliament periodically on their progress; whether there is a prospective deadline by which both sides aim to conclude these negotiations; and, when you expect, if successful, the UK's access to the EU's internal electricity market.

We note that the EM outlines the possible parameters of the agreement, but it does not include any reference to the Government's own priorities. Are the areas outlined in the draft EU mandate aligned with the Government's expectations, or are there other areas of the EU internal energy market the Government may wish to see included in the agreement?

We note that "the details of a UK-EU Electricity Agreement are subject to negotiation following the completion of EU and UK *internal processes*" (emphasis added). We ask you to clarify to what these processes are and how you plan to complete them ahead of negotiations?

Finally, the EM notes that the EU draft proposal, as currently drafted, "goes beyond the outcome of exploratory talks," and mentions, in this context, possible financial contributions. What is the Government's assessment of the acceptable scale, size and scope of such financial contributions? Also, are there any other areas included in the draft EU mandate that go beyond the outcome of the exploratory talks?

We retain our interest in this matter and look forward to considering your response within the usual 10-day deadline.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Stirrup', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Lord Stirrup

Chair of the European Affairs Committee