



Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
His Majesty's Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Rt Hon Dame Emily Thornberry MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Dame Emily,

21st May 2026

Thank you for your letter of 20 May regarding the Government's response to the Foreign Affairs Committee's report on the UK-EU reset. I want to stress how much I value the Committee's assessment of the work we are doing to deliver the UK-EU Strategic Partnership, and assure you that I take your points seriously.

As you know, the Government is working hard to deliver the objectives for the UK's relationship with the European Union that were set out in our manifesto and on which we were elected. In delivering our objectives, the Government is committed to being as open and transparent with Parliament as possible, as has been demonstrated through statements to Parliament and Select Committee evidence sessions.

The Minister for Europe, North America and UK Overseas Territories and I have appeared jointly at several Select Committee sessions, including to the Foreign Affairs Committee and European Affairs Committee. I have also appeared before the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee and the Business and Trade Committee. These Committee appearances are of course in addition to opportunities for scrutiny at Cabinet Office Oral Parliamentary Questions.

However, you will know that the nature of negotiations means it is not possible to provide a running commentary in order to protect our negotiating teams and their positions. The European Partnership Bill will be scrutinised in the normal way, and I am sure that the debate around parliamentary scrutiny of our continued relationship with the EU will be central to the Bill's passage.

I would be happy to appear before the Committee following the next UK-EU Summit. My officials will be in touch with yours to agree a mutually suitable date.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Europe, North America and UK Overseas Territories in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nick Thomas-Symonds', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Looking forward to catching up soon!
