Rt Hon. Hamish Falconer MP
Minister for Intergovernmental Relations
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Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
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Rt Hon Dame Emily Thornberry MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
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20 November 2026

Dear Dame Emily,

I am pleased to write to update you on several significant developments in UK-EU relations, which I will set out below.

UK-EU SUMMIT

Earlier today, the second UK-EU Summit took place in Brussels, where we announced the conclusion of negotiations on a Sanitary and Phytosanitary ("SPS") agreement, Youth Experience Scheme and linking our respective carbon markets by way of an Emissions Trading Scheme ("ETS") Linking Agreement. This negotiated Summit deal is a win-win for Britain and Europe: cutting costs, cutting red tape and creating opportunities for young people. The UK-EU Joint Statement and relevant policy explainers have been made available on gov.uk today, and can be found at this link.

I am also pleased to report that progress was made in a number of other areas of common interest including tackling migrant criminality and working together to strengthen European economic security and supply chains through a new partnership for economic resilience.

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP BILL

Secondly, as the Prime Minister set out earlier this week, the European Partnership Bill will shortly be introduced to the House of Commons. This legislation will establish the powers necessary to implement the SPS and ETS Agreements and allow the benefits of the agreements to be fully realised.

I know that you and the Committee will take a close interest in both the Bill and the wider Summit package. I look forward to appearing before your Committee on 24 November to provide further information on this, and following the Bill's introduction, I would be glad to offer the Committee a private technical briefing to answer any questions Members may have. My Private Office would be happy to liaise with your officials to find an appropriate time.

I look forward to working with you all as this piece of legislation progresses through Parliament, and I hope to be able to count on your support.

EXTENSION OF THE ENERGY TITLE

Finally, I also wanted to inform you that the Partnership Council has adopted Decision No 1/2026, issuing an interpretation of Article 331(2) and extending the application of Part Two, Heading One, Title VIII (Energy) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) until 31 March 2028.

Article 331 of the TCA provided that the Energy Title would cease to apply on 30 June 2026 unless the Partnership Council agrees to reapply it annually. This decision reflects Joint Declaration 1/2025, which sets out our shared political understanding that the Energy Title should be extended on a continuous basis.

This provides much-needed legal certainty and predictability to businesses and stakeholders about the rules that apply to energy trade and investment between the UK and the EU.

I will deposit a copy of this letter and the linked documents in the Libraries of the Houses.

With very warm wishes,

Yours sincerely,



RT HON HAMISH FALCONER MP
MINISTER FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
AND EUROPEAN RELATIONS