



10 DOWNING STREET  
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THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 2020

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to announce today that this Government has concluded our negotiations with the EU about our future relationship. We have secured an excellent deal for the United Kingdom. This agreement fully delivers on what the British public voted for in the referendum and in last year's General Election. As we promised, it takes back control of our laws, borders, money, trade and fisheries and ends any role for the European Court. The UK will have political and economic independence on 1 January 2021 and will thrive as a country now fully outside of the European Union.

The agreement we have secured today:

- Is based on international law, not EU law. There is **no role for the European Court of Justice** and no requirements for the UK to continue to follow EU law. We will be a truly independent country, with our sovereign Parliament in full control of the laws that we live by.
- It is the first free trade agreement based on **zero tariffs and zero quotas** that the EU has ever agreed and it's fantastic news for families and businesses in every part of the UK. Businesses will be able to continue to trade smoothly and people will be able to continue to buy goods from Europe tariff-free.
- The deal secures on our pledge to protect and boost our economy and provides for continued market access across a broad scope of key **service** sectors, including professional and business services, supporting new and continued investment between businesses. It also means that business travellers will be able to easily move between the EU and the UK for short term visits and the agreement on financial services ensures financial stability and consumer protection.
- The deal delivers on our commitment to maintaining **high labour, environment and climate standards** without giving the EU any say over our rules.

- It allows us to introduce our own **modern subsidy system** so that we can better support businesses to grow and thrive, in a way that best suits the interests of UK industries. We will be outside the EU State Aid regime.
- The agreement supports this Government's primary objective of prioritising the safety and security of its citizens. It offers streamlined **co-operation on law enforcement**, ensuring we continue to effectively tackle serious organised crime and counter terrorism, protecting the public, and bringing criminals to justice. It also provides for future co-operation between the UK and EU on **emerging security challenges**, such as cyber and health security, including continuing to work together on tackling the spread of COVID-19.
- It recognises UK sovereignty over our **fishing** waters and puts us in a position to rebuild our fishing fleet and increase quotas, overturning the inequity that British fishermen have faced for over four decades. By the end of the five year transition we will have full control of our waters and the amount of fish available to UK fishermen will have risen from half to two-thirds.
- It provides for the UK's **participation in certain EU programmes**, furthering our commitment to making the UK a science and research superpower and fulfilling our manifesto commitment to participate in the Horizon Europe programme, but also the Euratom Research and Training programme, and the space programme, Copernicus.
- And this deal delivers for our citizens, making our daily lives easier. It includes arrangements for **airlines and hauliers** that provides them with certainty, and gives people the ability to travel to and from the EU easily for work and holidays; **a social security agreement** that has practical benefits for UK citizens including accessing healthcare when travelling in the EU; and agreements on energy which will benefit consumers by helping to keep prices down.
- Finally, the deal delivers for the entire UK, protecting the integrity of our internal market and Northern Ireland's place within it.

We recognise that this means a period of change for **businesses**, at a time when everyone has been responding to the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic. But this is an unparalleled opportunity for the UK to do things differently and better, and create the blueprint for our growing prosperity through the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

To take advantage of the UK's new trading relationship with the EU, it is essential that businesses continue to make preparations for the changes and opportunities the end of the year will bring. The UK will still be leaving the Single Market and Customs Union, which means substantial change so I would urge you to encourage local businesses to check [www.gov.uk/transition](http://www.gov.uk/transition) to check on changes.

There is of course also now an important role for Parliament to ratify this deal. We will now work at pace to introduce the Future Relationship Bill in Parliament so we can ensure that that our new relationship with the EU is in place on 1 January. Immediately on recalling Parliament, it is the Government's intention to bring forward a motion to extend remote participation to substantive proceedings, including the stages of the Future Relationship Bill. Proxy voting will also continue in its current form.

Many people said this deal could not be done or was impossible in the time available. We have proved those views wrong. We have agreed the biggest trade and co-operation deal in the world, on a huge range of issues relevant to everyone in our country, in record time and in hugely challenging conditions. Our negotiating team has done an extraordinary job.

Now it is over to us. 2021 will be our opportunity to show what Global Britain means to the rest of the world: striking trade deals with new markets, reasserting ourselves as a liberal and free trading nation; and acting as a force for good in the world. I hope you will support me in welcoming this great new deal as we welcome the New Year as a fully sovereign nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yours ever Boris Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

All Members of Parliament and Peers