



UK Representation to the EU Brussels

Ambassador Sir Tim Barrow KCMG
Office of the Permanent
Representative

Avenue d'Auderghem 10
1040 Brussels
Belgium

20 August 2019

Jeppé Tranholm-Mikkelsen
Secretary-General
Council of the European Union

Dear Secretary-General,

1. As you know, the UK is to leave the EU on 31 October 2019. As we prepare for exit, the Government has reviewed our approach to attendance at EU meetings to ensure that as a departing Member State we are making the best possible use of UK Ministers' and officials' time and our resources.
2. The Prime Minister has decided that in our last weeks as a Member State, his Ministerial team and officials will participate only in those EU meetings where the UK has significant national interests involved. This will be those that directly affect UK sovereignty, international relations, security, and financial contributions. We will make these decisions on a case by case basis based on the agenda of the meetings.
3. The UK Government remains committed to the duty of sincere cooperation and will not stand in the way of the conduct of EU business during this time. While the UK will re-focus on its immediate priorities, we will do so in a way that does not prevent the EU-27 from moving ahead. Where necessary therefore, the UK will make appropriate arrangements regarding its vote so that EU business can continue smoothly.
4. We remain, of course, committed to having a friendly and constructive relationship with the EU, as equals, in facing the challenges that lie ahead.
5. I am copying this letter to the Acting Secretary-General of the European Commission, the Secretary-General of the EEAS, the Presidency, and to other Coreper colleagues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Barrow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

TIM BARROW