



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 of the TEU

The Chief Negotiator

Brussels,
tf50(2019)6671552

Dear Secretary of State, *Dean Steve,*

Thank you for your letter dated 25 September, in which you call for bilateral cooperation – at EU and Member State level – to manage our ongoing preparedness work for a possible ‘no-deal’ scenario.

As we mentioned in previous letters to you and your predecessors, we believe that the Withdrawal Agreement is the best way to protect citizens and businesses. Every issue raised in your letter – from trade in goods to citizens’ rights and data flows – has already been addressed comprehensively in the Withdrawal Agreement. There is no other way to achieve all the benefits that the Withdrawal Agreement provides.

As regards ‘no-deal’ preparations, the EU has already finalised its work, as set out in the European Commission’s six “preparedness Communications” adopted between July 2018 and September 2019, as well as in the 100 “Brexit preparedness notices” published since May 2017. We will not enter into any negotiations with the United Kingdom on these matters.

You state that with “flexibility and creativity”, a deal can be possible. As you know, the EU has already shown considerable flexibility and creativity throughout the negotiations and we are open to consider all legally operative solutions that meet all the objectives of the backstop. I am looking forward to seeing you tomorrow in Brussels to discuss any solutions or ideas you may have in this respect.

Yours sincerely, *Michel Barnier*

Michel Barnier

Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP
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