



Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ

Vice-President of the European Commission

Co-Chair of the EU-UK Partnership Council

Brussels,

Ares(2021) 1494591

Dear Michael, 

I would like to congratulate you on your appointment, on an interim basis, as co-chair of the Partnership Council established by the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

I am confident that we can continue working together on the implementation of this Agreement in the same collaborative, constructive and pragmatic spirit we have both demonstrated for the Withdrawal Agreement implementation.

The Trade and Cooperation Agreement provides for a time-limited provisional application until 28 February 2021, unless a later date is agreed by the Parties, or until the date where both Parties have completed their respective internal requirements and procedures for establishing their consent to be bound.

In my capacity as co-chair of the Partnership Council of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, I am transmitting you the European Union's proposal for an extension of the period of provisional application until 30 April. This extension is needed for the Union to complete its internal procedure to conclude the Agreement in all authenticated 24 languages.

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office

Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall

London SW1A 2AS

United Kingdom

In order to change the end date of the provisional application, a decision needs to be taken by the Partnership Council. Accordingly, I have attached to this letter the Union's proposal for a draft decision of the Partnership Council as regards the date on which the provisional application of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement shall cease.

I am willing to discuss with you the more efficient way for the Partnership Council to take this decision, including if appropriate, by written procedure. A swift decision by the Partnership Council, guaranteeing the legal certainty for the Parties to the Agreement is needed ahead of 28 February.

The Secretariat will then arrange for the recording of the decision and its signing in the authentic languages.

Yours Sincerely,



Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ