



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič
European Commission
By email only

Our reference: MC2021/03672

23.1 February 2021

DM

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION OF THE EU-UK TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Thank you for your letter of 19 February 2021 and the draft decision of the Partnership Council which would extend the date on which provisional application of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement ceases from 28 February 2021 to 30 April 2021.

As you know, provisionally applying the Agreement was not the United Kingdom's preferred outcome given the uncertainty it creates for individuals and businesses and indeed the Parties. Extending the period of provisional application prolongs that uncertainty.

Our expectation is that the European Union should be able to satisfy its internal requirements before 30 April 2021, and that we would therefore not be asked to further extend the period of provisional application beyond 30 April 2021. While this uncertainty persists, and until the period of provisional application is over, we do not consider the Partnership Council and other bodies established under Title III of Part I of the Agreement should begin their work formally, except (as in the present case) where there are essential decisions which cannot be deferred.

In my capacity as interim co-chair of the Partnership Council I can confirm that the United Kingdom is content to agree that the date on which provisional application shall cease to apply pursuant to point (a) of Article FINPROV.11(2) should be extended to 30 April 2021, and that the Partnership Council should adopt this decision by way of written procedure. The United Kingdom is therefore content to agree to the draft Decision annexed to your letter.

With every good wish,

and thank you so much for all your support,

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**

M. Gove