



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Lord Kinnoull
Chair
EU Select Committee
House of Lords

The Scottish Parliament
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BY E-MAIL

4 March 2021

Dear Charles,

I am writing¹ with regard to the Inquiry currently being undertaken by your Committee in relation to the governance of future EU-UK relations and specifically the role of the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) provided for in the EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA). It is my understanding that consideration of the remit and composition of the PPA is currently at an early stage albeit there has been some initial correspondence regarding the PPA between the European Parliament and the UK Parliament.

The role of the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly was first considered by the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs (CTEEA) Committee in the context of our consideration of the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill and associated Scottish Government legislative consent memorandum at the end of last year. At that time, we reached the following recommendation with regard to the PPA—

“The Parliamentary Partnership Assembly is proposed to consist of Members from the European Parliament and UK Parliament. The Committee recommends that given the governance framework deals with devolved competences that representation from the Scottish Parliament be included on the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly”².

My Committee has continued to take evidence on the initial operation of the TCA since 1 January 2021. The evidence we have taken has further emphasised that the

¹ Dean Lockhart MSP and Jamie Halcro-Johnston MSP are not signatories to this letter.

² CTEEA Committee response to the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill legislative consent memorandum, 30 December 2020, p.4. Dean Lockhart MSP and Jamie Halcro-Johnston MSP were not signatories to this response. The response can be accessed at—
https://www.parliament.scot/S5_European/Inquiries/20201230_EUFutureRelationshipLCMResponse.pdf

operation of the TCA has significant implications for devolved policy areas. Given the impact of the TCA upon policy areas that are the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament, the CTEEA Committee considers it imperative that Members of the Scottish Parliament are represented on the PPA. We further consider that Scottish Parliament representation on the PPA must be on the same terms as that afforded to other legislatures. I trust that the view of the Committee can be reflected in your deliberations regarding the PPA and wider governance framework for future EU-UK relations.

I would be happy to discuss this issue with you if that would be helpful and my Clerk would also be happy to engage with your clerks in relation to this letter. I am copying this letter to the Rt. Hon. Ken MacIntosh MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament; David Sassoli MSP, President, European Parliament; David McAllister MEP, Chair, UK Co-ordination Group, European Parliament and Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Chair, House of Commons Liaison Committee.

Can I also take this opportunity to pass on my best wishes to you in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Joan McAlpine MSP
Convener, Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee
Scottish Parliament