

Delegation for Northern Cooperation
and for Relations with Switzerland and Norway
and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee
and the European Economic Area Joint Parliamentary
Committee
The Bureau

D 103801 21.12.2020

EXPO-B-NEWE D (2020) 35539

Mr David McALLISTER
Chair of the UK Coordination Group

Dear Mr McAllister,

During the last few weeks, the DEEA has met bilaterally and in the framework of the European Economic Area Joint Parliamentary Committee with all our EFTA partners. The EU future relationship with the United Kingdom and its consequences for the EFTA States have featured prominently in all our meetings.

After listening to our partners' concerns, we believe that Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland need to be reassured that regardless of the future partnership between the EU and the UK, the EU will maintain its existing preferential relationship with them as our closest partners and allies.

This position is in line with the European Parliament's recommendation of 18 June 2020 on the negotiations for a new partnership with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which recalls that a third country must not have the same rights and benefits as a Member State of the EU, or a member of the EEA or the EFTA. Likewise, the European Parliament calls for safeguarding EU agreements with third countries and international organisations, including the EEA Agreement, and maintaining the overall balance of those relationships, while concluding a new partnership with the United Kingdom.

In light of the above, as Members of the Bureau of the DEEA, we would like to call on the European Parliament to reassure the legitimate expectations of our EFTA partners and to guarantee that their unique relationship with the EU will be preserved.

Yours sincerely,



Andreas Schwab
Chair of the DEEA



Sven Giegold
Vice-chair of the DEEA



Claudia Gamon
Vice-chair of the DEEA