



Department  
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Food & Rural Affairs

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Dear Adam,

Thank you for your letter of 19 March about transparency in fisheries negotiations and stakeholder participation in the Specialised Committee on Fisheries.

I would like to begin by assuring you that we take our commitment to transparent and accountable decision-making seriously. I recognise the importance of engagement with all stakeholders interested in fisheries matters and I was pleased that the environmental non-Governmental organizations (eNGOs) were able to participate in plenary sessions for the first annual UK-EU fisheries consultations. It was unfortunate that eNGO groups were unable to attend the plenaries for the trilateral consultations, but I hope there will be that opportunity in the future.

As you are likely aware, the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) provides for a number of Specialised Committees in the Partnership Council. The Specialised Committee on Fisheries will provide a forum for discussion and co-operation in relation to sustainable fisheries management. Until the TCA has been ratified in the European Parliament, the Partnership Council and Specialised Committees will not become operational. The membership and administration of the Partnership Council and the supporting Specialised Committees is being considered at a UK level and in further discussions with the EU once the TCA has been ratified. I would be happy to update you on this in due course.

Finally, you enquire about documentation related to all fisheries negotiations. In accordance with Article FISH.6(6) a written record will be agreed by the parties documenting the outcome of the consultations. This will be published in due course following conclusion of these consultations. The Agreed Record on fisheries consultations between the EU, Norway and the UK were published on 16 March 2021. The Government also anticipate publication of the UK-Norway Agreed Record on fisheries consultations in the next month or so, should we reach agreement on fishing opportunities for 2021.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

**VICTORIA PRENTIS MP**