



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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30 December 2020

Dear John

**Legislative Consent: European Union (Future Relationship) Bill – UK Legislation**

I am writing to notify you that, on 30 December 2020, the Scottish Parliament agreed not to consent to the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill, which is currently under consideration at Westminster.

Given the Bill is of significance and interest to all parts of the UK, I am also writing today to Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd and Lesley Hogg, Clerk/ Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Assembly, to inform them of the Scottish Parliament's decision.

I attach the associated memorandum and extract of the Minutes of Proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

**DAVID MCGILL**  
Clerk/Chief Executive

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS—

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Parliamentary Year 5, No. 80, Session 5**

**Meeting of the Parliament**

**Wednesday 30 December 2020**

The meeting opened at 1.30 pm.

**2. Trade and Co-operation Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union:** The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon) moved S5M-23815—That the Parliament notes the legislative consent memorandum on the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill lodged by the Scottish Government on 29 December 2020; considers that, while a no deal outcome must be avoided, the Future Relationship Agreements negotiated by the UK Government would cause severe damage to Scotland’s environmental, economic and social interests; regrets that, unless the UK Government follows the EU approach of provisional ratification, the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill will receive severely limited scrutiny in the UK Parliament, with very little time given to parliamentarians in the UK Parliament and devolved legislatures across the UK, failing to recognise the significance of the agreement and failing to respect the important role of the Scottish Parliament in scrutinising legislation requiring its legislative consent; therefore does not consent to the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill, and calls on the UK Government to seek a pause in current implementation while special arrangements are made to take account of these difficulties for Scotland and for the many others that will become apparent as the Bill is more fully considered.

Ruth Davidson moved amendment S5M-23815.2—

As an amendment to motion S5M-23815 in the name of Nicola Sturgeon (Trade and Co-operation Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union), leave out from “considers” to end and insert “recognises that the UK left the EU on 31 January 2020; congratulates both the EU and UK negotiating teams on securing the landmark Trade and Cooperation Agreement in a constrained timeframe; notes that the deal helps secure £660 billion of Scottish and UK trade to support Scottish jobs and businesses; recognises that the First Minister has described an exit from the EU without such an agreement as ‘catastrophic’ for Scotland; notes that the only way to avoid such a no-deal outcome is to support the deal that has been agreed; welcomes the fact that all 27 EU member states have unanimously approved the deal, and therefore consents to the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill negotiated between the EU and the UK Government.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 30, Against 94, Abstentions 0).

Richard Leonard moved amendment S5M-23815.3—

As an amendment to motion S5M-23815 in the name of Nicola Sturgeon (Trade and Co-operation Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union), insert at end “; urges the Scottish Government to provide further mitigation to businesses and sectors impacted by this Agreement and the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls on the UK and Scottish governments to work together to ensure that the current rights of workers, and Erasmus, are protected and that the highest environmental standards are upheld.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (by division: For 94, Against 30, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to (by division: For 92, Against 30, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament notes the legislative consent memorandum on the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill lodged by the Scottish Government on 29 December 2020; considers that, while a no deal outcome must be avoided, the Future Relationship Agreements negotiated by the UK Government would cause severe damage to Scotland’s environmental, economic and social interests; regrets that, unless the UK Government follows the EU approach of provisional ratification, the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill will receive severely limited scrutiny in the UK Parliament, with very little time given to parliamentarians in the UK Parliament and devolved legislatures across the UK, failing to recognise the significance of the agreement and failing to respect the important role of the Scottish Parliament in scrutinising legislation requiring its legislative consent; therefore does not consent to the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill; calls on the UK Government to seek a pause in current implementation while special arrangements are made to take account of these difficulties for Scotland and for the many others that will become apparent as the Bill is more fully considered; urges the Scottish Government to provide further mitigation to businesses and sectors impacted by this Agreement and the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls on the UK and Scottish governments to work together to ensure that the current rights of workers, and Erasmus, are protected and that the highest environmental standards are upheld.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
30 December 2020