



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
TASK FORCE FOR THE PREPARATION AND CONDUCT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM UNDER ARTICLE 50 OF THE TEU

The Chief Negotiator

Brussels, **28 JUN 2018**
tf50(2018)3692135

Dear Mr Ruby,

I am writing in response to the letter of 28 May in which you underline Eurelectric's view of the importance of the EU's future energy and climate relationship with the UK, and call for a future partnership based on close collaboration. Let me also thank you for sending the paper "Brexit: EU-UK future energy and climate relationship".

The European Council has called for our future partnership to address global challenges, in particular in the areas of climate change and sustainable development, and we will explore with the UK what form this might take. Nonetheless, it is important to be clear: the decision of the UK to leave the EU necessarily means significant changes in how we cooperate on climate and energy matters. This is a consequence of the UK's desire to leave the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice, to leave the single market and to regain its regulatory autonomy. In these circumstances, some benefits of the close cooperation on climate and energy policy we have inside the European Union will inevitably be lost.

Your letter also raises the issue of the preservation of the single electricity market on the island of Ireland. This falls within the wider subject of the Ireland/Northern Ireland being addressed as part of the withdrawal agreement. The protocol to the draft Withdrawal Agreement on Ireland/Northern Ireland provides for the retention of the single electricity market by continuing to apply relevant EU legislation in Northern Ireland.

Negotiations with the UK are ongoing and progress has been made, but there remain very important issues where agreement has not yet been reached - notably in relation to Ireland/Northern Ireland. My priority is finalising a Withdrawal Agreement with the UK which ensures its orderly departure from the EU on 29 March 2019. However, success cannot be assured and I would reiterate the importance to all stakeholders of preparing for all eventualities - including that of "no deal". The Commission's notice to stakeholders to which your letter refers sets out the consequences of the UK's decision to withdraw from the European Union on the internal energy market.

Yours sincerely, *Michel Barnier*

Michel BARNIER

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