



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF  
TRADE, INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES**

*The Minister of Trade and Industry*

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps, MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Your ref

Our ref

Date

20/302-

18 December 2020

Dear Rt Hon Grant Shapps,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries to set out for your Ministry and stakeholders how Norway will regulate our trading relationship concerning maritime transport services.

Norway values its longstanding and strong trading relationship with the United Kingdom. The swift conclusion of a comprehensive and high-quality free trade agreement is a shared ambition. I would like to reassure you that Norway will continue to prioritise these negotiations with the aim of the entry into force of the free trade agreement as soon as possible in 2021.

31 December 2020 marks the end of the transition period and the United Kingdom will no longer be part of the European single market. This means that there will be changes to our trading relationship concerning maritime transport services. We agree that it is prudent to put in place mitigating actions to ensure continuity in our trading relationship after the end of the coverage period, when the United Kingdom will no longer be covered by the Trade-Related Agreements between the European Union and one or both of Iceland and Norway, until the entry into force of the free trade agreement. Primarily the United Kingdom and Norway will be able to continue trade in goods through the interim goods agreement, signed 8 December 2020.

In addition, Norway reiterates its political commitment to the principles of free and fair market access for maritime transport services. I confirm that Norway has no intentions to introduce any new maritime restrictions on the freedom of vessels registered in the United Kingdom or Gibraltar to provide maritime cabotage services in Norwegian waters. I also confirm that

vessels registered in the United Kingdom or Gibraltar will continue to have reasonable and non-discriminatory access to Norwegian ports and port services during this period of time. Norway will continue to honour its commitments under the Seafarer's Identity Documents Convention of 1958 including those relating to the entry of seafarers.

Norway welcomes reciprocation of this treatment from the United Kingdom where possible, considering the United Kingdom's current or future agreements with the European Union.

This letter does not constitute a legally binding agreement. Norway and the United Kingdom will communicate any changes to existing and future processes.

Norway will work towards the conclusion of a high quality, comprehensive free trade agreement, to come into force as soon as possible in 2021.

Yours sincerely



Iselin Nybø