



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

The Minister of trade and industry

The Rt Hon Liam Fox MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AH

Your ref

Our ref

Date

16/5062

11.10.16

Dear Colleague,

Allow me to extend my gratitude for our recent meeting in London. I found the meeting very productive, and I appreciate you taking the time to see me.

As I explained, the UK is one of Norway's closest and most trusted trading partners. I fully share your goal that we must continue to work for an open and liberal global trading order, and it was reassuring to hear your commitment to free trade.

Furthermore, I was impressed by your comments on opportunities for the development of an offshore mineral extraction industry. My Ministry is looking into how we can use Norwegian expertise on extracting oil and gas from the North Sea in other sectors, and how we can benefit from working closely with the UK in this field.

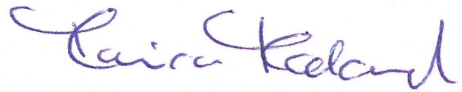
The result of the referendum in June, where British voters opted for the UK to leave the EU, will have consequences for our bilateral trade relationship, which is currently regulated by the EEA Agreement. Even if it is too early to predict how our bilateral trade and business relations will be regulated in the future, I believe it is important to keep an open dialogue to identify the issues.

For this reason, I am pleased that we agreed to initiate a dialogue on trade and business related issues between Norway and the UK, as a contribution to minimise any potential future disruption to our trade relationship. Such a dialogue could also be beneficial as an instrument to reduce and eliminate some of the uncertainty many businesses may have regarding the future. We are flexible concerning the format of such a dialogue, within the framework of our respective obligations.

We are also open to share Norwegian experiences and expertise in working with the EU across a range of issues, as Prime Minister Solberg confirmed in her meeting with Prime Minister May in New York City on 19th September.

I look forward to working closely with you and your Ministry on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Monica Mæland', with a stylized, cursive script.

Monica Mæland