



Department
for Transport

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From the Secretary of State
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As neighbours linked by a common sea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("the United Kingdom") and the Kingdom of Norway ("Norway") have long had a mutual interest in collaborating on common maritime challenges.

Our strong historical ties cover vast sectors of the maritime economy, ranging from the management of North Sea oil and gas all the way through to pollution prevention. In addition, our countries have a long history of collaboration in shipping, where our firms work hard to provide value to customers in both the United Kingdom and Norway.

Following submission of its notification to withdraw from the European Union on 29 March 2017, the United Kingdom has negotiated with the European Union a withdrawal agreement (the "Withdrawal Agreement"). However, a responsible government must plan for all eventualities, which include a scenario where the United Kingdom leaves the European Union without such an agreement. In such a scenario, the provisions of the Agreement on the European Economic Area of 2 May 1992 will cease to apply to the United Kingdom.

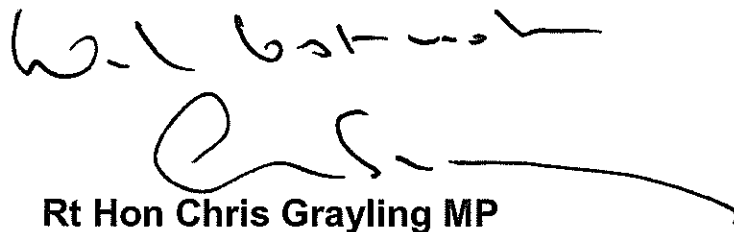
The United Kingdom reiterates its political commitment to the principles of free and fair market access for maritime transport services. I confirm that, in the eventuality that the United Kingdom withdraws from the European Union without a withdrawal agreement, the United Kingdom will endeavour to work with Norway towards developing and negotiating future trading arrangements.

In the interim, and to allow reasonable time for the conclusion of such permanent arrangements, I confirm that the United Kingdom has no intentions to introduce new maritime restrictions on the freedom of Norwegian

flagged vessels to provide maritime cabotage services in United Kingdom waters. I also confirm that vessels registered in Norway will continue to have reasonable and non-discriminatory access to United Kingdom ports and port services, but not beyond the most favourable treatment required to be accorded under the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement as at the date of the UK's exit from the EU, during this period of time.

The United Kingdom will continue to honour its commitments under the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention of 1958 including those relating to the entry of seafarers.

This letter does not constitute a legally binding agreement. If a scenario does arise in which the UK leaves the European Union without a withdrawal agreement in place, Her Majesty's Government will write to you again to agree how we might put in place a permanent and legally-binding arrangement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. L. Grayling', followed by a stylized flourish that extends to the right.

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT