



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

*The Minister of Trade and Industry*

The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Great Minister House  
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Date

9. April 2019

*Dear Mr. Secretary*

As neighbours linked by a common sea, the Kingdom of Norway ("Norway") and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("the United Kingdom") 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 Norway and the United Kingdom.

Following submission of its notification to withdraw from the European Union on 29 March 2017, Norway recognises that the United Kingdom has negotiated with the European Union a withdrawal agreement (the "Withdrawal Agreement"). However, the Norwegian government has had to 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.

Norway 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, Norway will endeavour to work with the United Kingdom 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 Norway has no intentions to introduce 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 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, the Norwegian Government will write to you again to agree how we might put in place a permanent and legally-binding arrangement.

Yours sincerely



Torbjørn Røe Isaksen