The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

Rt Hon Hamish Falconer MP
Minister for Intergovernmental Relations and European Relations
UK Government

11 November 2026

Dear Minister

Intergovernmental engagement ahead of the UK-EU summit

The Europe, External Affairs and Culture (EEAC) Committee was set up following the elections to the Scottish Parliament in May 2026. Its remit covers—

a. the Scottish Government's EU and external affairs policy,
b. policy in relation to the UK's relationship with the EU,
c. the international activities of the Scottish Administration, including international development,
d. any other matter falling within the responsibility of the Scottish Administration relating to devolution, intra-UK and intergovernmental relations,
e. matters relating to culture within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic.

The Committee plans to build on the extensive work of its predecessor Committee in relation to strengthening parliamentary scrutiny of intergovernmental relations and considering the impact of the UK's departure from the EU on devolution and relations between the UK Government and devolved governments. We look forward to engaging with you as we carry out our work.

On 3 November 2026, the EEAC Committee considered the first of a new series of quarterly Devolution Oversight Monitoring Reports, which will inform its scrutiny of the operation of devolution throughout Session 7.

It is also following closely the plans for the upcoming UK-EU summit and, in particular, the implications that the outcomes of the summit and any subsequent legislation may have for devolved policies in Scotland, the UK's relations with Europe, and the powers and responsibilities of the Scottish Parliament.

In light of the above, the Committee agreed to write to the UK and Scottish Governments to seek their assessments of the level of intergovernmental engagement that there has been between both Governments ahead of the UK-EU summit on 20 November.

Contact: Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email EEAC.Committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

In making this request on behalf of the Committee, I note that while the meeting of the Interministerial Group for Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change held on 1 July included an update on UK Government preparations for the summit, there are no records available on the UK Government website of some other relevant interministerial groups having met in recent months.

For example, the most recent published communiqués from the Interministerial Groups for Trade, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and UK-EU Relations, date from March, February, and January this year respectively. I would therefore be particularly grateful for your reflections on how effectively the formal intergovernmental relations architecture has been used in the run-up to the summit.

In addition, the work of our predecessor Committee on the transparency of intergovernmental activity and its implications for parliamentary scrutiny pointed to the importance not only of improving transparency in relation to intergovernmental engagement through the formal structures set up by the 2022 Review of Intergovernmental Relations, but equally the importance of improving parliamentary scrutiny of intergovernmental activity taking place outside of the formal structures.

We would therefore welcome a written response from you with your assessment of the degree and impact of engagement between the UK and Scottish Governments, including any information you are able to share about the frequency and content of conversations between UK and Scottish Ministers, in preparation for the summit.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Harvie MSP
Convener