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Convener
Finance and Constitution Committee
Scottish Parliament
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04 May 2018

Dear Convener

I wrote to you and to the Convener of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee on 30 April to alert your committees to the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee on EU Negotiations [JMC (EN)] on 2 May. I am now writing to report on the Scottish Government's actions at that meeting and provide you with a copy of the Joint Communique agreed at the meeting.

The other Ministers attending were:

- From the UK Government: the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, Rt Hon David Lidington MP; the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, Rt Hon David Davis MP; the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP; the Secretary of State for Wales, Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP; the Secretary of State for Scotland, Rt Hon David Mundell MP; the Minister for the Constitution, Chloe Smith MP; the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, Robin Walker MP.
- From the Welsh Government: the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Mark Drakeford AM.
- From the Scottish Government: the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell MSP.

In the absence of Ministers from the Northern Ireland Executive, a senior civil servant from the Northern Ireland Civil Service was in attendance.

At the meeting the Committee considered the devolved administrations' role in the UK-EU negotiations, and discussed UK Frameworks and the EU (Withdrawal) Bill.

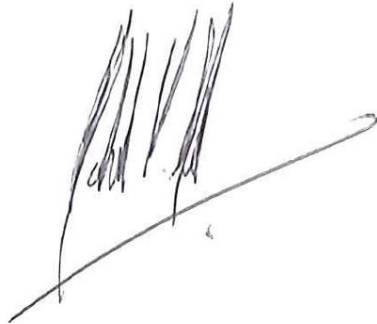
In the discussion on the EU Withdrawal Bill I made clear the need for the Bill to be changed in order to protect devolution. The Committee also noted the need for continued engagement

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on common frameworks through multilateral official level discussions. I will ensure that the Finance and Constitution Committee is kept updated on the progress of these discussions.

I attach the Joint Communiqué which was agreed at the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several vertical strokes followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

MICHAEL RUSSELL

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JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE (EU NEGOTIATIONS) COMMUNIQUE

2 May 2018

The ninth Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations) met today in 70 Whitehall. The meeting was chaired by the Rt Hon David Lidington MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office.

The attending Ministers were:

From the UK Government: the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, Rt Hon David Lidington MP; the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, Rt Hon David Davis MP; the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP; the Secretary of State for Wales, Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP; the Secretary of State for Scotland, Rt Hon David Mundell MP; the Minister for the Constitution, Chloe Smith MP; the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, Robin Walker MP.

From the Welsh Government: the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Mark Drakeford AM.

From the Scottish Government: the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell MSP.

Dr Andrew McCormick, Director General International Relations from the Northern Ireland Civil Service attended the meeting in the continued absence of a Northern Ireland Executive.

The Chair opened the meeting by summarising the constructive Ministerial and official level engagement that had taken place since the Committee last met.

The Secretary of State for Exiting the EU provided an update on negotiations, including the March meeting of European Council and the agreement reached on the terms of the Implementation Period. The Committee discussed the UK Government's paper on the Devolved Administrations' role in the negotiations. The Committee noted this paper.

The Committee discussed the EU (Withdrawal) Bill.

The Committee noted the need for continued engagement on common frameworks and agreed plans for the next phase of multilateral official level discussions in a range of areas where frameworks may be required, with progress to be considered at the next meeting.