

Minutes of the meeting

Brussels, 11 June 2019

Participants:

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland

Ewan Crawford, Special Advisor to the First Minister

Mike Neilson, Director of the Scottish Government Office to the EU

European Commission, TF50:

Michel Barnier, Chief Negotiator



Michel Barnier met Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at her request to discuss the state of play of negotiations between the EU and the UK, as well as the latest political developments in the UK.

Main points made by First Minister Sturgeon:

- Concerns in the light of recent statements from Conservative leadership contestants, which have significantly increased the risk of a no deal.
- She confirmed her acceptance of the Withdrawal Agreement, including the backstop. Her opposition to the deal stems from the Political Declaration (relationship not close enough).
- Taking note of the EU27's firm resolve not to reopen the Withdrawal Agreement, she however sought to explore the possibility to modify the backstop, in particular with a time limit or a timetable.
- Overall, she reaffirmed her government and the Scottish National Party's official position in favour of remaining in the EU.