



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

M. Michel Barnier  
Chief Negotiator  
Commission Taskforce for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 of the TEU  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

**BY EMAIL**

22 August 2016



I am writing to you in my capacity as Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, Europe, Energy and Climate Change to congratulate you on your recent appointment by the Commission as the senior negotiator for the preparation and conduct of the European Union's negotiations with the United Kingdom in advance of our pending withdrawal from the union.

I am concerned to establish the basis upon which such negotiations will take place and the preparedness of both the European Union and the United Kingdom for such discussions. In this respect, I would be extremely grateful if you could set out what preparations your office has undertaken in advance of any formal commencement of proceedings (by way of exercising Article 50). Could you kindly confirm what correspondence The Commission or indeed your office has had with the WTO regarding all advice sought by and given to the UK.

I would be grateful if you might indicate whether you consider it would be desirable to agree an extension to the two year period prior to the invocation of Article 50 and what preliminary discussions have been had with the United Kingdom government about how the negotiations will be managed and the parameters within which they will be conducted.

I would be keen to meet with you, at your convenience, in the coming weeks to discuss these matters further and to this end I have asked my office to get in touch with yours,

Yours sincerely,



**Barry Gardiner MP**

*Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, Energy, Europe & Climate Change*