



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Ursula von der Leyen
The President*

Brussels, 20 JAN. 2020

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Dear First Minister,

Thank you for your kind words of congratulations to the new College of Commissioners and myself

As a Remainer at heart, I regret the United Kingdom 's decision to leave the European Union. But I respect it. Our immediate focus will be on ensuring the orderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union and on establishing the future relationship between the Union and the United Kingdom, which we hope will be a broad, deep and ambitious partnership.

Like for you, the European Commission 's top priority from the very start has been the citizens. With the Withdrawal Agreement, we have found a mutually satisfactory solution to protect citizens ' life choices. But many things will change after the withdrawal, as a logical consequence of the United Kingdom 's decision to withdraw from the European Union.

I understand that you are in contact with Michel Barnier, who ensures continuity in his work as the Head of the new Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom. He will be happy to meet you again. However, as you are aware, the European Commission will only negotiate with the government of the United Kingdom.

I would like to send you my best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

Ursula von der Leyen

*Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon, MSP First
Minister of Scotland*

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