EUROCHAMBRES
President

Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049, Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 12 November 2026

Subject: **EU-UK Summit, 20 November 2026**

Dear President von der Leyen,

Ahead of your meeting with UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham on 20 November, I am writing on behalf of Eurochambres to encourage the European Union and the United Kingdom to use this summit to translate the encouraging political reset of the last two years into tangible economic benefits for businesses.

In our October 2024 recommendations on the future EU-UK economic relationship[1], Eurochambres argued that, in a period of growing geopolitical and economic uncertainty, there was a compelling case for closer cooperation between two such interconnected, like-minded partners. We highlighted regulatory cooperation, mobility, mutual recognition of professional qualifications, emissions trading, data flows and agri-food trade.

Two years later, that argument is stronger still. We therefore welcomed the Strategic Partnership agreed at the first EU-UK Summit in May 2025 and the commitment of both parties to build a more ambitious and dynamic relationship, while respecting and faithfully implementing the Withdrawal Agreement, the Windsor Framework and Trade and Cooperation Agreement. This pragmatic approach is particularly important at a moment when European businesses face weak growth, geopolitical instability, pressure on supply chains and intensifying international competition.

Yet businesses continue to experience friction that absorbs management time, adds cost and, particularly in the case of SMEs, discourages trade across the EU-UK border altogether. The priority should therefore be to move **from reset to results**.

We believe that the 20 November Summit offers an important opportunity to deliver progress in three areas in particular.

First, an ambitious sanitary and phytosanitary agreement should be concluded as rapidly as possible. Eurochambres called for such an agreement in 2024 because repeated certification and border procedures impose disproportionate costs on smaller agri-food businesses. The political groundwork laid since then could allow many of these requirements to be substantially reduced, without undermining the single market.

Second, we strongly support linking the EU and UK Emissions Trading Systems. This was already a Eurochambres recommendation in 2024. With the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism now operational and the UK CBAM becoming operational soon as well, resolving this issue has become considerably more urgent. We therefore welcome the substantial progress

[1] https://www.eurochambres.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/241030-Eurochambres-input-on-future-EU-UK-Economic-Relations.pdf

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towards ETS linkage and the prospect of avoiding CBAM duties for concerned industries. This should be accompanied by further progress towards closer energy-market cooperation.

Third, the economic relationship ultimately depends on people as much as goods. Businesses need employees to visit customers, provide professional services and work temporarily in the other market. We therefore encourage further practical improvements to temporary business mobility and renewed efforts on the recognition of professional qualifications. This should be complemented by an ambitious agreement facilitating opportunities for young Europeans and Britons to study, train and gain professional experience in each other's economies.

Beyond these immediate deliverables, we encourage the EU and UK to develop a structured agenda for **regulatory cooperation**. Businesses do not expect the regulatory consequences of the UK's departure from the single market to disappear, but unnecessary divergence can and should be avoided. Early dialogue on emerging regulation, greater transparency and systematic consultation of business can prevent differences from becoming costly barriers to trade. Indeed, our members identified regulatory divergence as their principal longer-term concern in our 2024 input. The evolution of the international environment since then makes such cooperation even more necessary. The EU and UK share fundamental interests in resilient supply chains, economic security, sanctions implementation, investment screening, export controls, research and innovation, and European security. Our economies should not incur avoidable costs from regulatory fragmentation when both are simultaneously seeking to strengthen competitiveness.

We consequently welcome the more ambitious signals from the UK about its future relationship with the EU. The precise long-term destination of that debate is, of course, for the UK to determine. From a business perspective, however, Eurochambres supports any serious discussion that can lead to a closer, more predictable and economically beneficial relationship with the EU, provided that this respects the integrity of the single market.

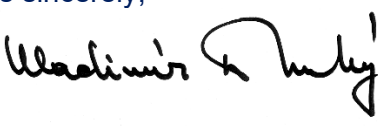
We would also encourage both parties to look beyond the November summit to see where the relationship can be further developed. Regular engagement with chambers of commerce and industry can help identify practical obstacles and opportunities as they emerge.

President, Europe is navigating a much more challenging economic and geopolitical landscape than when the UK left the EU. Our respective businesses compete in the same rapidly changing global economy, depend upon many of the same supply chains and confront many of the same strategic challenges. Geography, economic interdependence and shared interests therefore argue overwhelmingly for practical cooperation.

The progress achieved since 2024 demonstrates what political will can deliver. I hope that your meeting with Prime Minister Andy Burnham will build on this momentum and establish an increasingly ambitious partnership that strengthens **competitiveness, investment and growth on both sides**.

Eurochambres and its network of chambers stand ready to support that process.

Yours sincerely,



Vladimír Dlouhý
Eurochambres President

cc: Maroš Šefčovič, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security; Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency