

Copy of the minutes of the meeting between the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon MSP and the European Union (EU) Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier in Brussels on the 13th of July 2017.

FM was accompanied by Ken Thomson, Stuart Nicolson and me; Barnier by Stefaan de Rynck, Nina Obermaier and George Riekeles [Redacted]. Barnier began by saying he [Redacted]

Barnier began [Redacted]. FM responded-[Redacted]

FM said the UK political context had changed post-election[Redacted]. Barnier said he [Redacted]. He referred [Redacted].

He referred [Redacted]. FM saw [Redacted].

While she understood [Redacted]. He also recognised [Redacted].

The meeting ended with agreement that they should keep in touch, and that officials should stay in contact meantime. It was also agreed that media comment about the meeting should be minimal, and the lines subsequently issued on behalf of FM were:

"This was a useful and constructive meeting and I welcomed the opportunity to discuss Scotland's priorities with Mr Barnier - in particular our view that the UK should seek to remain in the single market.

"I outlined to Mr Barnier that our priority is to protect Scotland's vital economic interests, and that the Scottish Government will do all it can to build a consensus against an extreme Brexit outside the single market, which would have potentially catastrophic consequences for jobs, investment and our living standards.

"We have always been clear that this is not about holding separate Scottish negotiations – it is for the UK as the member state to negotiate with the EU – and as such we will continue to work hard to influence the UK position. However, meetings like this are helpful in developing a mutual understanding between the Scottish Government and the EU as these vital negotiations gather pace."

Comment

[Redacted]



Mike Neilson
Scottish Government Director, Brussels
[Redacted]

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