

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

David Rees AM
Chair, External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
SeneddEAL@senedd.wales

2 July 2020

Dear David,

As I promised in my letter of 29 June on the UK/ EU future relationship negotiations stocktake, I am writing to you to provide further detail on priority Frameworks areas.

The aim is that by the end of 2020 **all** Frameworks will have achieved at least a Framework Outline Agreement, which has received provisional confirmation by ministers, and is operable in draft form. The Outline Agreement for each Framework would include at a minimum: a delivery timeline, clear governance across the relevant governments (including how divergence might be managed), a dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism, and a Statement of Purpose to confirm our shared commitment to bring this to early resolution. This will ensure the minimal level of operability, while recognising that the Frameworks still have to go through the full JMC-mandated legislative scrutiny phase by the Senedd and the other three legislatures.

Given the time and resource constraints faced by officials, it is possible that certain Frameworks may not be able to conclude a minimum standard Outline Agreement in time. Where this is the case, an alternative form of interim arrangement will be established, if required, before the end of the year.

Every effort is being made to keep these instances to a minimum and in order to ensure that the most important Frameworks are progressed most quickly, the four governments have collectively developed a shared understanding of priority Frameworks. There are still points of discussion in the list but, broadly, there is agreement on the following Frameworks being regarded as priority Frameworks, almost all of which are within the Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs portfolio:

- Emissions Trading System (ETS)
- Agricultural Support
- Fisheries Management and Support
- Animal Health and Welfare
- Chemicals Regulation (including Pesticides)
- Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene
- Plant Health, Seeds and Propagating Materials
- Waste and Resources
- Food Labelling and Composition Standards
- Nutrition

The four governments will continue to develop all Frameworks, with completion (including legislative scrutiny) anticipated during the course of 2021 and I will, of course, continue to keep the Committee updated on progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Miles', with a stylized, cursive flourish.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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