



Kevin Foster

Conservative Member of Parliament for Torbay
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Ms Wendy Williams
Finance Director
The Training Partnership Ltd
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24 January 2020

Dear Wendy,

Future of the Erasmus+ Scheme

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on Thursday 16 January at my constituency office to discuss the future of the Erasmus+ scheme.

I understand the concern caused by recent media reports which suggest the UK Government voted against continued involvement in the Erasmus+ scheme, these reports are however, untrue.

The vote against 'New Clause 10' – an amendment to the Government's Brexit Bill, which would have compelled the Government to seek to negotiate continuing full membership of the EU's (European Union) Erasmus+ programme – is not the same as scrapping UK involvement in the scheme.

International schemes such as Erasmus+ can be transformational for outgoing participants and the international diversity brought by incoming participants brings many benefits. I fully support programmes, such as those offered by The Training Partnership, that help young people gain international experience, improve language skills, cultural awareness, life chances and employability.

The UK has been closely involved in the development of the current Erasmus+ programme and the Department for Education is fully exploring the option of participating in the next Erasmus+ programme.

The European Commission has published its proposals for the 2021-2027 successor scheme and I understand colleagues in the Department for Education are considering these carefully and will contribute to discussions on them while we remain in the EU.

The Commission's proposal indicates any country in the world will be able to participate if they meet the requirements. Not only does this pave the way for the UK

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to take part post-Brexit as a third country, it also presents additional exciting opportunities for countries further afield.

I understand your EU partners will be concerned about ease of access to the scheme following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. My view, and the view of many of my colleagues across the House, is the Erasmus+ scheme is valued highly by the Government and the UK's continued participation in the Erasmus+ scheme is something both the UK and the EU have an appetite for continuing on a reciprocal basis.

Personally, I have seen the great work the Erasmus+ scheme has done here in The Bay, particularly with The Training Partnership, and have conveyed this to Ministers involved in the talks.

With my very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Foster'.

Kevin Foster MP
Member of Parliament for Torbay