

Chairman: Councillor Kevin Bentley

Head of Office: Jonathan Millins

[Electronic Letter]  
The Rt Hon Lord Henley  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Please ask for: Jonathan Millins  
Direct dial: +32 2289 1200

Date: 26 February 2019

Jake Berry MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Dear Lord Henley and Mr Berry MP,

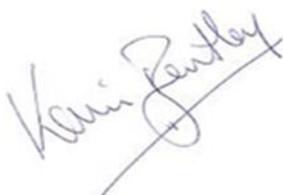
As you are aware, the East of England Europe and International Panel has previously adopted a number of papers on the future of Interreg beyond Brexit and has unanimously agreed to seek continued UK involvement in the future programmes. We have written to ministers in the past to highlight the importance of these programmes to our region and to demonstrate how they contribute to UK Government priorities, provide added European value and are value for money.

We know that we are not alone in our desire to see continued UK involvement in ETC programmes and it is therefore with pleasure that I can share with you today a statement we have produced together with a number of other organisations. This statement, which has been supported and signed by over 50 organisations from across the UK and representing a wide range of sectors, outlines 10 compelling reasons why European Territorial Cooperation programmes are important to the UK. Transnational organisations and neighbouring regions and local authorities in France and Norway have also supported the statement.

The Government's White Paper of July 2018 committed to consider participation in some future EU programmes, even after we have left the EU. In addition, a Government position paper recognized that European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes are important for the development and promotion of cooperation across borders and drivers for territorial cohesion and the reduction of disparities between regions.

Bearing this in mind, we hope that this statement, supported by such a wide range of organisations, demonstrates the value of ETC programmes to the UK and we ask that government takes this strong message on board when negotiating our future relationship with the EU and access to future ETC programmes.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Kevin Bentley  
**Chairman, East of England Europe and International Panel**  
**East of England European Partnership**



# STATEMENT

## European Territorial Cooperation 10 Reasons why the UK should participate

1. **International collaboration is vital to our continued success.** ETC projects create new partnerships, open new markets, and facilitate access to them, while at the same time opening our own economy to inward investment.
2. **ETC supports the UK in achieving its goals and ambitions.** From the UK Industrial Strategy and the Export Strategy through to the 25-Year Environment Plan, the Culture is Digital Strategy and the Integrated Communities Green Paper, many existing ETC projects support UK government ambitions and would continue to do so in the future.
3. **ETC programmes are value for money.** ETC projects require a focus on solving a particular challenge and involving a wide range of relevant partners from a broad geographical area. This means that these projects allow UK organisations to test, apply, and deliver results beyond what they could achieve on their own or nationally with the same resources.
4. **ETC programmes leverage resources.** For modest government investment, ETC acts as an incentive for attracting additional public and private resources.
5. **International collaboration leads to innovative solutions.** ETC projects can enhance the UK's excellence in key fields including clean growth, mobility, and the challenge of an ageing society.
6. **ETC supports SMEs on the path to export.** SMEs establishing new business relationships via ETC is a first step towards discovering export markets.
7. **ETC partnerships lead to policy change and have a long-term impact.** Sharing knowledge, developing solutions and building partnerships with a critical mass can support future delivery of public services, first developed and tested through an ETC project.
8. **Participation in ETC is complementary to, rather than in competition with, investment in other EU programmes.** ETC supports public bodies, HEIs, SMEs and community initiatives. ETC is the seed funding to support smaller-scale projects with international reach and relevance that might otherwise not find their place. Horizon Europe is aimed at research and innovation excellence, while Erasmus+ is about mobility of individuals to share knowledge and experience.
9. **Future ETC programmes will strengthen innovation in crucial sectors for local and national economic growth.** Interregional Innovation Investments, as proposed for the future of ETC, could support public authorities and LEPs in the delivery of Local Industrial Strategies through collaboration across the EU on shared strengths and challenges.
10. **ETC is an existing and valued mechanism which delivers results.** The UK government and the EU have consistently recognised the need for continued cooperation. Proposals for the future of ETC facilitate this potential.

# STATEMENT

We, the undersigned, call on the UK government to take into account these ten compelling reasons for remaining in the ETC programmes when negotiating the UK's future relationship with the EU.



# STATEMENT



Falkirk Council



GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY



Highlands & Islands of Scotland European Partnership



# STATEMENT



# STATEMENT

## Additional Supporting Signatories

We, the undersigned regions and organisations, wish to express our support to the UK stakeholders in their call to the UK Government to negotiate continued access for UK organisations to ETC programmes in the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.



**CPMR  
CRPM**



**CPMR  
ATLANTIC ARC  
COMMISSION**



**CPMR  
NORTH SEA  
COMMISSION**



**Région  
Hauts-de-France**



**HORDALAND  
FYLKESKOMMUNE**



**RÉGION  
NORMANDIE**

Région Normandie, porteuse de l'initiative  
franco-britannique de l'Alliance Manche

# STATEMENT

## Full list of signatories

Andrew Thomson  
Anglian Water  
Angus Council  
Bridgend County Borough Council  
Bristol City Council  
Cambridge City Council  
COAST  
Cornwall Apprenticeship Agency  
Cornwall Council  
Cornwall Development Company  
Cornwall Food Foundation  
Cornwall Marine Academy  
Cornwall Marine Network  
CPMR  
CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission  
CPMR North Sea Commission  
Digital peninsula network  
Dundee and Angus College  
Dundee City Council  
East of England European Partnership  
East of Scotland European Consortium  
Eden Project  
Excellence First Enterprise Consultancy  
Falkirk Council  
Fife Council  
Greater London Authority  
Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
Haut de France  
Highlands & Islands European Partnership  
Hordaland Council (Norway)  
James Hutton Institute

Kent County Council  
Liverpool City Region  
London Councils  
Manchester City Council  
Marine Offshore Renewables  
Norfolk County Council  
Région Normandie (Région Normandie, porteuse de l'initiative franco-britannique de l'Alliance Manche. The Region of Normandy, representative of the Channel Alliance, a Franco-British initiative).  
Norwich City Council  
Rivers Trust  
RSPB  
Scottish Cities Alliance  
Scottish Enterprise  
Stirling Council  
The Growth Company  
University of Hull  
University of Stirling  
University of East Anglia  
Visit Cornwall  
West of Scotland European Forum  
WLGA  
WSX Enterprise Ltd