As the International Monetary Fund seeks a new Managing Director, its work remains vital but for the long-term sustainability of the organisation and to engage its global membership, now is the time for its leadership to come from beyond Europe.

To defend the international system today, we must look to select leaders for international organisations from across the nations that now represent the major economies, not just those who have traditionally held these posts.

A candidate from outside Europe or America would offer a new perspective and the UK’s backing of such a nominee would help strengthen our position as the key defender of the rules-based system while updating it for a modern era.

The Foreign Affairs Committee’s recent report on India – Building Bridges: Reawakening UK-India ties – highlighted the strength of our relationship and potential for growth. This would suggest that engagement with New Delhi may provide a candidate we could support.

You may feel that other nations, perhaps focussing on the Commonwealth, offer a similar opportunity for the UK to promote democratic partners as leaders in international organisations. To that end, will the Government commit to supporting a candidate from outside Europe and in particular, talk to other democratic governments about the possibility of supporting a candidate from a country that has not historically held such a post?

I will be placing this letter and your response in the public domain.

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair