



HOUSE OF LORDS  
Committee Office

House of Lords Tel: 020 7219 5358 (Clerk to the  
London Economic Affairs Committee)  
SW1A 0PW Fax: 020 7219 4931  
economicaffairs@parliament.uk  
www.parliament.uk/lords

Mr Jose Manuel Barroso  
President  
European Commission  
200 rue de la Loi  
B - 1049 Brussels  
Belgium

29 October 2012

Dear Mr President

**Scotland: Modalities of accession to independent membership of the European Union**

The Economic Affairs Committee of the House of Lords – the upper chamber of the British Parliament – is conducting an inquiry into *The Economic Implications for the United Kingdom of Scottish Independence*. The inquiry was launched in May and we expect to publish our report in the New Year. Interest in the issue has been heightened by the agreement of 15 October between the British Prime Minister and the First Minister of Scotland on a referendum in Scotland on independence expected to take place in autumn 2014.

Clarity on the relationship between an independent Scotland and the European Union is essential to any assessment of the economic implications, for the rest of the United Kingdom as well as for Scotland itself, if the people of Scotland were to vote for independence in a referendum. The Scottish government has indicated that it would expect an independent Scotland to remain in the European Union as one of the successor states of a current member. Reports in the Edinburgh and London media have queried this, citing you as saying that a state has to apply to become a member of the European Union and that all other member states have to give their consent, as well as a recent statement by the Spanish Foreign Minister, Señor José Manuel García-Margallo, to the effect that Scotland would have to take its position at the back of the queue.

The Committee would be most grateful for any guidance you can provide on the processes which would apply in a first case of transition by a part of an EU member state to full membership of the EU as an independent state in its own right. We are particularly interested in what would be the role of the European Institutions, who would be responsible

for ruling on questions relating to Scottish accession to full membership and for any other relevant information you can share with us on the question itself and the issues which bear on it. We would also welcome your estimate of how long a transition might take to accomplish.

It would be helpful if you could respond by the end of November. The Committee would expect to publish your reply alongside all the other evidence to its inquiry.

Finally as a former Vice-President of the Commission may I take this opportunity to send you all my best wishes for the challenges ahead.

Yours sincerely  
Christopher Tugendhat

(Tugendhat)  
Acting Chairman