

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 24 July 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on taking up your new post.

As one of the Council of Europe's original ten member states, the United Kingdom has always been a committed and valued supporter of our Organisation and a strong advocate for common standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law on our continent. In recent years, your country's commitment to the reform of the European Court of Human Rights has been clear: a process that has improved the Court's efficiency and effectiveness and substantially reduced the backlog of cases.

Under your leadership, and as we celebrate our 70th anniversary, I hope that the strong relationship between the United Kingdom and our Organisation will continue to flourish in the tradition established by your predecessor, Sir Winston Churchill, who first called for a Council of Europe in 1943, and whose role was pivotal in its establishment.

I have no doubt that there will be ample opportunities for my successor to work with you and the UK government on ways to address the challenges that the Council of Europe and our member states are facing today.

I wish you every success in your new duties.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
United Kingdom