

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 25 July 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and First Secretary of State.

You take office at a critical moment for the United Kingdom, with a wide range of foreign policy challenges in Europe and beyond. I wish you success in making progress on these in the interests of UK citizens and the wider European and international communities.

As one of the Council of Europe's ten founding member states, the United Kingdom has always been a dedicated and valued supporter of our Organisation and a strong advocate for common standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law across our continent. In each of these areas your country has a proud record of leadership, to its own benefit and that of our Organisation as a whole.

In recent years, the government's commitment to the reform of the European Court of Human Rights has also been clear: a process that has improved the Court's efficiency and effectiveness and substantially reduced the backlog of cases.

In the coming months and years, I hope that the strong relationship between the United Kingdom and our Organisation will continue to flourish in line with the fine tradition first established when the Council of Europe was founded 70 years ago.

My successor as Secretary General will take up her duties on 18 September of this year. I have no doubt that you will have the opportunity to work with her on ways to address the challenges facing our member states today.

I wish you every success in your new duties.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
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