



MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Reykjavík, 8 September 2026

Dear Helen,

As you are aware, a majority voted against resuming Iceland's negotiations for membership of the European Union in a referendum on 29 August 2026. My government respects the outcome of the referendum and will therefore not pursue the resumption of accession negotiations while the status of our accession process remains unaffected.

The referendum was essentially about exploring further steps in Iceland's European integration by resuming membership talks; however, the decision was to continue our cooperation based on the current solid and deep-seated foundation.

The European Union is one of Iceland's closest partners and we remain steadfast in our commitment to address common challenges. We share interests, values and priorities with the European Union and its Member States and are closely aligned in areas such as foreign policy, security and defence, where we will build on our Security and Defence Partnership.

Iceland is deeply integrated into the internal market through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) which continues to be the backbone of our close cooperation - as well as the Schengen Cooperation. The Government of Iceland will continue to address key challenges in the operation of the EEA Agreement.

Furthermore, enhanced cooperation on fisheries and ocean affairs, as well as Arctic matters, offers a number of opportunities. We will also continue to work together to tackle competitiveness and to strengthen our internal market as well as working together in the fight against climate change.

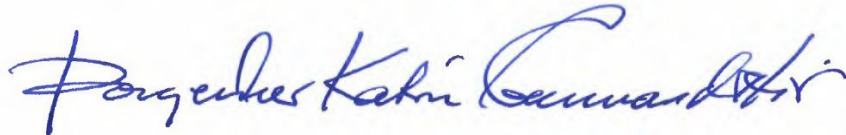
Both Iceland and the European Union stand in full solidarity with Ukraine. The Government of Iceland remains steadfast in providing Ukraine with defence-related, economic and humanitarian support as it defends against Russia's full-scale invasion. Iceland is fully aligned with the EU on sanctions and gives high priority in countering Russia's shadow fleet.

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Irish Presidency of the Council
of the European Union
H.E. Helen McEntee

Overall, Iceland-European Union cooperation spans a broad range of areas which my government is committed to continue nurturing and deepening. These are challenging times that call for close unity within the European family. Rest assured that Iceland will continue to contribute to our shared interests and core values. I look forward to our continued close cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Þorgerður" being the most prominent part.

Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Copy:

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice-President of the European Commission
Ms. Kaja Kallas

Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security;
and for Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency
Mr. Maroš Šefčovič

Commissioner for Enlargement
Ms. Marta Kos