

Reports that the Government is considering a concession on parliamentary engagement and a vote on the negotiations are welcome – Smith

Baroness

(Angela) Smith of Basildon, Labour's Leader in the House of Lords, in response

to reports of potential government concessions on the Article 50 Bill, said:

“Reports

that the Government is considering a serious concession on parliamentary engagement and a vote on the negotiations are welcome.

“What

happens next is a pivotal moment and will determine the tone and trust in the weeks, months and years to come on this issue.

“Ministers

have rightly conceded the need for a vote before the deal is concluded and we welcome that.

“Our

amendment on a vote on the outcome of negotiations has been drafted by taking note of what happened in the Commons, including ministerial comments, as well as expert advice from peers in the Lords debates. The Government will have heard the senior cross bench peer and former Supreme Court judge Lord Hope's speech about the need for further legislation should this Bill not be amended.

“We

believe we would win that vote. The Government of course could try to overturn it in the Commons.

“But

rather than Ministers just holding to the line that they won't amend the bill but will make a statement on the record, it would be a positive and mature signal for future progress of legislation if having accepted the principle they write this into the bill.”

Ends