

《英国新首相特雷莎·梅访问苏格兰》

导读:英国新任首相特雷莎·梅15日抵达苏格兰首府爱丁堡，与苏格兰政府首席大臣斯特金就国内联合以及英国“脱欧”等问题举行会谈。这是特雷莎·梅就职不到48小时首次离开伦敦。



GLASGOW — Theresa May visited Scotland on Friday in her first official engagement as Britain's new Prime Minister in a clear indication of the strength of her commitment to maintaining the “special Union” between the United Kingdom's four nations and people.

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And the new Conservative Party leader will deliver a message to Scots, saying: “The government I lead will always be on your side.”

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May is holding talks with Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon in Bute House in Edinburgh, in which she will stress how she wants the Scottish government to form a central part of the Brexit process — Britain's exit from the European Union.

Sturgeon said she was hoping for a constructive discussion but stressed: "I respect how people in other parts of the U.K. voted; I hope the prime minister will respect how people in Scotland voted." Scotland voted to remain in the EU in the referendum last month. The U.K. overall voted to leave.

[illegible]

"My job is to seek to protect Scotland's interests and I've said I'm open to seeking to do that through the U.K. process. If I'm going to be able to do that, then she has to make the process open and flexible," Sturgeon said.

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Sturgeon said a second Scottish independence referendum could be the only way to secure Scotland's interests and protect its EU membership but stressed she wanted to "explore all options".

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David Davis, the new secretary of state for Brexit, suggested Britain could quit the EU by December 2018, noting how a “brisk but measured approach to Brexit” was achievable.

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Earlier this week, David Mundell, the reappointed Scottish Secretary, suggested he was open to Scotland having a different Brexit deal to the rest of the UK if it was “doable”.

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But Philip Hammond, the new **Treasury** chief, made clear this would not happen, pointing out how the people of the U.K. had voted “collectively” to leave the EU.

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Sturgeon described these comments as "deeply disappointing," adding: "I hope the new prime minister, Hammond and all of the U.K. government will understand that we are absolutely serious when it comes to achieving our goal of protecting Scotland's vital interests."

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She spoke after the first meeting of the Standing Council on Europe, which she set up to advise the Scottish government following the vote to leave the EU on June 23.

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The body is made up of 18 legal, economic and diplomatic specialists and chairman Anton Muscatelli said they

would examine how best to secure Scotland's place in the EU.

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May spent Thursday appointing and firing ministers from the Cabinet. One insider said: "This is not a reshuffle but a completely new government."

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Those ministers who were sacked, including Michael Gove, Nicky Morgan, John Whittingdale and Theresa Villiers, were told their services were no longer needed in early morning private meetings.

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Later in Downing Street, the procession of promoted ministers and those who survived the chop took place before television cameras. Among the winners were a string of women and Brexiters.

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These included Justine Greening promoted to the education brief, Liz Truss, who succeeds Gove as justice secretary, and leading Leave campaigner Andrea Leadsom, who takes on the environment portfolio.

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May's office made clear that the new premier had created "a bold cabinet, which was hitting the ground running" with ministers already having met some of their foreign counterparts for talks.

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"What you have seen with the appointments today is that commitment to putting social reform at the heart of her government," declared May's spokeswoman.

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The creation of specific Cabinet posts for exiting the EU and boosting international trade "underlines the commitment to delivering on the decision of the British people," she added.

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But the opposition Labour Party said the promotion of a string of right-wingers contradicted the new premier's "warm words" on her entry into Downing St. about seeking to govern "not for a privileged few but for every one of us".

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Meantime, the prime minister, who has already taken telephone calls from Germany's Angela Merkel and France's Francois Hollande, had a 15-minute congratulatory telephone call from President Obama.

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