



2 (Reply Note)

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
and President of the Board of Trade

Mr Guy Parmelin

Federal Councillor, Swiss Confederation
Berne

14th December 2020

Minister,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Letter of 14th December 2020, which reads as follows:

"Federal Councillor,

I have the honour to refer to the Temporary Agreement between the Swiss Confederation ("Switzerland") and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("United Kingdom") on Services Mobility, signed at London on 14th December 2020 ("SMA").

I have the honour to propose that the United Kingdom shall:

- (a) endeavour to ensure that the United Kingdom's National Recognition Information Centre ("NARIC") determines whether Switzerland's vocational education and training qualifications are qualifications demonstrating knowledge of an equivalent level to a university degree;
- (b) endeavour to ensure that NARIC's activity referred to in (a) focuses on the qualifications required to provide services in the sectors in which the United Kingdom makes commitments in the SMA;
- (c) invite NARIC to give consideration to the classification of Swiss qualifications undertaken by the Swiss government within the European Qualification Framework (EQF);
- (d) endeavour to ensure a dialogue between relevant organisations in the United Kingdom and Switzerland is maintained, in order to assist with the activity referred to in (a); and
- (e) endeavour to ensure the working group referred to in Chapter 3, Article 3 of the SMA is advised of the activity referred to in (a).

If the foregoing proposal is acceptable to Switzerland I have the honour to propose that this letter and your reply to that effect should be regarded as constituting an Agreement between our two Governments which shall enter into force on the earlier of the date on which the SMA is provisionally applied or enters into force between Switzerland and the United Kingdom and which shall apply as long as the SMA applies between Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
and President of the Board of Trade"

In reply, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the foregoing proposal is acceptable to Switzerland. Your Excellency's letter and this reply shall therefore be regarded as constituting an Agreement between Switzerland and the United Kingdom which shall enter into force on the earlier of the date on which the SMA is provisionally applied or enters into force between Switzerland and the United Kingdom and which shall apply as long as the SMA applies between Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

Guy Parmelin
Federal Councillor, Swiss Confederation