

## **Minutes of the second Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation, 26th October 2022.**

### **1. Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda**

The EU co-chair welcomed participants to the meeting. The provisional agenda as published in advance was adopted for the meeting. Both parties made an opening statement.

### **2. Update on UK Better Regulation Framework reform**

The UK presented an update on the UK Better Regulation Framework reform, referring to the consultation process of July-October 2021. The UK noted that the Better Regulation Framework applies to Westminster legislation only, which applies across the UK or parts of the UK in policy areas that are not devolved to individual Devolved Administrations. The response to the consultation was published online in January 2022 as part of the Benefits of Brexit policy paper. The majority of consultation responses welcomed some degree of reform and a full summary can be found online at gov.uk. Proposed reforms are underpinned by four core policy changes: proportionality; ensuring alternatives to regulation are considered via earlier scrutiny; improving post-implementation review; and improving measurement of the overall impact of regulation, using a more holistic approach, with repeal of the Business Impact Target in its current form (subject to the will of Parliament).

In terms of next steps, the UK informed that new ministers would confirm if they wish to proceed with the reforms, which could then be introduced by the next parliamentary session in Spring next year.

The United Kingdom informed that the Retained EU Law Bill has just been introduced to Parliament, and is still subject to the will of Parliament. The UK also informed that it is expected that legislation introduced under Retained EU Law Bill powers to remove, retain or reform retained EU law would be subject to the same Better Regulation principles, including post-implementation review, as other domestic legislation.

### **3. Update on EU Better Regulation Communication**

The EU presented updates on the EU Better Regulation Communication by outlining the main changes in the consultation process, the 'One In-One Out' approach and reinforced impact analysis and transparency. On consultations, the EU highlighted the introduction of calls for evidence and swifter summary feedback. On 'One In - One Out', the EU informed of the pilot project that ran in 2021. On the reinforced impact analysis, the EU explained that both green and digital dimensions, as well as SME, gender and geo-political aspects, are reinforced.

Finally, the EU informed that it is working towards a joint legislative portal between the Parliament, Council and Commission that will include all stages of policymaking.

### **4. Regulatory horizon scanning and strategic foresight**

Both parties presented ongoing work in respect of strategic foresight.

UK explained the challenges of regulating in a fast-changing innovation environment and, noting the cross-border element, the UK suggested experts in both parties might explore opportunities for future cooperation here. The UK explained the role and work of its Regulatory Horizons Council which is an independent expert committee that identifies the implications of technological innovation, and provides government with impartial, expert advice on the regulatory reform required to support its introduction.

The UK explained it looks at whether the regulatory environment can be adapted across the UK, to disrupt the status quo and think about the right creative environment to get the best value from innovation, not just through deregulation. The Regulatory Horizons Council uses a number of different agile modes to enable the Council to develop recommendations. The 'Closing the Gap' report contains six focal points, supplemented by case studies, that outline how the UK can support innovation through regulation. The UK Government is currently considering these recommendations.

The EU informed that it seeks to embed foresight into European Union policy-making, building on collective intelligence in a structured and systematic way to help better develop possible transition pathways, prepare the EU to withstand shocks and shape the future we want. This includes embedding strategic foresight in the better regulation practices of the Commission, leading for instance to use trend analysis in impact assessments.

The EU also referred to the Strategic Foresight Reports, which have been adopted by the Commission since 2020 and are becoming increasingly important. Finally, the EU informed, that strategic foresight work is shared with Member States through the EU-wide Foresight Network, and with other EU institutions through the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS).

## **5. Digital transformation of regulation**

Both parties presented ongoing work in digitalisation of regulations and available tools.

The EU outlined its digital tools for better regulation practices and for monitoring of the effectiveness of legislation.

The UK presented its central repository of legislation, [Legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk), which is managed by The National Archives.

## **6. AOB**

The EU asked the UK to explain how to find summaries of consultations regarding major regulatory measures. The UK referred to its web site <https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations>, used for UK Government material.

## **7. Conclusion**

The Co-Chairs acknowledged the fruitful and comprehensive exchange on a number of issues. The UK looks forward to hosting the next meeting in a year.

## **Participants of the second Meeting of the Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation**

### **UK Delegation**

- UK Co-chair of the Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation
- UK Government Officials from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, National Archives, Department for International Trade
- UK Mission to the European Union
- Scottish Government Officials
- Northern Ireland Executive Officials
- Welsh Government Officials

### **EU Delegation**

- EU Co-chair of the Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation
- European Commission Officials (TRADE, GROW, SecGen)
- Delegation of the European Union to the UK
- Representatives of EU Member States

**The second Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement**

**Brussels, 26 October 2022**

**10:00-12:30 (CEST) / 9:00 – 11:30 (BST)**

**Provisional agenda**

***(Brussels and via videoconference)***

1.	Introduction /opening session
2.	Update on UK Better Regulation Framework reform
3.	Update on EU Better Regulation Communication
4.	Regulatory horizon scanning and strategic foresight
5.	Digital transformation of regulation
	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publication of summary of the results of public consultations regarding major regulatory measures</li></ul>