

## **The third Trade Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital Trade under the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement**

London, Monday 9 October 2023  
10:00 – 14:00 (BST) / 11.00 – 15.00 (CEST)

### **Minutes of the meeting**

#### Article 158 and recognition of professional qualifications

The Parties took note of the Joint Recommendation on a recognition arrangement for architects, which was submitted by the Architects Council of Europe and the Architects Registration Board on 3 October 2022, and exchanged their views on it. Since the submission, there have been several technical discussions between the EU and the UK, as well as with both Parties' professional bodies and authorities. In closing, the Parties took stock of the work of the professional bodies and agreed to have further discussions over the autumn.

In addition, the UK presented on policy and legislation supporting the recognition of professional qualifications, including the Professional Qualifications Act 2022 and the UK Regulated Professions Register. The EU presented initiatives to address skills shortages, including to improve the portability and recognition of the qualifications and skills of third-country nationals and provide the necessary specialised workforce to support the green transition.

#### Implementation of the services, investment, and digital trade provisions of the TCA

The UK asked questions about the conditions under which UK lawyers can provide designated legal services in one EU Member State. The EU informed the UK of the preparations of the legal measure clarifying these conditions. The Parties welcomed the progress to date and agreed to continue engaging on the implementation of the measure in pursuit of a swift clarification.

Following points made at the December 2022 Trade Partnership Committee, the EU reported on the issues of complexity and lack of transparency faced by EU stakeholders in meeting the obligations of the UK visa sponsorship system when attempting to provide a service in the UK. The UK outlined the purposes and requirements of the sponsorship system, also noting that enhancements to the system were in progress. The UK also provided statistics on processing times and visa issuances, including the issuing of Service Supplier (Global Business Mobility) visas. Both Parties agreed to continue to engage on the issues raised by the EU.

The Parties also discussed the implementation of transparency obligations at Article 145. The UK noted its appreciation for the continued improvements made to the EU Immigration Portal and raised some of the challenges that UK nationals continue to face when navigating some EU Member State websites. The EU provided a report on improvements made to the Portal since the October 2022 Trade Specialised Committee. Both Parties agreed on the need for clear guidance for businesses and citizens in the EU and the UK.

The Parties assessed the implementation of Article 201 on ensuring cross-border dataflows to facilitate trade in the digital economy as foreseen in Article 201(2). The UK restated its previously expressed concerns around data localisation measures within an EU Member State with reference to the minutes of the December 2022 Trade Partnership Committee. The EU noted its view that the measures referred to by the UK are not unjustified data localisation measures. The EU noted that it is satisfied with the implementation of the provisions of Article 201. Both Parties noted each other's differing views but indicated that the review foreseen in Article 201(2) should be considered concluded.

## Digital trade: updates on regulatory developments in the UK and the EU

The EU presented the latest developments concerning the EU proposal for an Artificial Intelligence Act, the Digital Services Act, the Digital Markets Act and the proposed new framework for a European digital identity (eID). The UK presented the latest developments concerning its approach to artificial intelligence regulation, the Online Safety Bill, the UK's digital markets regime and the UK Digital Identity Trust Framework, including certification. The EU expressed concern at areas of divergence between the UK's Online Safety Bill and the EU's Digital Services Act. The Parties agreed that the EU would follow up with written questions.

### Any other business

The UK noted its concern with the upcoming EU Cybersecurity Certification Scheme for Cloud Services and sought an update on compatibility with commitments under the Digital Trade title of the TCA, as well as an update on the expected process for the final development of the scheme. The EU took note.

The EU sought an update on the UK-Norway-Iceland agreement on international mobile roaming, in the context of commitments under the Services and Investment chapters of the TCA. The UK provided an update on the agreement.

The UK raised the issues facing UK touring and creative artists when travelling to the EU. The EU noted the UK's comments and stated that the issue is not covered by the TCA.

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### **Attachments**

1. Final Agenda
2. List of participants

## **Attachment 1 – Final agenda**

### **The third Trade Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital Trade under the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement**

**London, Monday 9 October 2023**  
**10:00 – 14:00 (BST) / 11.00 – 15.00 (CEST)**  
**Agenda**  
*(London and via videoconference)*

1. Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda
2. Article 158 and recognition of professional qualifications
3. Implementation of the services, investment, and digital trade provisions of the TCA
4. Digital trade: update on regulatory developments in the UK and the EU
5. Any other business
  - i. TCA services chapter: UK-Norway- Iceland Roaming Agreement
  - ii. TCA digital chapter: Upcoming European Cybersecurity Certification Scheme for Cloud Services
6. Closing remarks

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## **Attachment 2 - List of participants of the third Trade Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital Trade under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement**

### **UK Delegation**

- UK Co-chair of the Trade Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital Trade
- UK Government Officials (DBT, FCDO, DSIT, Home Office, Ministry of Justice)
- UK Government Officials from UK Mission to the European Union
- Scottish Government Official
- Northern Ireland Executive Official
- Welsh Government Official

### **EU Delegation**

- EU Co-chair of the Trade Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital Trade
- European Commission Officials (TRADE, GROW, CNECT, HOME, SG)
- EU Officials from Delegation of the European Union to the UK
- Representatives of EU Member States