

Minutes of the first meeting of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts established under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 16 May 2024 in Brussels

The first meeting of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts was held on 16 May 2024 in Brussels. The EU side was represented by different services of the Commission, led by DG Industry, Internal Market, SMEs and Entrepreneurship (DG GROW), and several Member States followed the discussion online. The UK side was represented by different departments of the UK Government, led by the Department for Transport (DFT), also attending were representatives from the UK devolved governments.

The co-chairs agreed on the rules of procedure based on the model rules agreed at the level of the secretariat to the Partnership Council.

The objective of the meeting was to exchange information on the regulatory work and developments in the EU and the UK.

The EU side noted that the UK's requirements continue to closely reflect those applicable to the EU type approval and that the UK closely shares the principles on the EU industrial policy and twin transition.

The UK presented the new GB type approval scheme that applies to new vehicle types of certain vehicle categories from February 2024. The UK explained that the structure follows Regulation (EU) 2018/858 and technical requirements based on those in force in the EU at end of 2020. One of the most recent updates applicable to the GB type approval is the recognition of Euro 6e approvals based on UN regulations.

The UK also clarified that their preferred way of regulating would be through the application UNECE Regulations. The UK discussed regulatory approaches in low-risk areas and potential acceptance of alternative national standards where international standards are not suitable or available. The UK intends to introduce GB-specific rules only where necessary.

The EU side provided updates on the EU regulatory work and plans in relation to automation, electric vehicles, cyber security (i.e. with respect to motor vehicles and L-category vehicles), general safety regulation, end-of-life vehicles, market surveillance, Euro 7 implementation and CO2 regulation, including heavy duty vehicles.

The UK clarified that they intend to introduce electronic certificates of conformity (eCOC) by 2026, similarly to the EU, as the legislation that set up the GB type-approval scheme obliges them to do so.

With respect to the recent e-Call update, the UK informed that they had not taken any decision with respect to the switch-off of 2G/3G networks and that work is ongoing regarding the issue of legacy fleets.

With respect to Euro 7, where the EU informed about the legislative implementation timeline over the next year, the UK explained that they share the objectives on non-exhaust emissions (e.g. on tyre abrasion, brake wear and in-vehicle battery durability). The UK informed that they also intend to accept Euro 7 test reports, however they will mandate only Euro 6e tailpipe emission requirements for light-duty vehicles.

On CO₂, the UK clarified that they have not implemented the latest EU amendments relating to the determination of CO₂ emissions for heavy duty vehicles, and they are still reflecting on how to make progress on this in UNECE.

Both sides noted that some regulatory divergence between the EU and the UK had already occurred in the area of emissions standards and that any potential areas of future divergence should continue to be discussed to minimise market access issues.

Both sides noted there were no specific market access issues identified for the time being.

The UK set out its process for issuing exemptions for new technologies under the GB approval schemes.

Both sides set out their respective market surveillance activities, and in the case of the EU the compliance verification carried out by the Commission.

The UK provided an update on its plans for regulating low speed zero emission vehicles (e.g. e-scooters).

The two co-chairs agreed to report to the Specialised Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade.

Both sides agreed that the next meeting of the working group will be hosted by the UK in 2025.

Annex 1 – Participants of the first meeting of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts established under the EU UK TCA

UK Delegation

- UK Co-chair of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts
- UK Government Officials from DFT, VCA, FCDO, DBT
- UK Government Official from the UK Mission to the European Union

EU Delegation

- EU Co-chair of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts
- EU Officials from GROW, CLIMA, TRADE, SG
- EU Member States

Annex 2 – Agenda

**The first meeting of the Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts
Established under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Meeting on 16 May 2024, 14h-17h

Brussels, Breydel - Floor 011 Room 183

AGENDA

- 1 Adoption of the Agenda
- 2 Updates on respective regulatory activities
- 3 UNECE/WP29
Break
- 4 Products with new technologies
- 5 Market surveillance
- 6 Forward look of potential future items
- 7 AOB

Annex 3 - Rules agreed at the level of the secretariat to the Partnership Council, see Section I

SECTION I

Model Rules of Procedure for Working Groups established by, or subsequently established under, the Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Working Groups

Rules of Procedure

Rule 1

Chair

The Union and the United Kingdom shall notify each other of the name, position and contact details of their respective designated Working Group co-chairs. A co-chair is deemed to have the authorisation for representing, respectively, the Union or the United Kingdom until the date a new co-chair has been notified to the other Party.

A co-chair may be replaced for a particular meeting or a part thereof by a designee. The co-chair, or his or her designee, shall notify the other co-chair and the Secretariat of the Working Group of the designation as early as possible. Any reference in these Rules of Procedure to the co-chairs shall be understood to include a designee.

Rule 2

Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Working Group shall be composed of an official of the Union and an official of the Government of the United Kingdom. The Secretariat shall perform the tasks conferred on it by these Rules of Procedure, under the supervision of the relevant Committee.

The Union and the United Kingdom shall notify each other of the name, position and contact details of the official who is the member of the Secretariat of the Working Group, respectively. This official is deemed to continue acting as member of the Secretariat for the Union or for the United Kingdom until the date either the Union or the United Kingdom has notified a new member.

Rule 3

Meetings

Each meeting of the Working Group shall be convened by the Secretariat at a date and time agreed by the co-chairs. Where either the Union or the United Kingdom has made a request for a meeting, the other Party shall give due consideration to such a request and reply within 30 days.

The Working Group shall hold its meetings alternately in Brussels and London, unless the co-chairs decide otherwise.

By way of derogation from the second paragraph, the co-chairs may agree that a meeting of the Working Group be held by video conference, teleconference or in hybrid form.

Rule 4

Participation in meetings

A reasonable period of time in advance of each meeting, the Union and the United Kingdom shall inform each other through the Secretariat of the intended composition of their respective delegations and shall specify the name and function of each member of the delegation.

Where appropriate the co-chairs may, by mutual consent, invite experts (i.e. non-government officials), to attend meetings of the Working Group in order to provide information on a specific subject and only for the parts of the meeting where such specific subjects are discussed.

Rule 5

Documents

Written documents on which the deliberations of the Working Group are based shall be numbered and circulated to the Union and the United Kingdom by the Secretariat.

Rule 6

Correspondence

The Union and the United Kingdom shall send their correspondence addressed to the Working Group via the Secretariat. Such correspondence may be sent in any form of written communication, including by electronic mail.

The Secretariat shall ensure that correspondence addressed to the Working Group is delivered to the co-chairs and is circulated, where appropriate, in accordance with Rule 5.

All correspondence from or addressed directly to the co-chairs shall be forwarded to the Secretariat and shall be circulated, where appropriate, in accordance with Rule 5.

Rule 7

Agenda for the meeting

For each meeting, a draft provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretariat. It shall be transmitted, together with the relevant documents, to the co-chairs no later than five days before the date of the meeting.

The provisional agenda shall include items requested by the Union or the United Kingdom. Any such request, together with any relevant document, shall be submitted to the Secretariat no later than seven days before the beginning of the meeting.

No later than three days before the date of the meeting, the co-chairs shall decide on the provisional agenda for a meeting.

The agenda shall be adopted by the Working Group at the beginning of each meeting. On request by the Union or the United Kingdom, an item other than those included in the provisional agenda may be included in the agenda by consensus.

The co-chairs may, by mutual consent, reduce or increase the time periods specified in the first, second and third paragraphs in order to take account of the requirements of a particular case.

Rule 8

Minutes

Draft minutes of each meeting shall be drawn up by the official acting as member of the Secretariat of the Party hosting the meeting, within seven days from the end of the meeting, unless otherwise decided by the co-chairs. The draft minutes shall be transmitted for comments to the member of the Secretariat of the other Party. The latter may submit comments within five days from the date of receipt of the draft minutes.

The minutes shall, as a rule, summarise each item on the agenda, specifying where applicable:

- the documents submitted to the Working Group;
- any statement that one of the co-chairs requested to be entered in the minutes; and
- operational conclusions adopted on specific items.

The minutes shall include as an annex a list of participants setting out for each of the delegations the names and functions of all individuals who attended the meeting.

The Secretariat shall adjust the draft minutes on the basis of comments received and the draft minutes, as revised, shall be approved by the co-chairs within 28 days of the date of the meeting, or by any other date agreed by the co-chairs.

Once approved, copies of the minutes shall be signed by the members of the Secretariat and transmitted to the Union and the United Kingdom, as well as to the supervising Committee. The co-chairs may agree that signing and exchanging electronic copies satisfies this requirement.

Rule 9

Confidentiality

Unless otherwise decided by the co-chairs, the meetings of the Working Group shall be confidential.

If the Union or the United Kingdom submits information that is confidential or protected from disclosure under its laws and regulations to the Working Group, the other party shall treat that information received as confidential.

The co-chairs may decide to make provisional agendas public before the meeting of the Working Group takes place. The co-chairs may also decide to make the minutes of the meeting public following their approval in accordance with Rule 8.

Publication of documents referred to in the third paragraph shall be made in compliance with both Parties' applicable data protection rules.

Rule 10

Languages

The working language of the Working Group shall be English. Unless otherwise decided by the co-chairs, the Working Group shall base its deliberations on documents prepared in English.

Rule 11

Expenses

The Union and the United Kingdom shall each meet any expenses they incur as a result of participating in the meetings of the Working Group.

Expenditure in connection with the organisation of meetings and reproduction of documents shall be borne by the party hosting the meeting.

Expenditure in connection with interpretation to and from the working language of the Working Group shall be borne by the party requesting such interpretation.

Rule 12

Reporting

The Working Group shall inform the supervising Committee of its meeting schedule and agenda sufficiently in advance of meetings, and shall report to this Committee on the results and conclusions of each meeting.