

Meeting of the UK TCA Domestic Advisory Group

29 April 2025

List of organisations present:

- ADS Group Ltd
- Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)
- Association of Medical Research Charities
- Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
- Bar Council of England & Wales
- British Chambers of Commerce
- British Ports Association
- British Retail Consortium
- British Standards Institution
- Business Services Association (BSA)
- Chemical Industries Association
- Community
- Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
- E3G
- Energy UK
- Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
- Food and Drink Federation (FDF)
- Green Alliance
- Horticultural Trades Association
- Institute of Export & International Trade
- Intellectual Property Federation
- International Meat Trade Association
- Law Society of England and Wales
- Law Society of Scotland and Faculty of Advocates
- LIVE (Live music Industry Venues & Entertainment)
- Logistics UK
- Musician's Union
- National Farmers' Union
- National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)
- National Youth Agency
- NHS Confederation
- Northern Ireland Committee - Irish Congress of Trade Unions
- Prospect
- Prosper
- Scotch Whisky Association
- Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
- Scottish Fishermen's Federation
- Shellfish Association of Great Britain

- Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders
- TheCityUK
- Trades Union Congress (TUC)
- UK Music
- UKFinance
- Unison
- United Kingdom Accreditation Service
- Universities UK
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action

Agenda:

1. Introduction from DAG Chair and adoption of March minutes
2. DAG Summit input discussion
3. Paymaster General Minister Nick Thomas-Symonds

Introduction from DAG Chair and adoption of March minutes:

1. DAG chair Mike Clancy opened the meeting and communicated the agenda. The minutes from March were then formally approved. He noted that the geopolitical situation remained fluid, with ongoing changes concerning the UK and the US over tariffs. He explained that a DAG statement ahead of the summit was crucial to issue. He reiterated to members that efforts had been made to accommodate their comments, and he stated that it was vital to disseminate and publicise the statement.

DAG Summit input discussion:

2. The DAG chair asked the subgroup convenors to update on their latest activity, and then there would be sufficient time to discuss points related to the DAG's summit input thoroughly. He reiterated that the summit was scheduled for 19 May, and on the 23-24 June, there would be a joint DAG meeting and a Civil Society Forum (CSF), along with another joint statement with EU counterparts. He asked the group to comment on whether the subgroups had the correct structure and boundaries and what the programme of work should entail leading up to the summit.
3. **The meeting then moved to an update from each subgroup:**
 - **Nations and Regions:** Vice-chair and convenor Irene Oldfather stated that the group had held a meeting the previous month to provide updates on positions and statements. Discussions had taken place regarding Erasmus and youth mobility, and the continuation of

subgroups had been discussed. She reiterated the importance of regional representation within the group.

- **Trade and Customs:** Convenor Konstanze Scharring reported that the group had recently met and thanked the secretariat for their attendance. Twenty-five trade bodies, trade unions, and civil society representatives were present. She stated that it was beneficial to learn directly from these discussions, and that the attendees at the subgroup wanted it to continue. They were eager to support a statement with input from all present and pointed out that understanding the agenda for the upcoming summit would aid preparation.
- **Business and Labour Mobility:** Convenor Marco Cillario reported that three EU DAG organisations had participated in the last meeting, identifying common priorities and issues such as touring artists, musicians, common business mobility, and youth mobility. He stated that he hoped there would be increased attendance from the EU DAG in the future, and the upcoming DAG-to-DAG meeting was recognised as another opportunity. The group had begun to outline what a Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) should involve, with plans to work collaboratively alongside other subgroups. He stated that it was crucial to secure commitment from the UK on youth mobility and Erasmus+, which had been identified as two of the EU's priorities in the context of the reset.
- **Energy and Climate Change:** Convenor Sarah Williams reported that priorities had been defined in March, which included ETS linkage, trading, North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC), and CBAM, with plans to schedule a meeting on carbon linkage soon.
- **Level Playing Field and Regulatory Cooperation:** Convenor Rosa Crawford welcomed new members. She reported that meetings had taken place with DBT officials to discuss regulatory cooperation and labour/environmental standards, and the group had assessed whether the statement met the group's objectives regarding Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and veterinary agreements. She stated that the DAG's position could indeed be further developed, and the group intended to meet DBT officials in June to discuss other key issues.

4. Points raised:

- **DAG support for UK-EU summit:** A member asked if there would be any role for businesses at the summit, given its strategic importance in addressing common issues. Members asked what the next steps would be following the summit and stated that the DAG should consult with the minister to clarify what was required regarding negotiations, ensuring that mutual benefits were highlighted and presented

accurately. Other participants proposed establishing a contact group to coordinate the dissemination of letters and manage interactions among various policy groups, emphasising the importance of also considering broader geopolitical shifts. Members emphasised that direct contact with officials following the 19 May summit was imperative to offer appropriate advice and called on the DAG to assess responses and determine how support could be provided following the summit to address issues, whether through a review or another mechanism. Other members highlighted the necessity of driving deliverables from both sides and stressed the need to ensure accountability regarding summit agenda engagement, questioning whether other organisations, such as the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) or EU DAG, could assist in holding the UK government accountable, or whether the DAG Executive Council could exert greater influence with the PPA. Another participant highlighted the importance of being cautious about adopting new ideas without thorough consideration of potential costs. A member described the DAG as a useful platform for presenting priorities and ideas and expressed the desire for it to serve as a forum for the government to exchange ideas, whilst another member suggested that the DAG should be presented as a space where officials could exchange ideas freely.

- **DAG statement:** Members endorsed the statement but requested clarity on how widely the statement should be disseminated and were also interested in understanding how it was being used. A member emphasised that the statement should be effectively disseminated to ensure it reached appropriate audiences. Another participant advised against overemphasising certain issues in the statement to prevent disruption in areas that were working well, including the recognition of judgments and market access for the Bar. Members emphasised the need for engagement with EU counterparts, and more shared oversight of activities. Another member stressed the importance of advancing the prosperity agenda, suggesting that the statement should highlight areas beyond security issues. A participant endorsed the inclusion of scientific cooperation in the statement. Members suggested that the Executive Council's monitoring of statements could be beneficial. They emphasised the importance of engagement with the media and recommended that the DAG pool resources for this purpose.
- **Ambition:** Members stated that the DAG should be encouraging greater ambition in the UK-EU relationship, suggesting that there was now a more open dialogue, thereby allowing for increased trade cooperation between the UK and EU, particularly considering tariffs on UK goods. They stated that some sectors could benefit from supplementary agreements beyond the TCA. Another member stated that the current deal did not benefit particular sectors. Others stated the

importance of managing expectations while recognising the opportunity for both the UK and EU to capitalise on. Although a significant economic impact might not have been immediate, the positive direction was deemed vital and worthy of celebration.

- **EU and Member States:** Members stated that support from EU institutions was essential. They noted that the EU Commission did not engage much with business, so focusing on other EU institutions would be helpful. The EU Parliament played a crucial role, particularly concerning citizen issues, and the member urged clarity from the UK side about its objectives. Another member noted that Member States who were facing specific trade challenges with the UK were responding more positively with the backdrop of wider issues on global trade.
- **EU DAG:** Members stressed increased engagement with the EU DAG was necessary. One member questioned how the UK DAG could utilise its relationship with the EU DAG more effectively, suggesting that doing so might create opportunities for the UK and facilitate engagement with the European Commission, allowing EU businesses to express their interests. It was noted that subgroup meetings tend to be more effective when involving the EU DAG. Another member suggested collaborating with the EU DAG to set the agenda ahead of the CSF. They proposed inviting the European Commission working group and European Parliament to the DAG-to-DAG meetings, acknowledging that while this might displease the European Commission, it would serve the organisation's interests.
- **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS):** A member expressed gratitude for the inclusion of plant health with regards to the SPS agreement in the DAG statement. Another member noted that the SPS agreement was advantageous, emphasising the strong DAG position on alignment while respecting regulatory sovereignty. They inquired how the DAG's position aligned with the UK government's stance, asking when the UK government's negotiating position would be clarified. Another participant confirmed that the Executive Council and secretariat were correct in inviting the appropriate ministers and civil servants to answer questions on SPS. Members expressed concerns regarding the SPS agreement, particularly noting that veterinary medicines often fall outside its scope. They indicated that efforts would be made to lobby for veterinary medicines to be included in such agreements.
- **Customs:** A member noted that measures to enhance trade, specifically in customs and Sales and Purchase agreements, were priorities essential for maintaining interest from the Treasury in growth-influencing factors. One member stated that the Union Customs Code (UCC) reforms were expected to significantly affect UK trade, necessitating alignment and engagement from both sides.

- **Programmes:** A member noted a missing component in the statement related to the LIFE Programme (the EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action), stating that the UK had been a significant beneficiary in the past. One participant pointed out that Horizon was just one funding source, and clinical trials in the UK remained appealing to EU organisations due to the UK's leadership in cancer research, though policy development in this area could take some time. They mentioned that the European Commission was expected to implement a new financial framework by 2027. They expressed concern about not being at the negotiation table and emphasised the importance of engaging with European colleagues to avoid a situation where HM Treasury declares it too late to participate financially in programmes such as Horizon and Erasmus.
- **Touring artists:** A member praised the statement's inclusion of touring creative artists and acknowledged the role of the mobility subgroup in incorporating EU voices. Another member emphasised the importance of EU business voices, citing a joint letter between the UK and EU on touring creative artists, receiving input from 22 Member States. Plans had been made to publish this letter ahead of the summit, and there had been encouragement from officials regarding questions posed. Another participant noted an improved dialogue with the music industry, but cited remaining customs issues pertaining to musicians, and regarding the impact of Entry Exit System (EES) and European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) on musicians.
- **Youth Mobility:** A member stated that Erasmus and the YMS were top priorities, while the Turing scheme had had a limited impact, and Erasmus was regarded as a representation of European identity, seen as essential for fostering connections among people.
- **Defence and Security:** Participants supported greater UK-EU cooperation on security and defence topics, and that they would be critical aspects of the summit and should be included in the statement given the interest from various industries. Another member expressed support for innovative thinking regarding defence cooperation, suggesting that a strong interest from the EU to engage could present a significant opportunity, and this in turn could potentially lead to collaboration in additional areas, such as procurement. They emphasised the importance of keeping opportunities open for EU cooperation with third countries and highlighted the significant prospects for the sector in pursuing those opportunities.
- **Energy and Climate:** A member expressed the need for enhanced engagement, particularly around climate and energy cooperation, citing uncertainty over US commitments in this area, making EU climate and energy cooperation particularly important.

- **Fish:** A member observed that while there was good faith between the UK and EU, the fishing sector experienced more friction compared to others. They stressed the importance of reflecting on these dynamics to maintain goodwill, especially given that the European Commission had previously reneged on its agreement in the TCA, and underscored the need for collaboration to serve the UK's best interests.
- **DAG subgroups:** A member stated that following the summit, a review of the subgroup structure was necessary; and more emphasis should be placed on services, viewing the summit as the first step in a broader process. Members stated that there were services issues being focussed on by UK and EU business and civil society, as there are numerous commitments within the mobility subgroup that deserve attention, wider than services. Another member highlighted the effectiveness of subgroups, especially mentioning their involvement in trade and customs, where on-the-ground experiences are shared. They emphasised that this should be a key focus. Another participant underlined the importance of the future role of the Nations and Regions subgroup in focusing on LPF agreements, safeguarding non-diminution of rights, and upholding the rulings from the Supreme Court. They noted that ongoing monitoring should continue.

5. The Executive Council concluded:

- Vice Chair Sean McGuire stated that there were high expectations for the 19 May summit, and that these expectations needed to be managed, as not everything would be included. He noted that some topics might be discussed in more detail than others, and that there could be a need to respond to the summit's conclusions. For instance, defence might have more detailed discussions, while SPS could also be more comprehensive; the rest might remain relatively light and directional. He mentioned that certain organisations might have specific requests that would not be addressed in the first year. He emphasised that this summit was merely a starting point. He observed that European business appeared to have the UK low on the list of priorities, with the US and China taking precedence. He highlighted the need to apply pressure on the EU DAG to ensure it voiced concerns, noting that the EU often considered it a non-priority. He stressed the importance of making the EU DAG realise that it was in their interest as well, and that it was vital to encourage the EU to articulate its interests in the lead-up to the summit so that the most progress could be made. He indicated that there was a summit scheduled for 2026, and that there should be tangible deliverables. He stressed that both the UK and EU needed to be held accountable and that some wins should be secured by the end of that year. He emphasised that increased

cooperation with the European Commission was essential to progress on these issues. He remarked that when drafting a statement, every word mattered, acknowledging that compromises had been necessary. He cautioned against undermining the UK government's position and advised that going public was not always in their best interest, as sometimes this could be counterproductive. Regarding red lines, he noted that the EU also viewed defence as an internal market issue, citing current EU procurement practices as protectionist towards the EU27. He pointed out that even if a good deal was achieved, it could be limited, and that even in areas like cancer research, it was not about third countries. He advised caution and reminded that the DAG was just one part of a larger system, with many committees, organisations, and members involved. He mentioned that SPS was highly complex, with many options and technical details. He concluded by noting that other fora would keep the team informed.

- Vice Chair Irene Oldfather observed that the Nations and Regions group viewed the statement as a sense check that could be made reactive following the summit. After the meeting, they reviewed the statement, simplified it, and listed the ten priorities. They did not anticipate receiving the full content. She said that the subgroup considered it unlikely that the CSF would not align with what occurred at the summit. She hoped that some relevant context would emerge during the summit, especially given the limited discussion surrounding security and defence. She stated that Sefcovic had been present at the PPA, where EU priorities included security and defence, and he expressed interest in a youth participation scheme. It was noted that there was no other deal comparable to the UK's. She stated that the Paymaster General was also present at the meeting, which might lead to aligned perspectives. Key EU priorities identified at the meeting were the YMS, which the minister needed to communicate back, along with discussions on immigration with the Home Office and finance with HM Treasury. She described the DAG as a broad coalition with a unique perspective and emphasised that there was no need to agree on everything. Regarding the structure of the TCA and the reset, she believed they were in a strong position collectively going into the meeting with MCO that afternoon. She valued sub-groups and their ability to contribute. She highlighted their ongoing conversations with young people and the diverse, dynamic views they brought from various sectors.
- Chair Mike Clancy stated that for the sake of balance, it was important to emphasise that with a Labour government committed to employment rights, the UK would not pursue an agenda of seeking lower labour standards. He underlined that a supportive position on Europe was essential, as both business and civil society needed to instil confidence

in the government to align as closely as possible within manifesto red lines. He stressed the importance of being as supportive as possible while managing expectations to prevent disappointment. While the direction outlined for 19 May was considered adequate, it was crucial to maintain momentum. He noted that the geopolitical landscape was tricky due to its fluidity, and that positions should be reflected in the instrument without making it unwieldy. The benefits of subgroup discussions had been recognised, and he suggested convening an online meeting after 19 May to evaluate their position. He highlighted that there were several alignments in life sciences, defence, and energy. While there were red lines, he acknowledged that circumstances might evolve after Thursday's elections, as changes could occur week by week, if not day by day. He expressed a desire to see progress beyond the outcomes expected on 19 May, recognising that much of the discussion might remain at a high level. He emphasised that optimism was essential but that expectations needed to be managed. He agreed that EU engagement could be stronger, noting the absence of subgroup structures on the EU side. He suggested this could be discussed at the CSF and pointed out recent positive statements and good engagement with EU trade unions. He emphasised the need to gauge enthusiasm from the EU side, if any existed. He proposed that understanding the traction and influence going forward, as well as the process after the summit, would be a good question for MCO. He warned that proceeding without caution would be dangerous, reminding colleagues of the challenges in agreeing on the statement due to differing positions and tensions in different sectors. He recalled that they had gained some traction on the statement last week and stressed the importance of drawing attention to it. In summary, the DAG chair emphasised the need to continue some form of subgroup structure, to ensure communication with EU colleagues particularly after 19 May. Regarding dissemination, he said they would review the statement in the Executive Council on 6 May, and that there should be an online DAG meeting shortly after the summit, no later than 6 June.

6. The DAG chair Mike Clancy noted that the statement would be published on gov.uk, as an open document to be shared widely. It had already been sent to the minister, and he encouraged colleagues to promote it through their channels as proactively as possible. The meeting then adjourned for lunch.

Paymaster General Minister Nick Thomas-Symonds:

7. The DAG chair Mike Clancy noted the constructive conversation that members had in the morning, and how it showed the level of ambition on the

DAG. He then welcomed the Paymaster General Minister Nick Thomas-Symonds and thanked him for coming.

8. The Minister gave opening remarks:

- The Minister thanked everyone for attending and expressed gratitude to Church House for hosting the event. He acknowledged members' dedication to the DAG and stated that he had always welcomed the approach of its members. He reflected on having been present several times at DAG meetings both in opposition and in government. The Minister expressed support for the statement, emphasising that breaking barriers to trade was a top priority, as was economic growth.
- He also wished to associate himself with remarks made regarding energy cooperation, the NSEC, and particularly defence and security cooperation, emphasising that now was the time to secure the collective future. He appreciated the honesty about how the status quo was not sufficient and stressed that engagement with civil society and industry was crucial.
- The Minister highlighted that this engagement was important both in the run-up to the summit and afterwards. He mentioned the Scottish Advisory Forum on Europe (SAFE) meeting as another example of ongoing efforts and looked forward to future initiatives. He thanked Vice Chair Irene for the invitation to the event.
- He expressed the desire for a concrete statement on 19 May but noted that this summit would be the first of many, emphasising that the strategic alliance was an ongoing process. For instance, he had attended the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee (WAJC) earlier that morning, and he and Sefcovic planned to go to Imperial College later that afternoon to deliver a joint session.
- He described this as a new phase in the UK-EU relationship, reaffirming the importance of cooperation in areas such as agrifood, energy, and defence, and expressed satisfaction that this was reflected in the DAG statement. He mentioned ongoing negotiations and, while unable to comment in detail, advised not to believe everything read in the newspapers. He noted his recent article in the Guardian emphasising that the summit was about the world as it was now - guided by pragmatism rather than past ideology and division.
- He clarified that while a detailed legal text was unlikely, a statement would be issued along with guidelines to take forward. This, he explained, did not preclude DAG from being part of future discussions. He acknowledged that there were red lines but believed that ambitious goals could be set without being confined by past arguments. He assured that departments would provide input into discussions.

- Finally, he encouraged pushing for EU ambition, mentioning many businesses he engaged with, and urged everyone to do their part in engaging with the EU. He stressed that any efforts made now would contribute to a successful summit and reiterated that 19 May was just the beginning.

9. Points raised:

- **Summit package:** A participant acknowledged the importance of managing expectations regarding the prosperity agenda, noting that industries desired growth and wanted barriers to be removed. They assumed progress would be made on security and questioned whether similar progress could be replicated for the economy. Another member emphasised that the summit was merely the beginning of the process and highlighted the need to remember the review of the TCA. Members also welcomed the prospect of deliverables and asked if any insights could be shared regarding security and defence matters.
- **SPS agreement:** Members welcomed the prospect of a SPS agreement, noting that the leaders' summit was scheduled to take place on Thursday during the Chelsea Flower Show, which would be a positive development. They understood that the process was not rapid and was more of a starting point rather than one involving major announcements. They emphasised that their small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) members were eager for a deal and welcomed any positive indications regarding timeframes. Another member stressed the importance of the SPS agreement and stated that, if the European Court of Justice (ECJ) retained final arbitration rights, the UK would require rights under Article 91 of the Withdrawal Agreement (WA). Another participant stated that an agreement should respect the UK's autonomy while also being ambitious and bespoke, whilst one asked how the 19 May date fitted into the broader engagement on SPS issues.
- **Security and Defence:** A member discussed the statement's extensive coverage of defence and security, which they supported. They added that their members would want to ensure that companies involved in these sectors had continued access to finance.
- **Youth Mobility:** A participant highlighted the Mobility subgroup's paper on a YMS. They stated that the EU was keen to engage, recognising it as a significant request from both the EU and the UK DAGs. They considered it an important moment to agree on such a scheme. Another member highlighted that YMS, Erasmus, and Creative Europe were at the top of their agenda. They noted that the UK youth sector experienced a crisis the previous year when the National Youth Council collapsed due to the loss of Erasmus funding. Efforts were underway to

rebuild this. They expressed concern about the current landscape, which prevented involvement in international exchanges, making it impossible to meet other young Europeans. They observed that young people were losing faith in democracy, citing statistics that 52% believed the UK was better off under a strong leader, and 13% thought the military was preferable to democracy. They concluded that, given the current economic and political dynamics, young people found things challenging and were drifting away. Another member expressed a desire for a Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) for young members of the legal profession, highlighting that there was scope within immigration policies and red lines.

- **Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQs):** A participant noted that the MRPQs had been a manifesto commitment of the Labour Party, but there had been little recent discussion, thus they expressed interest in an update on those discussions.
- **Touring artists:** A member expressed gratitude for the commitment to touring artists. They mentioned the drafting of an open letter, which had garnered 500 signatures across the EU27 and included stakeholders from creative industries, festivals, musicians, and artists. They noted that the mobility subgroup paper and joint statement contained some key issues.
- **Energy and Climate:** A member expressed interest in UK-EU cooperation on climate issues, given ongoing developments within the EU. They highlighted the potential for the UK to contribute significantly to the NSEC and electricity trading. They inquired whether these had been commented on at the WAJC earlier in the day.
- **Fish:** A member expressed that regarding fisheries, they wished the EU to have less ambition. They considered it illogical that defence and security issues were linked with fisheries and asked for the minister's view on this matter.
- **Level Playing Field:** A participant welcomed the engagement again and expressed appreciation for ongoing collaboration. They stated that the organisation supported the pursuit of high standards with the EU, noting that the UK's employment rights legislation was leading globally. They wished to secure mutual high standards and to protect industry from tariffs, emphasising that this should not come at the expense of data adequacy.

10. The Minister confirmed:

- **Summit package:** He could not comment on negotiations. However, regarding the speed of the process, he explained that there would be annual summits, emphasising the importance of deliverables, and that they were keen to organise one as soon as possible.

- **SPS agreement:** He highlighted that trade and agri-food remained key priorities. He said that their goal was to reduce red tape on food and agriculture and to minimise checks between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He pointed out that SPS was a very good example of how border checks could be reduced. He stressed that borders should remain secure, but the goal was also to enhance trade.
- **Security and Defence:** He mentioned working closely with the European Commission, Eurotunnel, and the Port of Dover. He highlighted that cooperation on security was strategic, especially given the Russian invasion of Ukraine. On growth, he described the three-pillar approach, noting that security was not just the hard edge; everyone was stepping up on defence matters. He highlighted that he was leading the coalition of the willing and planned to spend 2.5% of GDP on defence by 2027. He stressed that security and defence were very relevant for economic growth.
- **Mobility:** Touring artists and MRPQs were manifesto commitments. Regarding YMS, he explained that he was listening to sensible EU proposals but made it clear that he was not returning to freedom of movement, and he aimed to get ahead of the TCA review. As a practising barrister, he emphasised that anything agreed upon needed to be implemented properly. On YMS, he highlighted that securing borders was very important. He acknowledged the point about opportunities for young people and commented that it was great to be able to teach people from around the world.
- **Energy and Climate:** He recalled that both sides had expressed ambition for energy cooperation and energy security, and that they were working together on these issues. He noted there was interest on both sides in climate cooperation. He stated that NSEC could work together, emphasising that there was a real appetite for collaboration.
- **Fish:** He stated that there was no link to security and defence matters. He expressed the desire to be responsible for the UK's oceans and noted the issues faced by small and medium-sized fishers. He assured that he was aware of the issues affecting their industry but emphasised that they rejected the link just as the industry did.
- **Level Playing Field:** He confirmed that the government was interested in a race to the top, with high standards for food, safety online, workers' rights, and the environment, and that these standards were non-negotiable with any trade partner. He emphasized that they did not choose between allies; both the EU and the US were in their interests. He expressed regret over the introduction of tariffs and affirmed that they would always advocate for free trade. He reaffirmed that their high standards would not be compromised. Regarding the Employment Rights Bill, he said they aimed for world-leading standards and that the bill was designed to achieve that.

- **Further engagement:** The Minister concluded by encouraging everyone to continue engaging with him but noted that it was equally, if not more, effective to do so on the EU side. He acknowledged that EU organisations were making the case. He asked members to continue feeding into the priorities, emphasising that his door was always open. He thanked everyone and expressed his look forward to working with everyone both before and after the summit.

11. DAG chair Mike Clancy thanked the minister for attending and answering members' questions. He reminded members that there was a DAG Technical Barriers to Trade briefing session the following week. He stated that the next steps would be to put in another DAG meeting following the summit. He concluded by imploring members to publish the DAG's statement, and thanked members for attending his first hybrid meeting as chair.