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Decision No. 1/2025

of the United Kingdom-Serbia Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Council

of 23 December 2025

amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of ‘originating products’ and methods of administrative cooperation to the Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Serbia

Belgrade, 23 December 2025

[The Agreement entered into force 1 July 2026]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
by Command of His Majesty
August 2026*

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Decision No 1/2025 of the United Kingdom-Serbia Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Council

of 23 December 2025

amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of ‘originating products’ and methods of administrative cooperation to the Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Serbia

THE PARTNERSHIP, TRADE AND COOPERATION COUNCIL,

HAVING REGARD to the Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, signed in Belgrade on 16 April 2021 (“the Agreement”), and in particular Article 11(2);

RECALLING that the Agreement incorporates the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Serbia, of the other part, done at Luxembourg on 29 April 2008 (“the EU-Serbia Agreement”) as modified by the Agreement;

RECONFIRMING the desire of the United Kingdom and Serbia (“the Parties”) that the rights and obligations between them as previously provided for by the EU-Serbia Agreement should continue, as modified by the Agreement;

RECALLING that the overriding objective of the Agreement, as set out in Article 1, is, *inter alia*, “to preserve the preferential conditions relating to trade between the Parties which resulted from the EU-Serbia Agreement”, and that ability to cumulate content of European Union origin is an important element to achieving this objective;

CONSIDERING that the United Kingdom is not a contracting party to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin (“the PEM Convention”) but that Protocol 3 to the Agreement reflects the provisions of the PEM Convention in a bilateral context, as at the date of the Agreement;

RECOGNISING that revised rules will be fully implemented by 1 January 2026 among the contracting parties to the PEM Convention, resulting in the amendment of the rules of origin of the relevant agreements, including the EU-Serbia Agreement;

CONSIDERING that the revised PEM rules are largely similar to the rules of origin of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, of 24 December 2020;

RECALLING the Joint Declaration between the United Kingdom and Serbia concerning a trilateral approach to rules of origin, signed on 16 April 2021, which recognises that a trilateral approach to rules of origin, involving the European Union, is the preferred long-term outcome in trading arrangements between the United Kingdom, Serbia and the European Union. This approach would replicate coverage of previous trade flows, and allow for continued recognition of originating content from either Party to the Agreement and from the European Union in exports to each other, as per the intention of the EU-Serbia Agreement;

RECONFIRMING the desire of the Parties to facilitate efficient regional value chains by allowing for the recognition of originating content from the European Union and other contracting parties to the PEM Convention in trade between the Parties;

HAVING REGARD to Article 41 of Protocol 3 to the Agreement authorising the Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Council to amend Protocol 3;

HAS DECIDED:

1. Article 3 (Cumulation in the United Kingdom) shall be replaced by:
 - “1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 2(1), products shall be considered as originating in the United Kingdom, if they are obtained there, incorporating materials originating in Switzerland (including Liechtenstein)³, Iceland, Norway, Turkey or the European Union, provided that the working or processing carried out in the United Kingdom goes beyond the operations referred to in Article 7. It shall not be necessary for such materials to have undergone sufficient working or processing.
 - 2. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 2(1), products shall be considered as originating in the United Kingdom if they are obtained there, incorporating materials originating in Serbia or any country or territory referred to in Annex A to this Protocol, provided that the working or processing carried out in the United Kingdom goes beyond the operations referred to in Article 7. It shall not be necessary for such materials to have undergone sufficient working or processing.
 - 3. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 2(1), working or processing carried out in Iceland, Norway, or the European Union, shall be considered as having been carried out in the United Kingdom when the products obtained undergo subsequent working or processing in the United Kingdom that goes beyond the operations referred to in Article 7.

³ Due to the Customs Treaty between Liechtenstein and Switzerland, products originating in Liechtenstein are considered as originating in Switzerland.

4. For cumulation provided in paragraphs 1 and 2, where the working or processing carried out in the United Kingdom does not go beyond the operations referred to in Article 7, the product obtained shall be considered as originating in the United Kingdom only where the value added there is greater than the value of the materials used that are originating in any of the other countries or territories.

5. For cumulation provided in paragraph 3, where the working or processing carried out in the United Kingdom does not go beyond the operations referred to in Article 7, the product obtained shall be considered as originating in the United Kingdom only where the value added there is greater than the value added in any of the other countries or territories.

6. The cumulation provided for in this Article may be applied provided that:

(a) preferential trade agreements in accordance with Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ('GATT 1994') are applicable between the United Kingdom and Serbia and the other countries or territories referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 involved in the acquisition of originating status;

(b) materials and products originating in countries or territories referred to in paragraphs 1 or 2, other than the United Kingdom or Serbia, have acquired originating status in accordance with the rules of origin under the agreement referred to in subparagraph (a) between the United Kingdom and those countries or territories; and

(c) notices indicating the fulfilment of the necessary requirements to apply cumulation have been published by the Parties.

7. The United Kingdom shall provide Serbia with details of the agreements including their dates of entry into force, and their corresponding rules of origin, which are applied with the other countries or territories referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2."

2. Article 4 (Cumulation in Serbia) shall be replaced by:

"1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 2(2), products shall be considered as originating in Serbia, if they are obtained there, incorporating materials originating in the United Kingdom, Switzerland (including Liechtenstein), Iceland, Norway, Turkey or the European Union, provided that the working or processing carried out in Serbia goes beyond the operations referred to in Article 7. It shall not be necessary for such materials to have undergone sufficient working or processing.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 2(2), products shall be considered as originating in Serbia if they are obtained there, incorporating materials originating in any country or territory referred to in Annex A to this Protocol, provided that the working or processing carried out in Serbia goes beyond the operations referred to in Article 7. It shall not be necessary for such materials to have undergone sufficient working or processing.

3. Where the working or processing carried out in Serbia does not go beyond the operations referred to in Article 7, the product obtained shall be considered as originating in Serbia only where the value added there is greater than the value of the materials used that are originating in any of the other countries or territories referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

4. The cumulation provided for in this Article may be applied provided that:

(a) preferential trade agreements in accordance with Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ('GATT 1994') are applicable between the United Kingdom and Serbia and the other countries or territories referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 involved in the acquisition of originating status;

(b) materials and products originating in countries or territories referred to in paragraphs 1 or 2, other than the United Kingdom or Serbia, have acquired originating status in accordance with the rules of origin under the agreement referred to in subparagraph (a) between Serbia and those countries or territories; and

(c) notices indicating the fulfilment of the necessary requirements to apply cumulation have been published by the Parties.

5. Serbia shall provide the United Kingdom with details of the agreements including their dates of entry into force, and their corresponding rules of origin, which are applied with the other countries or territory referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2."

3. In Article 28 (Supporting documents), subparagraph (d), the words "in accordance with rules of origin which are identical to the rules in this Protocol" shall be replaced by "in accordance with the rules of origin in the preferential trade agreement between that country or territory and the United Kingdom or Serbia, as the case may be".

4. This Decision shall enter into force on the date of the later of the Parties' notifications that they have completed their respective applicable legal requirements and procedures, or on such date as may be agreed.

Signed in duplicate, in English and Serbian.

Belgrade, 23 December 2025

For the Government
of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland

EDWARD FERGUSON

For the Government
of the Republic of Serbia

JAGODA LAZAREVIĆ

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