

Joint Statement of the EU and UK Domestic Advisory Groups under the EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)

The EU-UK Summit is a key moment for the implementation of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). As members of the Domestic Advisory Groups, whose role is to advise on the agreement's implementation, we believe the EU and UK DAGs should have a structured and meaningful role in all initiatives affecting the TCA's implementation and evolution. This includes negotiations on SPS, ETS and Youth mobility agreements, which build on the TCA's institutional architecture. In this context, we expect the DAGs to be meaningfully involved in the 2nd EU-UK summit and its follow-up.

The EU and UK Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs) reaffirm their support for the renewed EU–UK agenda following the inaugural Summit of 19 May 2025 and ongoing negotiations under the Common Understanding. We stress the importance of maintaining this positive momentum to deliver tangible benefits for businesses, workers and citizens, particularly in a context of geopolitical instability and economic uncertainty.

The DAGs underline that as institutionalised representatives of organised civil society, we must play a structured and meaningful role in all initiatives affecting the implementation and evolution of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), including negotiations of subsequent agreements, given that these rely on the architecture of the TCA as their foundation.

We call on negotiators to conclude meaningful and beneficial negotiations on a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement, the linking of the Emissions Trading Systems, as well as on a Youth Experience Scheme, and advance the remaining elements contained within the Common Understanding, particularly those on business mobility, touring artists and cultural exchanges We welcome the UK's participation in Erasmus+ and the opening of negotiations on the UK's participation in the EU electricity market. These are important steps to strengthen cooperation between like-minded partners, support competitiveness, innovation and reduce barriers. The renewed agenda could help mitigate the negative impact of rising costs for business, particularly for SMEs, and citizens, while supporting high standards, including non-regression in areas such as decarbonisation, animal welfare, workers' rights and consumer protection.

Enhanced regulatory cooperation is needed to address non-tariff barriers. This includes making full use of TCA mechanisms and closer coordination in areas such as forced labour, digital regulation, business mobility, financial services, emerging technologies, medical technologies, human health, environment, industrial policies and maritime transport. Closer cooperation reflects the interlinkage of EU-UK supply chains and the shared interest in reducing critical dependencies. We continue, therefore, to call for a mutually agreed solution to Rules of Origin for electrified vehicles to ensure the TCA delivers both in spirit and practice the growth opportunities of the green industrial transition.

We remind the EU and the UK, as like-minded partners and facing shared geopolitical challenges, to reaffirm their commitment to the principles of free, fair and sustainable trade and multilateral trade rules of the World Trade Organisation. The EU and the UK should work together to uphold international high standards in labour rights, environmental protection, climate policy and responsible business conduct. Greater co-ordination on economic security measures will help deliver growth and prosperity for all in these uncertain times. Therefore, we take note that the definition of European Preference contained within the EU's recently published Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA) would include trusted partners like the UK. However, it is important that this definition of European Preference applies to all sectors.

We also underline the importance of addressing the unique situation on the island of Ireland and ensuring the early, effective and practical implementation of the Windsor Framework and full respect for Article 2 commitments on non-diminution of rights, safeguards and equality of opportunity in Northern Ireland. While separate from the TCA, we welcome the Agreement between the EU and the UK in respect of Gibraltar for preventing a hard border with Spain.

Looking ahead to the 2026 EU–UK Summit and the due review of the TCA, the DAGs call for clear and measurable deliverables. Progress in aligning EU and UK standards under the 2025 Common Understanding should continue. The parties should also consider closer regulatory cooperation in other sectors, including chemicals and pharmaceuticals, as well as on mutually high labour and environmental standards and other areas of shared understanding, and ensure our meaningful role as DAGs in the implementation and future developments of the TCA.

Brussels, 12 November 2026