



## CHINA - MEASURES CONCERNING TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES

### REQUEST TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS

#### *Communication from the United Kingdom*

The following communication, dated 10 February 2022, from the delegation of the United Kingdom to the delegation of China, and the delegation of the European Union, is circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

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Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes ("DSU"), the United Kingdom notifies the Government of the People's Republic of China ("China") of its desire to join the consultations requested by the European Union ("EU") in *China – Measures Concerning Trade in Goods and Services* (WT/DS610/1).<sup>1</sup> These consultations concern China's measures affecting importation of goods from, and the exportation of goods to, the EU, and affecting trade in services between the EU and China.

The United Kingdom has a substantial trade interest in these consultations as a major trading partner with China.<sup>2</sup> These consultations relate to a set of measures that appear to constitute a targeted restriction of trade in goods and services between China and Lithuania, and which disrupt supply chains throughout the EU. The United Kingdom has significant concerns about these measures. Any further proliferation of these practices is likely to have a substantial adverse impact on the United Kingdom's commercial interests.

Moreover, the United Kingdom has a systemic interest in the proper interpretation and application of the relevant provisions cited in the EU's consultation request.

As a result, the United Kingdom respectfully requests that it be permitted to join the consultations in this dispute. In accordance with the rights and obligations of WTO Members under Article 4.11 of the DSU, the United Kingdom looks forward to receiving your reply.

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<sup>1</sup> The consultations are requested pursuant to Articles 1 and 4 of the DSU, in conjunction with Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("GATT 1994"), Article 24.8 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement ("TFA"), Article 11 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures ("SPS Agreement") and Article XXII of the General Agreement on Trade in Services ("GATS").

<sup>2</sup> The value of trade in goods and services between the United Kingdom and China was £82.9 billion in 2020, amounting to 7% of all the United Kingdom's trade. In 2020, 4% of UK exports of goods and services were to China and 9% of UK imports of goods and services were from China.