



2 February 2021

(21-0881)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Regional Trade Agreements
Council for Trade in Services

Original: English

NOTIFICATION OF REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENT

1. Member(s) notifying: The-United Kingdom ("the UK") and the European Union ("EU")
2. Date of notification: 29 January 2021
3. Notification pursuant to <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Article XXIV:7(a) of GATT 1994 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Article V:7(a) of GATS <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph 4(a) of the Enabling Clause
4. Parties to the Agreement: The European Union and European Atomic Energy Community of the one part; and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the other part.
5. Date of signature: 30 December 2020
6. Date(s) of entry into Force: 01 January 2021 (provisionally applied)
7. Brief description of the Agreement: The previous trading relationship between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("the UK") and the (other) Member States of the European Union ("the EU") was previously governed by arrangements encompassed by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty on European Union. The UK ceased to be a Member State of the EU on 1 February 2020 (00.00 Central European Time) pursuant to the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement agreed between the UK and EU on 17 October 2019. The Withdrawal Agreement established a transition period between the UK and the EU, which concluded on 31 December 2020. On 24 December 2020, the EU and the UK agreed the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement ("the Agreement") establishing a free trade area between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland which replaces the previous trading arrangement from 1 January 2021. The Agreement establishes a free trade area in goods between the United Kingdom and the European Union, within the meaning of Article XXIV:8(b) of the GATT 1994, and for trade in services, an agreement within the meaning of Article V of the GATS. Provisions on trade in goods include provisions on rules of origin, preferential tariffs and other restrictive regulations of commerce. It also includes commitments concerning trade in services, and also covers other aspects of the bilateral relationship, such as public procurement, aviation, energy, road transport, social security cooperation and law enforcement cooperation. The trade preferences within this Agreement sit alongside those preferences applied by virtue of the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement, which that Agreement establishes as being applicable as from 1 January 2021 (in relation to goods placed on the market prior to 1 January 2021, and by virtue of other special arrangements including those provided by the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland and the Protocol on Sovereign Base Areas).

8. Text and related schedules, annexes and protocols are:

submitted to the WTO Secretariat (electronic format)

The full Trade and Cooperation Agreement is available from the following official Internet links:

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22020A1231\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22020A1231(01)&from=EN)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union>

The full text of the Withdrawal Agreement, and associated Protocols, is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-withdrawal-agreement-and-political-declaration>

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1580206007232&uri=CELEX%3A12019W/TXT%2802%29>