

First Meeting of the Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation: Minutes

Virtual | UK Host | 13 October 2021 | 13:00 to 15:00 BST / 14:00 to 16:00 CEST

1. Welcome and introductions

The co-chairs welcomed each other, and all attendees, to the first Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation. Both Parties adopted the agenda as published.

2. Working arrangement and functioning of the Committee

Both Parties acknowledged that the Rules of Procedure, set out in Annex 1 of the of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), would apply to the Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation, and noted the scope of the Committee as set out in Article 8 of the TCA and in the Good Regulatory Practice and Regulatory Cooperation (GRPRC) chapter of the TCA.

The Parties agreed to meet annually and expressed their openness to discuss informally during the year.

Both sides agreed the functions of the committee as set out in Article 352 of the GRPRC Title, Title 10, in the Trade Heading (heading 1) of Part 2 of the Agreement.

Both sides exchanged information on ongoing examples of cooperative activities in other specialised committees and noted that there were not ongoing regulatory cooperation activities as such. Whilst the Parties welcomed this work, they also expressed their intent to avoid duplication between committees.

3. Update on domestic processes

Both Parties talked through their respective consultations on Better Regulation. Both sides welcomed an informal discussion on the conclusions and updates to the UK's regulatory reform at an appropriate point in the process. The UK also indicated that this consultation does not apply to devolved legislation. The EU then provided an update on the key elements of its Better Regulation Communication.

The UK also highlighted the importance of agile regulation to keep pace with new technologies and gave examples of how the UK Government is facilitating that through the Regulatory Horizons Council, Agile Nations Network and The Regulators' Pioneers Fund. The EU also reflected on its own work on horizon scanning to promote innovation. Both sides expressed their openness to share their practices in this area.

The Committee then progressed onto an exchange of views on UK and EU practices with "early information on planned regulatory measures" as stipulated in Article 345 of the GRPRC Chapter.

The UK explained that the UK Parliament considers and passes legislation that is not devolved or applies only to England. It outlines primary legislation in the Queen's

Speech which is delivered for each parliament. This is supported by more detailed supplementary material posted online on the principal government website (gov.uk). The UK also highlighted that the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive follow a very similar approach to publishing planned regulatory measures that relate to areas of devolved competence in line with their respective Programme(s) for Government.

The EU explained that the European Commission describes all planned major regulatory measures and initiatives in its annual work programme, which is available on its website to ensure early warning and raise awareness about regulatory developments at the EU level. The EU noted that the work programme was due to be published the following week.

4. Wrap up and conclusions

Both sides agreed that the next committee for regulatory cooperation should take place in approximately one year.

Annex 1 – Participants of the First Meeting of the Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation

UK Delegation (18)

- UK Co-chair of the Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation
- UK Government Officials from BEIS, Cabinet Office and the Department of International Trade
- UK Mission to the European Union Official
- Scottish Government Officials
- Northern Ireland Executive Official
- Welsh Government Officials

EU Delegation (39)

- EU Co-chair of the Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation
- European Commission Officials
- Delegation of the European Union to the UK
- Representatives of EU Member States