

Trade Specialised Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, 15 October 2021

Meeting Minutes and Operational Conclusions

1. & 2. Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda & Working arrangements and functioning of the Trade Specialised Committee on TBT

- The co-chairs adopted the agenda as published. Both Parties acknowledged that the Rules of Procedure, as per Annex 1 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) would apply to the Trade Specialised Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT TSC) and noted the scope of the TBT TSC as set out in Article 89.
- The Parties noted the designation and notification of contact points as per Article 99.
- The Parties noted that, in accordance with Article 9(4) of the TCA, the Working Groups shall set their own rules of procedure. The Parties will have a follow up discussion on elaborating the Rules of Procedure for the different Working Groups foreseen by the TCA.
- The Parties noted the annual frequency of the TBT TSC.

3. Marking and Labelling

- The UK presented an overview of the UK's new regime for goods, setting out the requirements and key changes for businesses placing goods on the GB market.
- The UK proposed continued practical engagement with the EU and Member States to support businesses in placing goods on the UK market, of which the EU took note.
- The EU presented an overview of requirements for placing goods subject to the new legislative framework on the EU market, including recent developments, such as EU Regulation 2019/1020.

4. Green hydrogen standards

- The EU gave an update on EU policy developments that affect hydrogen standards, noting the Energy Specialised Committee that was held in July 2021.
- The UK gave an update on the ongoing UK consultation on a low carbon hydrogen standard, noting that the deadline for comments was 25 October 2021.

5. Motor vehicles and equipment and parts thereof

- The UK gave an update on UK priorities in this area associated with Annex 11 of the TCA, including automated vehicle technology, improvement of road safety and security, in addition to environmental improvements via the development of harmonised technical regulations at the UNECE.
- The UK stated its readiness to implement Annex 11 Article 9 and convene the first Working Group on motor vehicles and parts.
- The EU took note of the UK's intervention on this point.

6. Medicinal products

- The UK gave an update on UK priorities in this area associated with Annex 12 of the TCA, including cooperation on regulatory matters regarding COVID-19, promoting Good Manufacturing Practices and increased use of real-world evidence and phase four trials. The UK also stated its readiness to implement Annex 12 Article 12 and convene the first meeting of the Working Group on medicines in Q1 of 2022.
- The EU took note of the UK's intervention on this point.

7. Organic products

- The EU gave an update on the EU legislative framework for organic products associated with Annex 14 of the TCA, noting that the EU had taken all the necessary steps to implement the organics equivalence agreed under said Annex.
- The UK gave an update on the UK legislative framework for organic products and priorities associated with Annex 14 of the TCA, including the Organics (equivalence and Control Bodies Listing) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.
- The UK stated its readiness to implement Annex 14 Article 8 and convene the first meeting of the organic products Working Group.
- The EU took note of the UK's intervention on this point.

8. Chemicals

- The EU gave an update on 3 new chemicals restrictions that were added to Annex XVII of the REACH regulation and other recent developments.
- The UK gave an update on the UK chemicals legislative framework.
- The UK stated its readiness to make the Chemicals Annex work in practice and to hold technical meetings between experts to address matters relevant to businesses.
- The EU took note of the UK's intervention on this point.

9. Trade in wine

- The EU confirmed that it had taken all the necessary steps to implement Article 3(1) of Annex 15 of the TCA in relation to the simplified VI-1 certificate applying to imports of GB wine in the EU.
- The UK gave an update on certification requirements for wine entering Great Britain from the EU; clarification on UK labelling rules on wine; and UK priorities associated with Annex 15 of the TCA. The UK confirmed its intention to remove its domestic requirement for VI-1 wine certification from 1 January 2022.
- The UK requested to continue technical meetings between experts to address matters relevant to businesses.
- The EU took note of the UK's intervention on this point.

10. EU-UK information exchange on the safety of non-food products: EU Safety Gate–UK product safety database

- The EU provided an overview of the progress of the information sharing arrangement between the respective market surveillance databases, as foreseen in Article 96(4), Annex 16 of the TCA, noting the preliminary understanding (at technical level) on the proposed scope of the information exchange and related legal provisions.
- The UK confirmed the progress noting, however, disappointment that the UK and EU had not met the TCA's 6-month best endeavours provision to set up this arrangement for information exchange.

11. AOB

- The EU raised the issue of conformity assessment body (CAB) capacity in the UK in general, and specifically for the pyrotechnics and construction sectors.
- The UK confirmed that it is working with its accreditation body (UKAS) in order to expand the capacity of its CABs. On pyrotechnics specifically, a new EU CAB is now allowed to certify for the UK market.

Annex 1: Participants of the First Meeting of the Trade Specialised Committee on TBT

UK Delegation (38)

- UK Co-chair of the Trade Specialised Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade
- UK Government Officials from BEIS, Cabinet Office, Defra, HSE, DfT, DHSC, DIT
- UK Mission to the European Union Officials
- Scottish Government Officials
- Northern Ireland Executive Official
- Welsh Government Officials

EU Delegation (48)

- EU Co-chair of the Trade Specialised Committee on Technical Barrier to Trade
- EU Officials from SG, DGs TRADE, GROW, AGRI, JUST, SANTE, ENER
- Delegation Officials of EU to the UK
- EU Member States