

Current and future talks with the UK

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1. Short recap

Recap: the UK as an EU member state: up until 31/01/2020

As one might expect:

- **Member** of EU decision-making bodies (Council, Commission, Parliament,...)
- **Responsibilities vis-à-vis the EU:** contribution to the EU budget, customs procedures at EU border...

➔ 24/1/2020: 'Withdrawal Agreement'



Recap: the UK during the 'transition period': 1/2/2020 – 31/12/2020

Altered and temporary relationship with the EU – managed by the '**Withdrawal Agreement**':

- **Not a member** of EU decision-making bodies (Council, Commission, Parliament,...) anymore
- **Responsibilities vis-à-vis the EU**: contribution to the EU budget, customs procedures at EU border... **remain**

Gain? 'frictionless' trade with the EU + time to negotiate

 24/12/2020: EU-UK TCA



2. Present day

EU-UK relationship as from 1/1/2021

EU-UK relationship as from 1/1/2021

- **Provisional** application of the EU-UK TCA
- EU-UK **FTA** = only one **part of a broader EU-UK relationship**

Several talks are ongoing simultaneously:

Data flows ↔ MoU Financial Services ↔ Police and Judicial
coop ↔ ... ↔ **Trade: EU-UK FTA implementation**

- **!** The Withdrawal Agreement is still in force



Current EU-UK relationship: a 3 pillar structure

Withdrawal Agreement ↔ EU-UK TCA ↔ 'Technical issues'

- In general: Withdrawal Agreement and TCA: binding commitments and stringent governance structure, other 'technical issues' are 'more loosely' managed



3. In focus: the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Inter EU-UK governance

The TCA's governance structure

Leader's meeting (***HSG level***)



Partnership Council (***Minister's level***)



SPS Comm. ↔ Fisheries Comm. ↔ Market Access Comm. ↔
Energy Comm. ↔ Social Security Comm. ↔ Air Transport Comm.

↔ (***Technical level – PR Reps and national experts***)

+ working groups



In the news: WA's Specialised Committee on Ireland and Northern Ireland Protocol: issues

- **Special arrangements** for NI to avoid 'hard border' on Isle of Ireland = customs checks between Isle of Ireland and Great Britain (Irish Sea)
- Current hold ups:
 - building border posts in NI ('Troubles')
 - Unilateral extension of 'grace period' for checks by the UK on goods traded between NI and GB (eg. Supermarkets,...)
 - **Infringement procedure** started by the EU – consultation process

Postponement of European Parliament's vote on the

 **TCA**



4. In focus: the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Intra EU governance

EU governance structure for EU-UK TCA

- Normally, EU FTA's are managed by the Council's **'Trade Policy Committee'**



- **UK = 'special partnership'** (= large economy next door) → separate governance structure?

- TPC vs. WPUK
- **BE governance:** coordination by FPS Foreign Affairs, expert input by FPS Economy, Regions, a.o.



5. Future EU-UK talks

The new EU-UK relationship: a never ending story...

- The new relationship between the EU and the UK is **not carved in stone** but should be **'managed'/'governed'**
- Governance structure **depending on the subject**



6. In focus: future EU-UK talks with regard to the EU-UK TCA

Future EU-UK talks with regard to the EU-UK TCA

- TCA contains '**review clauses**' and '**arbitration panels**'
- Various committees established by the TCA will **follow up on the correct implementation and application of the Agreement**
- General structure: five years after the entry into force of the Agreement (and **every five years** thereafter): **global review** of the implementation of the Agreement and supplementing agreements
- Virtually all specialised Committees will meet for the first time somewhere in 2021



Future EU-UK talks with regard to the EU-UK TCA

Several chapters under regular review as well:

- **Fisheries:** agreement on quotas until 2026 and yearly negotiations from 2027 onwards
- **Energy:** agreement until 2026 and yearly negotiations from 2027 onwards
- **Rules of origin:** 'review not before 2023 on duty drawback'
- ...



Thank you

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