Basic information

2020/0382(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
EU/Euratom/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and EU/UK Agreement concerning security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information **Subject** 1.20.09 Protection of privacy and data protection 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.40 Relations with third countries 7.30 Police, judicial and customs cooperation in general **Geographical area** United Kingdom	

Key players

European Parliament

Joint committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	SCHIEDER Andreas (S&D)	07/01/2021
INTA International Trade	HANSEN Christophe (EPP)	07/01/2021

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	Chair on behalf of committee TOBÉ Tomas (EPP)	27/01/2021
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CONT Budgetary Control	HOHLMEIER Monika (EPP)	26/01/2021
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	Chair on behalf of committee TINAGLI Irene (S&D)	13/01/2021
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	Chair on behalf of committee ĎURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ Lucia (ECR)	03/09/2019
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Chair on behalf of committee CANFIN Pascal (Renew)	04/01/2021

ITRE	Industry, Research and Energy	Chair on behalf of committee BUŞOI Cristian-Silviu (EPP)	01/12/2020
IMCO	Internal Market and Consumer Protection	Chair on behalf of committee CAVAZZINI Anna (Greens /EFA)	05/01/2021
TRAN	Transport and Tourism	DANIELSSON Johan (S&D)	11/01/2021
REGI	Regional Development	ARIMONT Pascal (EPP)	14/01/2021
AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development	Chair on behalf of committee LINS Norbert (EPP)	26/01/2021
PECH	Fisheries	BELLAMY François-Xavier (EPP)	12/01/2021
CULT	Culture and Education	Chair on behalf of committee VERHEYEN Sabine (EPP)	11/01/2021
JURI	Legal Affairs	Chair on behalf of committee VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA Adrián (Renew)	11/01/2021
LIBE	Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	LÓPEZ AGUILAR Juan Fernando (S&D)	11/01/2021
AFCO	Constitutional Affairs	TAJANI Antonio (EPP)	27/01/2021
FEMM	Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PETI	Petitions	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Secretariat-General	-- --
Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom	-- --

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/12/2020	Preparatory document	COM(2020)0856	Summary
09/02/2021	Legislative proposal published	05022/2021	
08/03/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/03/2021	Referral to joint committee announced in Parliament		
15/04/2021	Vote in committee		
22/04/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0128/2021	
27/04/2021	Debate in Parliament		
28/04/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0140/2021	Summary
29/04/2021	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
30/04/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/0382(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 59 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p7 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 217 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p8-a2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CJ38/9/05027

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Specific opinion	CULT	PE663.293	27/01/2021	
Specific opinion	JURI	PE680.762	27/01/2021	
Specific opinion	IMCO	PE663.092	28/01/2021	
Committee draft report		PE663.189	28/01/2021	
Specific opinion	TRAN	PE663.378	28/01/2021	
Specific opinion	ENVI	PE663.382	28/01/2021	
Specific opinion	DEVE	PE680.777	28/01/2021	

Specific opinion	REGI	PE680.726	01/02/2021	
Specific opinion	ITRE	PE680.745	01/02/2021	
Specific opinion	EMPL	PE680.832	01/02/2021	
Specific opinion	ECON	PE680.760	02/02/2021	
Specific opinion	PECH	PE680.808	04/02/2021	
Specific opinion	AFCO	PE680.870	04/02/2021	
Specific opinion	CONT	PE680.830	05/02/2021	
Specific opinion	LIBE	PE680.848	05/02/2021	
Specific opinion	AGRI	PE680.932	08/02/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0128/2021	22/04/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0140/2021	28/04/2021	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	05022/2021	09/02/2021	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2020)0855	25/12/2020	
Preparatory document	COM(2020)0856	25/12/2020	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2024)0127	21/03/2024	
Commission document (COM)	COM(2025)0016	28/01/2025	
Follow-up document	COM(2025)0149	04/04/2025	
Follow-up document	COM(2026)0166	21/04/2026	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EDPS	Document attached to the procedure	N9-0021/2021 OJ C 168 05.05.2021, p. 0002	22/02/2021	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Decision 2021/0689 OJ L 149 30.04.2021, p. 0002

EU/Euratom/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and EU/UK Agreement concerning security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information

2020/0382(NLE) - 25/12/2020 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude the EU/Euratom/United Kingdom Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the EU/United Kingdom Agreement on security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: on 30 January 2020, following the approval of the European Parliament, the Council adopted Decision (EU) 2020/135 on the conclusion of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community. The withdrawal agreement entered into force on 1 February 2020 and provides for a transitional period during which Union law applies to the United Kingdom and on its territory in accordance with the agreement. This period will end on 31 December 2020.

On 25 February 2020, the Council adopted Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/266 authorising the opening of negotiations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on a new partnership agreement. The Commission was appointed as the Union's negotiator.

On 24 December 2020, negotiations were concluded and the Parties agreed on the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and on the Agreement on security procedures for the exchange of classified information and its protection.

CONTENT: the draft Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Security of Information Agreement fully respect the Treaties and preserve the integrity and the autonomy of the Union legal order. These agreements will not require the EU to amend its rules, regulations or standards in any regulated area. They promote the values, objectives, and interests of the Union, and ensure the consistency, effectiveness and continuity of its policies and actions.

The envisaged partnership is based on the recognition of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, as well as the fight against climate change and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Failure to comply with any of these essential elements shall entitle the Parties to terminate or suspend the application of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement or any supplementary agreement, in whole or in part. The Parties also affirm their willingness to ensure a high level of protection of personal data.

The draft Trade and Cooperation Agreement consists of three main pillars:

Comprehensive and balanced free trade agreement

The draft agreement:

- covers not just trade in goods and services, but also a broad range of other areas in the EU's interest, such as investment, competition, State aid, tax transparency, air and road transport, energy and sustainability, fisheries, data protection, and social security coordination;

- provides for zero tariffs and zero quotas on all goods that comply with the appropriate rules of origin;

- ensures a strong level playing field: all imports from the UK should comply with EU rules and regulations (e.g. technical rules and product standards, sanitary and phytosanitary rules, food and safety regulations, health and safety standards, environmental and consumer protection rules);

- establishes a new framework for the joint management of fish stocks in their respective waters;

- ensures a number of rights of EU citizens and UK nationals. This concerns EU citizens working in, travelling or moving to the UK and to UK nationals working in, travelling or moving to the EU after 1st January 2021;

- enables the UK's continued participation in a number of flagship EU programmes for the period 2021-2027 (subject to a financial contribution by the UK to the EU budget), such as Horizon Europe.

A new partnership for security

The draft agreement establishes a framework for law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters. It recognises the need for close cooperation between national law enforcement and judicial authorities and EU agencies and bodies, in particular as regards the fight against and prosecution of cross-border crime and terrorism. It respects the status of the United Kingdom as a non-member of the EU outside the Schengen area.

Police and judicial cooperation is based on guarantees of respect for democracy and the rule of law, and effective protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals, including those enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights. There are specific provisions on the suspension of cooperation in the event of serious and systemic failures in the implementation of any of these safeguards, as well as a specific dispute settlement mechanism.

A horizontal agreement on governance

The governance provisions clarify how the Trade and Cooperation Agreement should be implemented and monitored.

The Agreement provides for the possibility for the Parties to take swift, autonomous and operational measures to protect their interests, in particular in the areas of the level playing field (i.e. rebalancing measures, remedial measures) and fisheries (i.e. compensatory measures, remedial measures), as well as, more generally, in cases of serious economic, societal or environmental difficulties of a sectorial or regional nature.

The Partnership Council, composed of representatives of the Union and the United Kingdom at ministerial level, should monitor the implementation of the agreement.

Security for the exchange of information

The draft supplementary agreement on security procedures for the exchange of classified information and its protection sets out rules and modalities for the exchange of classified and unclassified sensitive information. It guarantees the secure treatment of sensitive information, based on the principle of the originator's consent prior to the release of the information exchanged.

EU/Euratom/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and EU/UK Agreement concerning security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information

2020/0382(NLE) - 28/04/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 660 votes, to 5 with 32 abstentions, a European Parliament legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, and of the Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information.

Following the recommendation of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the International Trade Committee, Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the agreement.

On 24 December 2020, EU and UK negotiators concluded the Trade and Cooperation Agreement setting out the terms of future EU-UK cooperation. The agreement sets out the rules for the future relationship between the EU and the UK.

Parliament adopted a parallel resolution on the outcome of the EU-UK negotiations.