

EU-UK institutional framework

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Introduction

This document is a brief overview of the EU-UK institutional framework put in place following the Brexit; it is extracted from the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement [TCA].

The framework is quite comprehensive: a common institution (Partnership Council) with Secretariat, Rules of Procedure, and a plethora of committees and working groups; flexible mechanisms allowing non-presencial functioning through written procedures and teleconferences; even a mini-parliament (Parliamentary Partnership Assembly). It looks like the EU-UK are going into a *continuous negotiation mode*.

Schema

Partnership Council

Secretariat of the Partnership Council

Trade Partnership Committee

Trade Specialised Committee on Goods

Trade Specialised Committee on Customs Cooperation and Rules of Origin

Trade Specialised Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Trade Specialised Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Working Group on Organic Products

Working Group on Motor Vehicles and Parts

Working Group on Medicinal Products

Trade Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital Trade

Trade Specialised Committee on Public Procurement

Trade Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation

Trade Specialised Committee on Administrative Cooperation in VAT and Recovery of Taxes and Duties

Specialised Committee on Energy

Specialised Committee on Air Transport

Specialised Committee on Road Transport

Specialised Committee on Social Security Coordination

Working Group on Social Security Coordination

Specialised Committee on Fisheries

Specialised Committee on Law Enforcement and Judicial Cooperation

Specialised Committee on Participation in Union Programmes

Parliamentary Partnership Assembly

Civil Society Forum

Partnership Council

The Council is the main body of the institutional framework. The main characteristics are:

- Co-chaired: a Member of the European Commission and UK ministerial level representative.
- Each co-chair represents its respective governments.
- Decisions by mutual consent of the co-chairs.
- Representatives of the EU and the UK.
- Power to change the TCA during the first four years.
- It cannot modify the institutional framework.
- Governed by its own Rules of Procedure; it can amend them.
- Different configurations depending on the matters.
- Meet at the request of the EU or the UK.

- Meet at least once a year.
- Meetings alternately in Brussels and London; it can be changed by common agreement.
- Agenda by mutual consent.
- Meets might be public.
- Provisional agendas are public before the meeting.
- Minutes of the meetings will be public.
- Between meetings, adopt decisions or recommendations by written procedure.
- The official languages are the official languages of the EU and the UK.
- The working language is English.

Secretariat of the Partnership Council

The Secretariat is the main administrative entity. The main characteristics are:

- Composed of an official of the EU and an official of the UK *{like co-secretary generals}*.
- Draft provisional meeting agendas.
- Convened meetings as agreed by the co-chairs.
- Postbox for the correspondence addressed to the Council from the EU and UK.
- Document administration.
- Perform the tasks as per the Rules of Procedure.

Parliamentary Partnership Assembly

The Assembly may be established by the European Parliament and the Parliament of the UK consisting of Members of the European Parliament and of Members of the Parliament of the UK, as a forum to exchange views on the partnership. The main characteristics are:

- Request information to Council that has to fulfil.
- Be informed of the decisions and recommendations of the Council.
- Make recommendations to the Partnership Council.

Civil Society Forum

Forum to consult the society at large in the EU and UK.

References

[TCA] 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
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/draft_eu-uk_trade_and_cooperation_agreement.pdf