



# Department for International Trade

**Ranil Jayawardena MP**  
**Minister for International Trade**

King Charles Street  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AH

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [jayawardena.correspondence@trade.gov.uk](mailto:jayawardena.correspondence@trade.gov.uk)  
W [gov.uk](http://gov.uk)

Angus Brendan MacNeil MP  
International Trade Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

By email to: [trade.com@parliament.uk](mailto:trade.com@parliament.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Angus,

I hope you are well at this challenging time for us all.

I am writing to you as Chairman of the International Trade Committee because I wanted you to know that I have laid legislation before the House of Commons today to make sure that the Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) is able to transition EU trade remedies measures to our sovereign system, following the conclusion of the transition period.

This legislation, the Trade Remedies (Amendment) (EU Exit) (No.2) Regulations 2020, is due to come into effect on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and has two main effects, which are set out below.

## Trade Remedies

Firstly, allow me to provide some background. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) allows its members to take action to protect domestic industries against injury caused by unfair trading practices, such as dumping and subsidies, or unforeseen surges in imports. Where there is evidence that this is happening, countries are permitted to put measures in place to remedy the situation. Measures usually take the form of an increase of duty on imports of specific products following an investigation.

## Transition of EU measures

My Department has been engaging extensively with the British steel industry throughout the development of the United Kingdom's sovereign trade remedies system. In these discussions, the industry has stated that they have a clear interest in maintaining the current European safeguard measures on certain steel products (as implemented originally by Regulation (EU) 2019/159).

We have listened. That's why we have decided to transition the relevant safeguard measures, as they stand on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. As with all transitioned measures, they will be subject to a transition review to make sure that the measure is based on data specific to the United Kingdom, rather than EU-wide data.

## Trade Remedies (Amendment) (EU Exit) (No.2) Regulations 2020

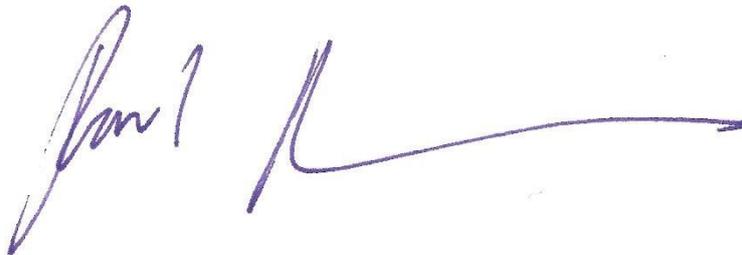
The first effect of the new legislation is, therefore, to allow for the duration of steel safeguard measures to be extended following a transition review. This was not previously permitted by our legislation and there was a risk that this would result in the United Kingdom being unable to extend the measures, if necessary, at the end of the current term. It will be for TRID to decide when the transition review on the steel safeguard measures will be initiated.

Secondly, the legislation allows TRID to carry out new investigations into goods that the Commission is already investigating. This addresses a possible gap in protection for British businesses. Where an ongoing Commission investigation has resulted in the application of provisional measures these measures will cease to apply in the United Kingdom after 31<sup>st</sup> December. By allowing investigations to be initiated before the end of the transition period, we will be able to put provisional measures in place after 31<sup>st</sup> December. For reference, the European Union is currently running the following investigations into steel products:

- Anti-dumping investigation into stainless steel hot-rolled flat products from China, Taiwan and Indonesia – initiated 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019 (AD658)
- Anti-subsidy investigation into stainless steel hot-rolled flat products from China and Indonesia, initiated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (AS660)
- Anti-dumping investigation into hot rolled flat products from Turkey, initiated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (AD665)
- Anti-subsidy investigation into hot rolled flat products from Turkey, initiated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (AS667)

I hope that this timely notice is helpful to you and, as ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be of further assistance in this – or any other – matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ranil Jayawardena', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**RANIL JAYAWARDENA MP**  
Minister for International Trade