Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

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Baroness Donaghy CBE FRSA
Chair of the EU Services Sub-Committee
House of Lords
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Dear Baroness Donaghy,

Thank you for your letter of 3 August. I very much agree with your points concerning the economic and societal value to the UK of our world-leading creative industries. Securing the best possible arrangements with the EU and other trading partners, and promoting the sector within the UK remain high priorities for my Department. In order to provide you with as comprehensive an update as possible, I have provided answers to your questions on the themes below.

As you are aware, negotiations with the EU are ongoing. This means I am limited in the information I can provide you at this stage due to the final arrangements being subject to the result of negotiations. We have agreed an addendum to the Terms of Reference on the UK-EU future relationship negotiation which provides for two full negotiating rounds in September (w/c 7 September: London; w/c 28 September: Brussels), in addition to the Brussels round in w/c 17 August. To accompany and complement the negotiating rounds, both sides' Chief Negotiators, and their teams, will meet as necessary in a more restricted format to ensure progress in the negotiations. Specialised sessions may also work under their authority on issues of particular difficulty in the negotiations to ensure that parallel progress is achieved across all workstreams. These will take place as necessary in late August and September.

Negotiations on Audio-Visual Services

The UK's proposal provides clarity for the audiovisual sector and will support trade between our two markets. Our approach respects both parties' right to regulate, and allows both parties to provide protections for their respective independent policy frameworks. However regarding audiovisual services, we cannot comment on the specific detail of individual topics of discussion whilst negotiations are still ongoing.

European Works

The UK's European Works status will continue to apply to audio-visual works originating in the UK after we leave the EU, as we will continue to be party to the European Convention on Transfrontier Television (ECTT).

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Mobility

The Government recognises the importance that activities such as touring for the music and theatre industries, or attending shows for the fashion industry, have in the creative and cultural sectors. Whilst we are not pursuing a visa of the kind proposed in your letter, we are seeking a reciprocal agreement that could allow UK citizens to undertake some business activities in the EU without a work permit, on a short-term basis. We are unable to comment on the detail of these arrangements as discussions are ongoing.

From 1 January 2021, EU and non-EU citizens will be treated equally under our domestic immigration system, meaning EU citizens who wish to come to the UK to work will need permission. Nevertheless, we will continue with our generous visitor provisions but with simplified rules and guidance. Indeed, we expect to treat EU citizens as non-visa nationals for the purposes of tourism and holidays after the end of the transition period, meaning they can come to the UK as visitors for six months without the need to obtain a visa. The EU has already legislated such that it will apply its existing rules on visa-free short-term visits to UK nationals travelling to and within the Schengen area after the end of the transition period. UK nationals will not need a visa when travelling to and within the Schengen area for short stays of up to 90 days in a rolling 180-day period, when travelling for purposes such as tourism, to visit friends or family or indeed to attend cultural or sports events or exchanges.

Creative Europe

The Government is considering participation in certain EU programmes, as set out in the Approach to Negotiations document published in February. While the Government has taken the decision not to seek participation in Creative Europe's 2021-27 programme, we remain committed to supporting the UK's thriving cultural and creative economy. Officials are developing options for domestic alternatives to Creative Europe, which will be considered in line with upcoming fiscal events including the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Government provides a wide range of support to the cultural and creative sectors every year. In response to the coronavirus outbreak, we have supported the film and broadcasting sectors through a new £500m scheme to support domestic film and TV productions struggling to get coronavirus-related insurance. The wider cultural, heritage and museums sectors are benefiting from the largest single cultural support package in this country's history, with £1.57bn to support the sectors through the crisis, to ensure we preserve our world class offer.

Engagement with the Creative Industries Sectors

Officials in DCMS and BEIS regularly engage with representatives across the creative industries, including on the policy areas above. This engagement will continue where policy decisions are yet to be determined, and we will keep the sector informed of changes that creative and cultural businesses and professionals will need to make following the outcome of negotiations.

I trust this will assist your scrutiny of negotiations with the EU concerning the creative industries, and I can provide further information as negotiations progress.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport