



Department for International Trade

The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2DY

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

T +44 (0) 020 4551 0011
E Badenoch.Correspondence@trade.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

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Dear Angus,

Call for Input – Enhanced Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with South Korea

I am writing to inform you and your committee that today, I will be launching a public Call for Input on an enhanced Free Trade Agreement with South Korea. The Call for Input can be found [here](#). I will also be laying a Written Ministerial Statement today to update colleagues.

The Call for Input will give businesses, public sector bodies, individuals, and other interested stakeholders the opportunity to provide valuable feedback and highlight their priorities for a closer trading partnership with South Korea.

The UK has set its sights on the next generation of trade deals to secure closer economic ties with major economies of today and tomorrow. A bespoke deal with South Korea will secure greater access for British goods and services, opening significant new opportunities for UK businesses by boosting trade with South Korea, which was worth £14.3 billion in 2021. This will further develop the UK's status as a world leader in digital and services trade, delivering benefits throughout the UK.

The UK's current trading relationship is based on the 2011 EU-South Korea agreement, which after a further negotiation, formed the basis of the UK-Korea trade agreement on 01/01/21. While this includes provisions on trade in goods, there is scope for improvement in areas such as digital trade, enhanced climate provisions, and further support for small and medium-sized businesses. Updating the UK-South Korea agreement will give the UK the opportunity to ensure that it is modern and fit-for-purpose, meeting the needs of the UK and enhancing our bilateral trade relationship with South Korea.

The Call for Input will seek to ensure that our future FTA negotiations with South Korea are informed by the needs of stakeholders. The feedback we receive will be crucial when shaping our mandate; it will inform detailed negotiation preparation and policy positions. The Department for International Trade is committed to ensuring future FTAs and their provisions are informed by stakeholder needs and shaped by the demands of the British economy.

I am keen that the department engages with you and your committee prior to the Call for Input period closing, in line with my earlier commitment to engaging with you before mandates are finalised.

I would therefore like to offer your committee a private briefing with our negotiations team to discuss our approach and emerging objectives and take soundings from the members of the committee.

The timescales to launch negotiations with South Korea are yet to be agreed but both countries are keen to make progress and I expect negotiations to launch in the first half of next year. I will ensure that you are kept fully up to date as dates become clearer. Prior to talks commencing we will, as usual, publish our strategic approach, a response to the Call for Input and our initial scoping assessment. I will share these documents with your committee prior to publication.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kemi Badenoch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kemi" and the surname "Badenoch" clearly distinguishable.

THE RT HON KEMI BADENOCH MP

Secretary of State for International Trade & President of the Board of Trade