



Department for
Business & Trade

Nigel Huddleston MP
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Darren Jones MP
Chair, Business and Trade Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

25 May 2023

Dear Darren,

TRADE MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE MOLDOVAN ECONOMY

The Republic of Moldova has been heavily impacted by the crisis unleashed by Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. The UK stands resolutely with Moldova and its people as they pursue their own democratic choices and offer courageous support to their neighbours in Ukraine, in the face of Russian aggression.

The UK continues to do all that it can to support our friends and allies at this time. With this in mind, and in response to a request from Moldova, the Government has come to an agreement in principle with the Government of Moldova that the UK will liberalise all remaining tariffs on imports from Moldova under the UK-Moldova Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

The liberalisation package we are delivering will assist Moldova during this crisis and support them in exporting greater volumes of goods to the UK. The agreement will see Tariff Rate Quotas on tomatoes, garlic, grapes, apples, plums, grape juice and cherries removed. The Government offered this policy on a nonreciprocal basis as part of the UK's commitment to their economic stability, with no expectation or ask of the Moldova Government in return. The liberalisation of all tariffs for imports from Moldova will be applied to the whole of the United Kingdom and the Crown Dependencies.

I am clear that we must support our Moldovan partners but have also ensured that any possible negative impact on UK industry or consumers will be mitigated. To do this, we are including a temporary safeguard measure to protect domestic industry in the event a surge of Moldovan imports cause serious injury or threat thereof. In addition, I do not propose to change our existing SPS checks and standards, mitigating any potential food safety risks.

These changes will be for an initial period of 12 months and will be kept under review. The Government will shortly lay an SI to amend our domestic legislation accordingly.

As the Government has made clear on many occasions, the United Kingdom will continue to support the region for as long as required following Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and ensure the security and prosperity of those countries impacted.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Huddleston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nigel Huddleston MP
Minister of State for International Trade
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