



Department for
Business & Trade

The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
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Department for Business and Trade

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Our ref: MCB2024/03501
Your ref: MS76345

16th May 2024

Dear Liam,

UK deposits Instrument of Accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership

I am writing to inform you that the UK plans to announce the deposit of its instrument of accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) on Friday 17 May. To mark this moment, Minister Hands will be travelling to fellow CPTPP-member Peru to coincide with the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting, where he will discuss the UK's accession with CPTPP counterparts, as well as other priority CPTPP issues.

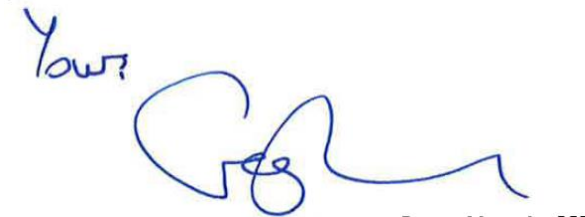
The UK had a 12-month period from the point of signature to accept the terms of the Protocol, the treaty that sets out the terms and conditions of accession of the UK to the CPTPP, by depositing an instrument of accession with New Zealand as CPTPP Depository. I am pleased to confirm that we are therefore depositing ahead of schedule.

Next Steps

With the deposit of the accession instrument the UK will have completed the key processes required to join the CPTPP. As well as the UK's own processes, the other CPTPP Parties need to complete their own respective applicable legal processes for entry into force of the Protocol. The Accession Protocol sets out that the agreement will enter into force for the UK 60 days after all Parties and the UK have each notified the CPTPP Depository. Notification would follow the completion of relevant domestic procedures. After 15 months have passed since signature (which falls in October 2024), the mechanism changes and the Protocol can enter into force 60 days after a minimum of 6 Parties and the UK have each notified. If at least 6 Parties and the UK have already notified within 15 months of signature, entry into force would take place 60 days after the October date. We therefore expect that the UK's accession should enter into force by the end of 2024.

We are delighted that Japan, Singapore and Chile have already completed their respective applicable legal processes for entry into force of the Protocol, and we welcome the support of every Party so that all our businesses and consumers can reap the rewards of the UK joining the deal as soon as possible.

I thank the committee for its engagement in our accession process to date, and I look forward to keeping you updated with future developments.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the word 'Yours' followed by a stylized signature that appears to be 'GH'.

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