



Department for
Business & Trade

The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
Minister of State for Trade Policy and
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Department for Business and Trade

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Dear Liam,

23rd May 2024

TRADE MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE MOLDOVAN ECONOMY

As a direct neighbour of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova has been significantly impacted by the ongoing war. In order to provide much needed economic support to Moldova and its businesses, in July 2023 the UK liberalised all remaining tariffs under the UK-Moldova Free Trade Agreement, for an initial one-year period. My predecessor wrote to your committee on 25 May last year following signature of that agreement.

Moldova continues to manage the impacts from the war and to resist Russian attempts to sow division and discord, and the United Kingdom continues to stand with Moldova as they face this aggression. As a part of our ongoing economic support, the UK has therefore signed an agreement with Moldova to extend the tariff liberalisation measures for an additional five years.

The liberalisation package we are delivering will continue to assist Moldova during this crisis and will give their exporters greater certainty on tariff free access to the UK market over a longer period of time. The agreement continues the removal of Tariff Rate Quotas on Moldovan tomatoes, garlic, grapes, apples, plums, grape juice and cherries. We will also continue to have the ability to apply temporary safeguard measures in the event that a surge of Moldovan imports causes, or threatens to cause, serious injury to UK domestic industry. Existing Sanitary and Phytosanitary checks will remain in place. The original liberalisation agreement was offered unilaterally to Moldova, and they do not reciprocate, and this continues under the extension. It will be applied to the whole of the United Kingdom and the Crown Dependencies.

Both the UK and Moldova will have the opportunity to review the measures ahead of their expiration in five years. In due course the Government will lay a Statutory Instrument to amend our domestic legislation accordingly.

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

I am copying this letter to the wider members of the Business and Trade Committee and my colleague, the Minister for Investment, Lord Johnson, has also written to Lord Goldsmith, Chair of the International Agreements Committee.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Hands', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

THE RT HON GREG HANDS MP
Minister of State for Trade Policy and Minister for London
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