

The Clerk of the Business and Trade Committee
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30 August 2024

Dear Clerk,

UK-Ukraine Digital Trade Agreement: Entry into force

I am writing to inform you that on Sunday 1 September 2024 the bilateral Digital Trade Agreement between the UK and Ukraine – the ‘Digital Trade Agreement Between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ukraine’ – will enter into force and become fully effective. I will also be making a written statement to the House on this matter on Monday 2 September 2024.

I am deeply committed to the role that the Department for Business and Trade can play in supporting the Ukrainian economy, both now and in the future. Greater digitalisation of the economy is a key priority for President Zelenskyy’s Government. Our DTA with Ukraine creates a digital UK-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement by modernising our bilateral trade in the digital era and deepening our economic ties with Ukraine. Trading digitally is particularly important in the current conflict, where warfare and damage to Ukrainian infrastructure makes it much harder to trade physically. Digital tools and technologies will help Ukrainians access everyday vital goods and services during the war. This agreement will boost productivity, jobs and growth, in the UK and Ukraine, and allow us to help Ukraine deliver on its digital ambitions by:

- ensuring open digital markets;
- supporting cross-border data flows;
- championing digital trading systems; and,
- upholding consumer benefits and business safeguards in digital trade.

Digital trade is a key driver of productivity and business growth. Seizing the opportunities in this area is fundamental to our prosperity. UK and Ukrainian businesses of all shapes and sizes, and across all sectors of the economy (whether trading in goods or services) will benefit from the agreement.

This agreement is emblematic of this Government's pragmatic approach to trade; using every lever to lower barriers and get to the substance of issues in the most straightforward and quickest manner, supporting our mission to secure economic growth.

With its entry into force, this agreement amends and becomes part of the existing UK-Ukraine Political, Free Trade and Strategic Partnership Agreement. My officials will continue their work to ensure its effective implementation, and that businesses and citizens in the UK and Ukraine fully benefit from it.

I hope you will join me in celebrating this exciting moment for this important agreement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" and the last name "Alexander" clearly distinguishable.

THE RT HON DOUGLAS ALEXANDER MP
Minister of State for Trade Policy and Economic Security
Department for Business and Trade