



Department for
Business & Trade



Cabinet Office

Justin Madders MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
(Minister for Employment Rights,
Competition and Markets)
Old Admiralty Building
London
SW1A 2HQ

Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for Cabinet Office
HM Paymaster General
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Lord Ricketts GCMG GCVO
Chair, European Affairs Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

5 November 2024

Dear Lord Ricketts,

Update on UK-EU Competition Cooperation Agreement

Earlier this year, the previous Government wrote to your Committee about the commencement of negotiations between the UK and EU on a Competition Cooperation Agreement. We are pleased to inform you that we have now concluded technical negotiations with the European Commission.

As noted in the previous letter, the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement provides for this separate agreement to be reached to facilitate cooperation on competition matters between the UK's and EU's competition authorities.

The text as agreed by the Parties must now pass through respective UK and EU internal procedures, before it can be formally signed. Should the agreement be signed, it will be formally laid before Parliament for scrutiny under the provisions of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG). We expect this to take place in 2025.

Our officials are also available to provide a briefing to the clerks of your Committee at any point, should that be helpful.

We have written in similar terms to Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP, Chair of the Business and Trade Committee and Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee. We have also copied this letter to Rt Hon. Emily Thornberry MP, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Madders', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**Justin Madders MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
(Minister for Employment Rights, Competition and Markets)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Thomas-Symonds', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
HM Paymaster General**