



Foreign, Commonwealth
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Angus MacNeil MP
Chair, International Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear Angus

As you are aware, the Government has been working to secure continuity of the effects of EU trade agreements, which ceased to apply to the UK at the end of the transition period.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office leads on sixteen Association Agreements, which cover political, cooperation and trading relations, and fall within the Government's Trade Agreements Continuity programme. I am writing to inform you that our Ambassador in Tirana signed the UK-Albania Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement on 5th February. This agreement replicates as closely as possible the effects of the EU-Albania Agreement. The Agreement provides a framework for continued cooperation in foreign, security and political matters, while also securing continued preferential trade between the UK and Albania.

The agreement will now be subject to ratification, and we will therefore lay the agreement in Parliament for scrutiny in accordance with the requirements of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act as soon as possible. As Albania is unable to provisionally apply the Agreement, trade with them will take place on WTO terms until they can complete their own ratification process.

We have kept the Devolved Administrations, Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories updated on the progress of discussions and have shared a copy of the agreed in principle text with them.

I will keep you updated as further continuity trade agreements are signed.

I am copying this to the Chairs of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the House of Lords EU International Agreements Sub-Committee.

Yours sincerely
Wendy Morton

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