



HOUSE OF LORDS

International Agreements Committee

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 4840
Fax: 020 7219 6715
hlintagreements@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel Kt
Minister for Investment
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

5 February 2021

Environment, climate and international trade

Dear Gerry,

I am writing to you following the evidence session we held on 20 January on environment, climate and international trade, at which expert witnesses raised a number of important questions.

Our evidence session explored the ways in which environment, climate and trade policies interact and can conflict or complement each other. The Government has indicated that it is seeking to be a global leader in both international trade and climate change mitigation, and has set ambitious goals, including its 2050 net-zero emissions target. However, witnesses pointed out that the UK does not yet have an overall strategy on integrating environmental and climate ambitions into its trade policy. As the UK plans to enter into trade negotiations with countries with higher carbon emissions or lower environmental and climate goals, it is important that the UK's own commitments are not undermined. This will become particularly relevant as we begin our negotiations with the members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Partnership for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), many of which have lower climate and environmental ambitions. We would be grateful, therefore, for answers to the following questions:

- Could you tell us whether the Department for International Trade (DIT) has a comprehensive strategy for integrating climate and environmental objectives into the UK's trade agreements and if so, when it will make its strategy public?
- What is the DIT's approach to negotiating trade agreements with countries that do not have net-zero emissions targets, have not signed the Paris Agreement or do not uphold it? Can the Government ensure that our domestic regulations will not be undermined in these cases, and what are the plans to achieve that?
- Could you also tell us what approach the Government plans to take with regards to the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS)? In particular, given that one of the key pillars of ACCTS is the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies, does the Government propose to review the UK's domestic fossil fuel subsidies?

- Will the Government engage in negotiations of the Environmental Goods Agreement at the WTO?
- To what extent has the Government explored opportunities for trade with developing countries in environmental goods and services?

I am sure you will agree that these are important matters. Therefore, we would be grateful for a response to this letter within 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, Chair of the Commons International Trade Committee; the Minister for Trade Policy, the Rt Hon Greg Hands MP; and the Minister for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena MP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lord Goldsmith', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon the Lord Goldsmith QC
Chair of the House of Lords International Agreements Committee