



Business and Trade Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP,
Secretary of State for Business & Trade,
Department for Business and Trade, Old Admiralty Building,
Admiralty Place, Whitehall,
London

[by e-mail]

9 July 2025

Dear Jonathan,

US–UK Economic Prosperity Deal: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Thank you for your letter of 26th June updating the Committee on the Government's progress in implementing the General Terms of the Economic Prosperity Deal (EPD). We recognise the significance of the EPD for UK industry, and we welcome the pace of progress.

Tariff Rate and Quota Implementation

The Committee notes the Government's plan to introduce a statutory instrument to give effect to the preferential Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) for US beef and ethanol imports, with implementation due on 30 June. We note that the instrument will come into force before the usual 21-day convention for negative procedure instruments has expired. While we understand the Government's view that swift action is in the public interest, this nonetheless represents a clear breach of an important Parliamentary scrutiny convention. We appreciate your stated commitment to continue providing updates to Parliament and to this Committee as negotiations progress.

The Committee would also be grateful for confirmation of whether other elements of the EPD will be agreed and implemented on a similarly piecemeal basis. While we understand that any finalisation depends on mutual implementation by the UK and US, I know you will want to be transparent with Parliament about your expected legislative programme. We would welcome detail on which, if any, components are expected next, what further primary or secondary legislation is likely to be required, and the enabling powers under which any statutory instruments will be made. We would also welcome clarity on how a piecemeal approach to implementation would align with your assurance that Parliament

will have the opportunity to scrutinise the full agreement as a single, coherent package once finalised.

Parliamentary Scrutiny

The Committee notes your assurance on 28 May that the General Terms of the EPD constitute “the first step towards a legally binding agreement”, and that “MPs will have the chance to scrutinise the treaty when it is agreed and presented to the House”. We agree it is vital Parliament has the opportunity to make its voice heard on this important and far-reaching deal for the UK.

To that end, the Committee requests confirmation that the Government will schedule a substantive debate in the House once the final legally binding framework has been agreed and before ratification.

We would welcome your response by 22 July and look forward to further constructive engagement on this important issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Byrne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chair of the Business and Trade Committee

CC:

The Rt Hon Lucy Powell MP
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons
Cabinet Office
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