



Department for Business & Trade

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8 December 2025

Dear Peter,

I am writing to give you and your Committee notice of the UK decision to provide the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) member states and Mozambique (SACUM) with an exemption from multilateral safeguard measures from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028.

The UK is one of the foremost champions of free, fair and inclusive trade and maximizing the benefits of trade for developing countries is an important part of the UK's International Development Strategy.

The UK has eight Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with developing countries. Common across all EPAs is a provision that allows the UK to exclude EPA partners' imports from any measures taken pursuant to Article 5 of the Agreement on Agriculture, Article XIX of the GATT and the WTO Agreement on Safeguards. These measures are often referred to as multilateral safeguards.

Following requests from SACUM partners, the UK initiated a review to consider an extension to SACUM states existing exemption from multilateral safeguards. An agreement has now been reached to grant SACUM states a new three-year exemption from multilateral safeguards starting from 1 January 2026, as the previous exemption expired during negotiations with SACUM. This exemption will apply to the UK's steel safeguard if it is reviewed before it expires in June 2026, although SACUM countries are already exempt from the steel safeguard under WTO rules as developing countries.

This decision to provide an exemption reflects the UK's commitment to uphold the development objectives of SACUM.

Along with my officials, I would be happy to answer any questions you might have on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Chris" and the surname "Bryant" clearly legible.

SIR CHRIS BRYANT MP
Minister of State for Trade
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