



Department for Business & Trade



Cabinet Office

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Secretary of State for Business and Trade
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Rt Hon Nick Thomas–Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
His Majesty's Paymaster General
70 Whitehall
London
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Lord Stirrup KG GCB AFC
Chair, European Affairs Committee
House of Lords
London
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3 March 2026

Dear Lord Stirrup,

Update on UK-EU Competition Cooperation Agreement

In November 2024, we wrote to your Committee to inform you that we had concluded technical negotiations with the European Commission on a UK-EU Competition Cooperation Agreement.

As noted in previous letters, 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. Specifically, the agreement facilitates information sharing and supports more coordinated enforcement, strengthening the authorities' ability to address cross-border competition issues. This enhanced cooperation will benefit both businesses and consumers in the UK and EU by supporting free and fair competition across both markets.

The text, as agreed by the Parties, has now passed through the respective pre-signature UK and EU internal procedures, and was formally signed on 25 February 2026 in Brussels by Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera and Secretary of State for Business and Trade.

The agreement will subsequently be formally laid before the UK Parliament for scrutiny under the provisions of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG). The agreement will then enter into force following the completion of parliamentary procedures.

Our officials are also available to provide a briefing to 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. We have also copied this letter to Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Kyle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Peter Kyle MP
Secretary of State for Business and Trade

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

Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
His Majesty's Paymaster General