



Department for
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Dear Dominic,

**PUBLICATION OF THE RESPONSE TO THE CALL FOR EVIDENCE REGARDING UK
ACCESSION TO THE REGIONAL CONVENTION ON PAN-EURO MEDITERRANEAN
PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN (PEM)**

I am writing to inform you that DBT's response to the call for evidence on the UK's potential accession to PEM was published today.

As you know, the Pan-Euro Mediterranean Convention on Rules of Origin (PEM) is a multilateral agreement between 25 contracting parties including the EU and its near neighbours. It establishes common rules of origin among its members to facilitate trade and support the integration of supply chains. The Trade Strategy included a commitment to engage business and PEM members on the benefits of joining PEM and the call for evidence fulfilled this commitment.

The call for evidence ran for five weeks between 17 November and 22 December. It received 66 responses and a majority of respondents indicated support for accession (52 of 66, equivalent to 79%). Respondents recognised the benefits of harmonisation and supply chain flexibility that PEM would bring. This support was tempered by a concern from many about a potential increase in the administrative burden in UK-EU trade.

The results of the call for evidence will be considered as one part of the government's ongoing policy development.

With best wishes,

Lord Stockwood of Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes
Minister for Investment
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