



Rt Hon Lord Frost CMG
Minister of State
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

The Earl of Kinnoull
Chair, European Affairs Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Our reference: MC2021/21950

Friday 26 November 2021

Dear Charles,

Touring performers and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement

1. Thank you for your letter of 18 November. As I noted in my letter of 2 November, the Department for Media, Culture, and Sport have the primary responsibility for this issue, within my overall coordinating role on TCA issues. I suggest that further correspondence is directed to that Department's Secretary of State, but I am happy on this occasion to provide a further set of answers to your questions.

Visa and work permit-free arrangements

2. With the recent addition of Spain, we have confirmed that 21 Member States offer visa and permit free routes for musicians and performers. Of these, many offer visa-free and work permit-free routes of up to 90 days, including major touring markets such as France, Germany, Italy and now Spain.
3. The Government's guidance is based on the guidance and legislation currently issued by each Member State. It makes clear that visa and work permit requirements do vary from Member State to Member State, and travellers should always check what requirements they need to fulfil. Where we are provided with new information by Member States, we will update the Government's guidance accordingly.
4. We continue to work with the sector to help them understand the rules and requirements they face - including at the recent meeting of the Touring Working Group on 17 November - and by directly sharing with them information received from Member States on an ongoing basis.

Mode 4 proposals

5. I have already given an account of the negotiations in this area last year. It may be useful to consult the UK's recent Trade Agreement with Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland, which includes the proposals on short-term business visitors we put to the EU at the end of last year. The precise text can be found in Annex XVIII, Schedule of the UK, paragraph 5(l) and 5(m).

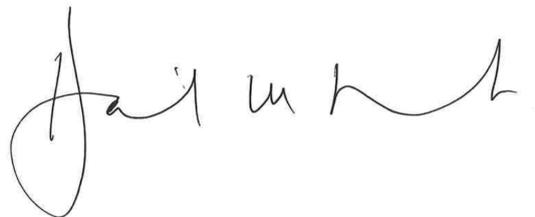
Young classical musicians

6. While the pandemic and the end of freedom of movement has had an impact on all travel for work over the last 18 months, the situation of young classical musicians does not appear to be a distinct problem from the broader issues on visas and work permits that artists are facing generally. You will be aware that we are looking to address these issues via direct engagement with Member States - an approach that has already borne fruit with Spain, our number one target.

Specialist musical haulage and cabotage rules

7. I recognise that there are real concerns in the specialist haulage sector concerning cabotage and cross-trade rules. We proposed specific proposals that would have exempted specialist hauliers from cabotage restrictions during TCA negotiations, but the Commission rejected these proposals repeatedly. Indeed, we made similar arguments when we were within the Single Market, but Member States were against opening up their domestic cabotage markets. The Department for Transport has recently consulted on unilateral actions the Government could undertake, and an announcement on our policy will be made in due course.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay M. Frost', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Lord Frost CMG