



Department for
International Trade

The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AH

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@trade.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
Chair
International Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

lh February 2019

Dear Angus,

As you are aware from previous undertakings provided to Parliament, the Government is working to secure continuity for the effects of EU trade agreements when we leave the EU. I am writing to inform you that earlier this week I signed a trade agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Swiss Confederation.

The UK-Switzerland Trade Agreement reproduces, as closely as possible, the effects of the existing trade agreements between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation. It also lays the groundwork for future UK-Switzerland trade relations. The agreement text will be laid in Parliament with an accompanying Explanatory Memorandum as part of the UK's established treaty ratification process – as set out in the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010. In addition, the Government will publish a report which will detail any significant differences from the original EU-Switzerland free trade agreements.

Given the complex bilateral arrangements between Switzerland and the EU, there is no single comprehensive trade agreement to transition with Switzerland. As such, we have identified the main trade related agreements which we are transitioning under a single 'umbrella' UK-Switzerland Trade Agreement. As with the existing EU agreements, this is a goods only arrangement covering preferential tariffs and quotas, rules of origin, government procurement, market access and the protection of geographical indications.

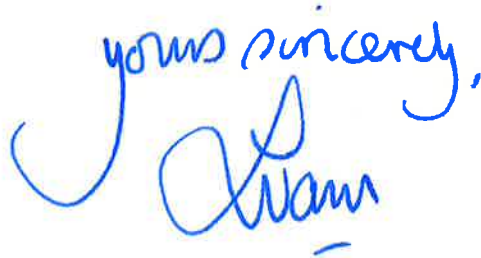
The UK-Switzerland Trade Agreement references the following EU-Switzerland agreements, replicating their effects to the extent possible and without prejudice:

- (a) *Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters of 21st July 1972 between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community concerning certain agricultural and fishery products, as subsequently adapted by the further Agreements of 5th February 1981, 14th July 1986 and 18th January 1996 (“the Fisheries and Agriculture Exchanges of Letters”);*
- (b) *Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation, done at Brussels on 22nd July 1972 (“the Free Trade Agreement”);*
- (c) *Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on certain aspects of government procurement, done at Luxembourg on 21st June 1999 (“the Procurement Agreement”);*
- (d) *Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment, done at Luxembourg on 21st June 1999 (“the Mutual Recognition Agreement”);*
- (e) *Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products, done at Luxembourg on 21st June 1999 (“the Agriculture Agreement”);*
- (f) *Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the Community and each of the EFTA countries that grants tariff preferences under the GSP (Norway and Switzerland), providing that goods originating in Norway or Switzerland shall be treated on their arrival in the customs territory of the Community as goods with content of Community origin (reciprocal agreement), done at Brussels on 14th December 2000 (“the GSP Exchanges of Letters”);*
- (g) *Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and its Member States and the Swiss Confederation to combat fraud and any other illegal activity to the detriment of their financial interests, done at Luxembourg on 26th October 2004 (“the Anti-Fraud Agreement”); and*
- (h) *Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the simplification of inspections and formalities in respect of the carriage of goods and on customs security measures, done at Brussels on 25th June 2009 (“the Customs Security Agreement”).*

I would like to emphasise that this trade agreement does not include provisions on free movement of people, currently provided for under the Free Movement of Persons Agreement (FMOPA) between the EU and Switzerland. To safeguard citizens once FMOPA no longer applies to the UK, the Government has, separately, come to an agreement with Switzerland on citizens' rights. The Swiss Citizens' Rights Agreement protects the rights of Swiss nationals living in the UK and UK nationals living in Switzerland and broadly mirrors the citizens' rights deal we reached with the EU. This work has been led by my colleagues in the Department for Exiting the European Union.

We have also signed an additional UK-Switzerland-Liechtenstein agreement. The Principality of Liechtenstein is part of the Swiss customs territory and the EU and Switzerland extended certain provisions of the Free Trade Agreement and the Agriculture Agreement to Liechtenstein. In order to deliver continuity, to the extent possible, in the UK's trade relations with Liechtenstein, we have transitioned the main trade provisions and protocols to Liechtenstein through a trilateral agreement.

These agreements will serve as the basis for economic and trade relations between Switzerland, Liechtenstein and the United Kingdom. We will update you in due course as we sign further continuity trade agreements.

yours sincerely,


THE RT HON DR LIAM FOX MP
Secretary of State, Department for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade