Follow-up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution on the implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

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2. **References:** 2024/2108(INI) / A10-0226/2025 / P10_TA(2025)0307

3. **Date of adoption of the resolution:** 27 November 2025

4. **Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on International Trade (INTA) and Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)

5. **Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

The European Parliament underlines that the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) is one of the most ambitious and comprehensive trade agreements the European Union (EU) has concluded with a non-EU country.

In its resolution, the European Parliament recalls that the EU-United Kingdom (UK) relationship is based on full respect for, and the full, timely and faithful implementation of, the Withdrawal Agreement, including the Windsor Framework, and of the TCA.

The resolution also covers aspects relating to the Withdrawal Agreement, including citizens' rights and the Windsor Framework calling for implementation of all its components.

The European Parliament welcomes the fact that the implementation of the TCA is progressing smoothly and that all commitments planned for 2023 and 2024 are completed or are on track. The European Parliament finds that the first EU-UK Summit in May 2025 (the Summit) was an important step in revitalising and deepening the partnership between the EU and UK and encourages both sides to build on the Summit's renewed political momentum to achieve tangible progress.

The European Parliament stresses the need for the EU and UK to closely monitor the implementation of the provisions of the undertakings set out in the Common Understanding.

6. **Response to requests and overview of actions taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

On the specific requests addressed to the Commission, the Commission's position is the following:

On paragraph 8, the Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of the TCA through the appropriate joint bodies established under that agreement. In 2025, 39 meetings of the joint bodies and joint structures of the TCA across all policy areas covered by the agreement took place. The Commission keeps the European Parliament informed of the ongoing work of the bodies and structures established in the TCA.

On paragraph 9, the Commission remains committed to the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement, including the Windsor Framework. This implementation has significantly progressed since 2023, across areas, with special arrangements in place on agri-foods, customs, medicines, VAT and excise, etc. The Framework relies on a careful balance of flexibilities for the benefit of people and businesses in Northern Ireland on the one side, and safeguards for the protection of the EU Single Market, while continuing the avoidance of a hard border on the island of Ireland, on the other side. While progress has been made on the implementation of safeguards for the protection of the EU Single Market, more work needs to be done by the UK for their full delivery. This important work continues within all the structures of the Withdrawal Agreement to ensure that the commitment to the full, timely and faithful implementation of the Windsor Framework is translated into reality.

On paragraph 10, the European Union continues to support the hard-earned gains of the Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement. As regards the recommendation of a representative for Northern Ireland, the Commission recalls that the European Union is represented vis-à-vis the United Kingdom for all matters under the Withdrawal Agreement, including the Windsor Framework, by the EU Co-chair of the Joint Committee of the Withdrawal Agreement. Commissioner Šefčovič, in charge of relations with the UK in the Commission, is the EU co-chair of the Committee. Moreover, structures and processes within the implementation of the Windsor Framework are in place to ensure that the voices of Northern Ireland stakeholders are heard and taken into account on matters relating to the Windsor Framework, including structured dialogue, annual Commission Work Programme seminars for Northern Ireland and public consultations.

On paragraphs 12, 25 and 29, in respect of customs, the Commission considers that the cooperation mechanisms foreseen under the TCA are up to task. Cooperation on customs matters takes place in the appropriate fora established under the TCA, in particular the TSC on Customs Cooperation and Rules of Origin, with a view of implementing the relevant provision of the TCA. All available facilitations under relevant EU law are available to operators trading between the United Kingdom and the EU. The Commission constantly reviews customs legislation and its implementation to make sure it is best adapted to current challenges.

On paragraphs 12 and 30, in respect of mutual recognition, pursuant to Article 93(5) TCA the EU and the UK accept a supplier's declaration of conformity (SDoC) as proof of compliance with technical regulations for product categories where they used SDoC on the date of entry into force of the TCA. This means that a significant part of industrial products can be traded between the EU and UK without the need to be certified by a third party, making mutual recognition arrangements unnecessary. In addition, the EU's CE marking is recognised by the UK for many product categories where third-party certification is required.

On paragraphs 18, **21** and **185,** in line with Article 218(10) Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), the Commission ensures that the European Parliament is immediately and fully informed of the activities of the Partnership Council, the Trade Partnership Committee, the Trade Specialised Committees (TSCs) and the other Specialised Committees established by the TCA, subject to the necessary arrangements in order to preserve confidentiality. In particular, the Commission engages with the European Parliament through updates on EU-United Kingdom relations, debriefings of specialised committees, preparation of the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) meetings and annual reports on the implementation of the TCA.

On paragraph 19, the Commission welcomes the resumption of the meetings of the PPA and notes that Commissioner Šefčovič, as EU co-chair of the Partnership Council, considers and responds to the recommendations of the PPA.

On paragraph 20, in line with Articles 13, 14 and 409 TCA, the Commission recognises the valuable contributions of the civil society in enhancing EU trade policy-making. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) plays a crucial role in fostering a collaborative agenda and facilitating civil society involvement through the Domestic Advisory Group (DAG) and the Civil Society Forum (CSF). The DAG has a wide scope, advising the Commission on the full implementation of the TCA. In the continued collaboration with the EESC, the Commission is thus dedicated to supporting the work of the DAG and the CSF. The Commission has so far attended 17 DAG meetings (most recently on 16 January 2026) and four CSFs (most recently on 24 June 2025).

On paragraph 23, the Commission is in agreement that a free trade agreement cannot replicate the advantages of Union membership in terms of access to the EU single market and to the Customs Union. The Commission also agrees with the Parliament's resolution that the TCA can be used as a framework for deepening cooperation in areas of mutual interest, and indeed, the Commission and the UK have done so in the form of the Common Understanding which set out shared objectives for furthering cooperation.

On paragraph 31, negotiations with the UK have begun with the aim to establish a common sanitary and phytosanitary area with common quality standards, in line with the Council's decision of 17 November 2025 authorising the opening of negotiations and the corresponding negotiation directives. Those negotiations are ongoing and both parties aim to conclude negotiations by the time of the next Summit.

On paragraph 32, the EU and the UK are like-minded and are working closely together on a deep and comprehensive reform of the WTO in the run-up to the 14th Ministerial Conference in March 2026 in Cameroon. The Commission has proposed several new initiatives to strengthen the EU's economic security and boost competitiveness. One of the key actions is to strengthen international cooperation with trusted partners, promoting common economic security standards and addressing key challenges together. The Commission takes note of the trade agreements of third countries, like the UK, with other partners. In case of concrete infringements of the TCA provisions, the Commission will take action as appropriate.

On paragraphs 34 and 35, in regard to the mutual recognition of professional qualifications, the TCA provides for a mechanism under which professionals, through their representative organisations, may seize the Partnership Council with their recommendation to conclude a mutual recognition agreement. So far, only the architect profession has decided to take advantage of this industry-driven mechanism. While the Commission remains open to concluding such arrangements with the UK, they must be balanced and in the mutual interest, so as to lead to a favourable climate for the development of trade between the EU and the UK. The UK and the Commission committed in the Common Understanding to continue dialogue on the implementation of the TCA as regards the entry and temporary stay for natural persons for business purposes, including the UK sponsorship scheme and the recognition of professional qualifications.

On paragraph 39, the Commission is in agreement about the greater need of international bilateral and multilateral cooperation in relation to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and recalls the key role that standardisation plays in the EU’s AI Act. The Commission also shares Parliament's regret about the UK’s refusal to sign the Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet at the international AI Action Summit in Paris on 11 February 2025. The AI Act addresses potential risks to the health, safety, and fundamental rights of citizens while supporting the development of innovative and responsible AI in the EU.

The Commission recalls that the UK government announced an Artificial Intelligence Bill in 2024, which still has not been tabled, and underlines the benefits that such legislation could provide in relation to the increasing number of instances where AI is found to be in contradiction with safety and fundamental rights of people and businesses. The Commission also recalls that it has launched a number of initiatives to support European start-ups and SMEs and researchers in the development of trustworthy AI such as e.g. the ApplyAI Strategy and the European AI in Science Strategy. Another essential element in creating this AI ecosystem is the EU’s AI Factories and Gigafactories which represent the world’s largest public-private partnership for the development of trustworthy AI. Following the UK becoming a member in 2024, EuroHPC announced the creation of a UK AI Factory Antenna in October 2025 linked to the HammerHAI Factory in Germany.

On paragraph 41, the annual Trade Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital Trade includes a full section on Digital Trade, where both Parties exchange on legal developments and policy.

On paragraphs 41, 42 and 43, the Commission recalls that, on 19 December 2025, it renewed the two 2021 adequacy decisions that govern the free flow of personal data with the UK. The decisions are adopted under the General Data Protection Regulation and under the Law Enforcement Directive. The renewal of the decisions ensures that, until 2031, personal data can continue flowing freely and safely between the EEA and the UK, to the benefit of businesses and citizens on both sides of the Channel. The renewal of the decisions reflects the Commission’s assessment that the UK’s legal framework continues to provide robust safeguards for personal data that remain closely aligned with EU standards. As with other third countries, the Commission will monitor the conditions under which onward data transfers are carried out and how individual rights are exercised in the UK. Where an adequate level of protection is no longer ensured, the Commission may suspend, repeal or amend the decisions.

On paragraph 44, the Commission shares the European Parliament’s recommendation and calls for further dialogue in order to ensure that shared values and interests around the role of tech in society are protected under the EU’s and the UK’s respective digital rulebooks. The Commission works to enhance technical information sharing with the UK, including under the administrative arrangement of 30 April 2024 with the UK’s Office of Communications (Ofcom). The Commission is working to deepen this collaboration by establishing a trilateral cooperation group on age assurance to advance child safety online including both Ofcom and the Australian eSafety Commissioner. It was agreed on 7 November 2025 to set up a trilateral technical cooperation group on age assurance to advance child safety online which will explore, among other topics, the interoperability of age assurance solutions as well as broader technological developments and consider best practices for the evaluation of age assurance deployments and their robustness.

On paragraphs 45 and 261, the Commission shares the European Parliament’s view that both the EU and the UK face a complex threat landscape in a challenging geopolitical context, including cyber espionage, ransomware, hybrid incidents affecting submarine data cable infrastructures, or attacks on election processes. The Commission recalls that cyber cooperation forms an integral part of the TCA. In this context, the Commission underlines that, on 9 and 10 December 2025, the EU and the UK held their third Cyber Dialogue, during which both partners shared updates on policy and regulatory developments, as well as on mechanisms for cybersecurity crisis coordination. Discussions also covered efforts to counter cybercrime, including ransomware, a malicious attack that locks data and demands payment to unlock it.

On paragraph 46, the Commission notes that EU legislation ensures that EU consumers are adequately informed about the conditions and applicable charges for the use of roaming services. Telecom operators in the EU and in the UK remain free to set rates for roaming services in the bilateral context.

On paragraphs 49, 51, 52, 55, the Commission monitors the compliance of the UK with their obligations under the TCA, in the level playing field area. These issues are regularly raised with the UK under the joint bodies of the TCA. The key findings of this work are presented by the Commission in its annual report on the implementation of the TCA.

On paragraphs 57, 79, 80 relating to the purview of the Joint Financial Regulatory Forum (the Forum)**,** the Commission considers that the Forum offers appropriate opportunities to structure technical discussions and appropriate information exchange on EU and UK regulatory and supervisory frameworks, while preserving both sides' autonomy, as envisaged under the Joint Declaration on the basis of which the Forum is organised. The Commission informs the ECON Committee secretariat on a regular basis before and after each Forum of the preparations for and the outcomes of the Forum meetings, noting that such meetings are of a technical nature and of purely informative purpose since the Forum is not and should not become a policy-setting body.

The Commission notes the importance of close engagement with like-minded partners in international fora and is committed to promoting adherence to international standards, in particular in those areas where collaborative efforts at a global level are required to protect financial stability and the orderly functioning of markets. The Commission is committed to ensuring the implementation of Basel III standards and continues to monitor implementation of standards in major non-EU jurisdictions.

On paragraphs 59 to 62, the Commission takes note of the elements regarding financial services, and equivalence decisions in particular. The Commission is committed to promoting open, fair and efficient financial markets that operate within rigorous prudential and conduct frameworks. As underlined under paragraph 62, the Commission is closely monitoring regulatory developments in the UK, *inter alia* following declarations by UK authorities calling for divergence from EU rules in that matter. It is in this context that the Commission recalls that equivalence decisions are unilateral and discretionary acts of the EU, taken where there is a clear Union interest. It is the Commission's responsibility to ensure that – whenever a new decision to rely on third country rules or supervision is considered – the prospective benefits do not come at excessive risk to the EU financial markets and that they can be introduced in a prudentially sound way that respects the level-playing field.

On paragraph 63, the Commission supports coordination of regulatory and supervisory approaches in the area of crypto assets. In particular, the Commission calls for swift implementation of the Financial Stability Board (FSB) recommendations on crypto and global stablecoin as well as for bilateral cooperation.

On paragraph 71, the Commission recalls that the annual review of the VAT Protocol is performed via the annual meeting of the TSC on Administrative Cooperation to combat VAT fraud and the recovery of indirect taxes. The TSC discusses the implementation of the Protocol, existing and emerging fraud patterns and the effectiveness of administrative cooperation to counter them. The Protocol sets out all necessary tools to conduct administrative cooperation including for recovery.

On paragraph 74, on addressing overreliance on third country CCPs, it should be noted that, on the one hand, amendments to the European Market Infrastructure Regulation as adopted in December 2024 “EMIR 3.0”) aim, inter alia, to address the over reliance on systemically important services provided by third-country central counterparties (CCPs) by introducing an active account requirement. The obligation for the most active financial counterparties to clear a significant number of transactions in EU CCPs (“active account requirement”) kicked in on 25 June 2025. On the other hand, for the EU, the most significant third-country CCPs are those located in the UK. They can still be accessed by EU market participants only thanks to an implementing decision recognising the equivalence of the UK legal and supervisory framework with that of the EU. Not extending this equivalence decision – which was set to expire in June 2025 – would have put EU financial stability at risk. In addition, the Commission recalls that the active account requirement is linked to the possibility for EU market participants to access UK CCPs. EMIR 3 includes a review clause for the Commission to assess whether stronger measures are needed to ensure a long-term stable reduction in the over reliance on UK CCPs.

On paragraph 76, the Commission has proposed to revise the Regulation on Pan-European Personal Pension Regulation (20 November 2025) and adopted the Market integration package (proposals to facilitate cross-border activities of depositaries, trading venues; simplification of regulation of distributed ledger technologies and more generally streamlining rules and centralising supervision) on 4 December 2025 in the context of the Savings and Investments Union Strategy, adopted in March 2025. These are key proposals to improve the way the EU financial system mobilises savings into productive investments and boosts economic growth and competitiveness in the EU. The Commission is aware that the UK faces similar challenges and that it has published its own Financial Services Growth and Competitiveness Strategy.

On paragraph 82, the Commission recalls its 2023 report on the adequacy of the Regulation on money market funds (MMF Regulation) from a prudential and economic point of view, which concluded that EU MMFs successfully endured market stresses, demonstrating the robustness of the EU MMF framework, but also acknowledged that certain areas required further assessment. The Commission shares the goal of ensuring that EU MMFs remain resilient but, taking into account the above findings, considers that options other than revising the MMF Regulation could be explored.

On paragraphs 84 and 85, the EU small and medium-sized enterprises contact points have been designated as provided for under the small and medium-sized enterprises Title of the TCA and carry out their functions as appropriate. Furthermore, the EU has fully implemented the information sharing commitments by providing updated information on how to access and trade on the EU market.

On paragraph 91, the Commission refers to its reply to paragraph 20. Furthermore, the Commission recalls that, in their tasks related to the implementation, monitoring and advisory processes related to trade and sustainable development commitments under the TCA, the economic and civil society stakeholders have been granted the widest possible scope as they oversee the entirety of the TCA. The Commission confirms that it has relied upon their advice throughout.

On paragraphs 97 and 130 relating to an agreement to link the Union and UK's emission trading systems (ETS), the Commission has received an authorisation from Council to negotiate such an agreement. Those negotiations are ongoing and both parties aim to conclude negotiations by the time of the next Summit. This agreement would allow for goods originating from the UK to be exempted from EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), and vice-versa. The CBAM Regulation does not foresee the possibility to exempt a third country unless an agreement fully linking its ETS with the EU ETS has been concluded.

On paragraph 99, the Commission has on 22 December 2025 adopted a recommendation to the Council to authorise the opening of the negotiations on the United Kingdom's participation in the EU's electricity market and a request for a financial contribution of the United Kingdom towards reducing economic and social disparities between the regions of the Union. Additionally, the Commission and the UK continue technical regulatory exchanges on new energy technologies, such as hydrogen, carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and biomethane.

On paragraph 105, in the EU, the European Medicines Agency is responsible for coordinating the EU-wide medicines safety monitoring. The Agency is actively involved in international collaboration on pharmacovigilance within the World Health Organisation, in particular on global initiatives, risk detection and risk communication.

On paragraph 107, the EU framework for medical devices and in vitro diagnostics is under review including the proposal of an amendment to the EU Artificial Intelligence Act with a view to simplifying the applicable regulatory framework. The Commission closely cooperates with the other medical device regulatory authorities, including the UK, in the framework of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum, among other things in the field of artificial intelligence and medical device software.

On paragraph 108, the Common Understanding agreed at the Summit paves the way to explore the potential for enhancing bilateral cooperation on health security within the framework of the TCA and for regular exchanges at all levels in appropriate fora with a view to protecting public health.

On paragraph 112, pursuant to Article 9(1)(c) TCA, the Working Group on Medicinal Products has been established and is fully operational. Medical devices fall outside the scope of this group's responsibilities, as they are not specifically addressed in the TCA.

On paragraph 119, the Commission's focus is on delivering the actions outlined in its '*Communication on actions to better prevent and mitigate critical medicine shortage*s,' adopted in October 2023, outlining a strategy to boost EU medicine supply chain resilience, focusing on critical medicines via actions such as creating a Union list; launching the Critical Medicines Alliance; strengthening monitoring; and a proposed pharmaceutical reform with incentives for continuous supply, aiming for a coordinated EU approach. The UK is among a number of third countries participating in the Critical Medicines Alliance and takes part in discussions on critical medicines supply, shortages and resilience.

On paragraph 122, in respect of product safety, the EU and the UK, in line with Article 96(4) of the TCA, are working towards regular information exchange between the EU's Safety Gate system and the UK's market surveillance and product safety database.

On paragraph 123, given the existing tools to help prevent and solve problems, a consumer protection agreement under Regulation 2017/2394 is not envisaged.

On paragraph 128, and as outlined in responses to paragraphs 97, 99 and 130, the Commission is seeking an authorisation from Council to negotiate an agreement allowing for the participation of the UK into the Union's internal electricity market. Such an agreement would be based on the dynamic alignment of the UK with the EU acquis. Furthermore, the EU and UK are already engaging in the negotiation of an ETS linking agreement. Financial contributions to be provided by the UK will form part of those negotiations and the European Parliament will be informed as and when appropriate.

In respect of nuclear energy, we recall that Euratom and the UK are already bound by an agreement for cooperation on the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

On paragraphs 134 and 135, the negotiation of an electricity agreement, containing provisions on the promotion of renewables, would allow for increased cooperation of the Union and the UK on renewable energy. Such an agreement, containing provisions on the promotion of renewables, would allow the strengthening of regional cooperation on offshore grid planning and critical energy infrastructure development with the UK.

On paragraph 142, the Commission considers that the TCA is functioning well in the area of transport and responds well to the needs of the Union.

On paragraph 144, the Commission and the UK authorities are already in close contact and in a position to exchange information in case of major disruptions affecting road transport services. The institution of a formal joint rapid alert mechanism, as suggested, would require a change of the TCA.

On paragraph 154, the recommendation for a review of the Air Services Regulation relates to internal policy deliberations and procedures of the Union, which are independent of the TCA.

On paragraph 157, possible cooperation between the Union and the UK in the area of facilitating cross-border exchange of information and mutual assistance on road-safety-related traffic offences would need to be properly assessed, including as regards the foreseen road safety benefits, and should possibly materialise only once the Union's own legal framework, as revised by Directive (EU) 2024/3237, is applied by Member States in its entirety, which is not before 20 July 2029.

On paragraph 159, the Commission already closely monitors potential shifts in maritime traffic, including towards UK ports, in the context of the EU ETS maritime extension. A first report was issued in March 2025 and the next one is planned by the end of 2026. The EU ETS Directive includes a specific measure to address the risk of evasion and circumvention, which applies to neighbouring non-EU container transhipment ports. Those ports are defined as non-EU port located within 300 nautical miles, whose container transhipment share exceeds 65% during the most recent twelve-month period, and whose country does not apply measures equivalent to the EU ETS. Presently, the anti-evasion measure does not apply to UK ports, since none met these cumulative criteria.

The Commission has received an authorisation to negotiate an agreement to link the Union and UK's ETS. The scope of the agreement as foreseen in the Common Understanding should cover domestic and international maritime transport. If concluded, such a linking would ensure a regulatory level playing field that should address the potential risk of evasion that may arise due to different emissions trading regimes applicable to neighbouring EU and UK ports.

The Commission will continue to follow developments closely and if appropriate, the Commission will propose measure to ensure the effective implementation of the system.

On paragraphs 169 and 170, the existing conditions provide certainty to the French fishing fleet operating in Jersey's waters. Since 1

February 2023 French vessels licenced in Jersey and Guernsey are subject to "extent and nature” conditions, defining the type and amount of fishing activity that they can undertake in accordance with Article 502 of the TCA. Likewise, the eight Jersey vessels with access to French territorial waters are also subject to “extent and nature” conditions.

The agreement allows all fishing vessels with a history of fishing activity in Jersey’s waters to continue operating with their current power. In addition, a “global ceiling” allows for some further increase for all the fishing fleet currently operating in the area. The agreement also provided for nine “special cases” vessels, which were replaced when discussions were ongoing, allowing them to continue fishing even though the original vessels had less capacity.

Further, on **paragraphs 169, 170 and 182**, the Commission is committed to the implementation and application of the Fisheries provisions of the TCA, and closely monitors and assesses, together with Member States, all UK measures for their compliance with the TCA. The Commission maintains a regular dialogue with the UK authorities on fisheries management measures that may affect EU vessels, in order to ensure transparency, predictability and consistency with the provisions of the TCA, and regularly involves Member States and stakeholder in such discussions as well as UK consultations on fisheries management measures.

On paragraph 172, the Commission welcomes coordination among Member States, including the regional groups, to ensure the sustainable management of our shared fishery resources, in line with the institutional balance and the principles set out in the Common Fisheries Policy and the European Union Treaties.

On paragraphs 173 to 174, reciprocal full access to waters until 2038 has been agreed between the EU and UK in June 2025, following the Summit. These arrangements ensure long-term stability and predictability for the sector.

On paragraph 185, agendas and minutes of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries are published as soon as agreed between the Parties. The Commission remains fully committed to ensuring the highest level of transparency vis-à-vis the European Parliament, which is kept regularly informed as outlined above in response to paragraphs 18, 21 and 185, respecting the institutional balance in the Treaties.

On paragraph 191, in respect of the Channel Islands, informal regional dialogue involving the stakeholders is already taking place.

On paragraph 196, the TCA does not foresee establishing a contact point with the suggested role on workers’ rights. The TCA includes a "non-regression" principle designed to prevent both parties from lowering their existing levels of labour and social protection in a manner that affects trade or investment. Both the EU and the UK are committed to not reducing labour and social levels of protection below the levels in place at the end of the transition period (31 December 2020). The TSC on Level Playing Field for Open and Fair Competition and Sustainable Development is the body responsible for monitoring the Level Playing Field provisions regarding labour and social levels of protection within the TCA.

On paragraphs 200 and 202, there is no inconsistency between the financial provisions in the TCA and in the Protocols. Protocol I sets out detailed rules on the automatic correction mechanism, in line with and complementing the provisions in the TCA.

On paragraphs 204, 216 and 217 the European Parliament has been fully involved in the adoption of the regulations establishing the Union programmes, which establish whether third countries can participate in the programme and the conditions for such participation. In addition, the Commission has regularly informed the European Parliament about all requests for association, exploratory talks and association negotiations.

On Erasmus+ specifically, the Commission and UK concluded on 17 December 2025 discussions for the UK to associate to Erasmus+ for 2027. Work is ongoing to formalise this association in line with the respective procedures and legal frameworks.

On paragraph 205, given the geographical and scientific proximity, UK-based researchers benefiting from Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and European Research Council grants, many of them nationals of Member States and with close ties with their national research groups, are likely to engage in additional research and innovation projects with EU scientists and innovators, expanding the existing knowledge spillovers between both sides. However, at the moment, a detailed analysis of the impact of the UK's participation in the programmes is not yet available.

On paragraphs 218 and 219, the Creative Europe programme is open to association of third countries that express interest in participating and fulfil the conditions set in the regulation establishing the programme.

On paragraph 229, the free movement of people and services is at the heart of the EU project. The situation faced by UK touring artists is the direct consequence of the UK leaving the EU. Nonetheless, in the Common Understanding, the EU and the UK committed to continue their efforts to support travel and cultural exchange.

On paragraph 244, the Commission is committed to respect European and international law, including on fundamental rights, in any migration-related cooperation with third countries.

On paragraph 248, the only cooperation on information exchange between the UK and EU Member States provided for by the Withdrawal Agreement is on previous criminal records, which continues to be implemented overall in a satisfactory manner.

On paragraph 256, the UK and the EU share the view that it is in our mutual interest to strengthen cooperation on security and defence in the face of rising threats. We remain committed to delivering our ambitious EU-UK Security and Defence Partnership and to enhancing our cooperation on a range of areas including supporting Ukraine and crisis management, notwithstanding the fact that negotiations for the first round of procurement for the Security Action for Europe instrument ended in 2025 without an agreement.