



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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By email: bennettn@parliament.uk

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Dear Natalie,

I am writing to you in follow up to the oral question you asked on Monday 11 January, on what plans Her Majesty's Government has to support the initiative for an Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability.

Your supplementary question asked for assurance that the UK will seek to include the three measures in ACCTS in all future deals and will use its seat on the WTO to encourage the measures to be built into the WTO rules. After discussion with my officials, I wanted to offer a point of clarification on my answer.

Our free trade mandate and negotiating objectives are high level and do not specifically refer to ecolabelling measures and elimination of harmful fossil fuel subsidies. However, it remains that the Government is committed to pursuing a range of mechanisms in the design of trade and investment agreements, with the aim of securing high ambition sustainability provisions with key trading partners.

We are using trade policy to promote HMG's clean growth and climate change objectives, helping to deliver the full economic benefit of the UK's shift to a low-carbon economy. The Department for International Trade is intent on working with partner nations to progress consistent climate change objectives through our bilateral dialogues to help make the case for free and open trade in a way that supports our clean growth objectives and develops the UK's international reputation in this space. In our outline approaches to free trade agreements (FTAs) with the US, New Zealand, and Australia, we have committed to securing provisions that will help trade in low carbon goods and services, supporting R&D and innovation in sectors such as renewable energy, low-carbon advisory services, and energy from waste.

Championing the multilateral rules-based system is a UK priority. The United Kingdom has always been a strong supporter of the rules-based international system and has played an active role in support of the World Trade Organization. Working constructively with all WTO members, the UK remains committed to using its global voice to uphold the

principles of rules-based and values-driven free trade. Advancing reforms and rulemaking that complement our green agenda is a key aspect of this. The UK is already engaging with the wider WTO membership on these areas and recently joined an environment-focused dialogue (the Trade and Environment Sustainability Structured Dialogue) where we committed to exploring potential reforms further.

I would like to thank you for highlighting such an important issue through your question in the chamber.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House of Lords library.

Yours sincerely,

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

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
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