



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
Minister for Investment

Department for International Trade
Old Admiralty Building
London
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Lord Davies of Brixton
House of Lords
London
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By Email

19th November 2021

Dear Bryn,

Thank you once again for your engagement on the Professional Qualifications Bill to date, and for speaking at Third Reading on 17 November. At Third Reading, you highlighted the importance of the recognition of professional qualifications, specifically in relation to the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). You noted that the recognition of professional qualifications had not been discussed in meetings of the UK-EU Partnership Council, and I committed to write to you on this point.

The TCA sets out a number of fora for political and technical discussion, which include the Partnership Council which supervises the operation of the agreement at a political level, providing strategic direction. The Partnership Council is supported in its function by a number of other committees established under Article 8 of the TCA. These include the Trade Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital Trade ('SID Committee').

While you are correct that the recognition of professional qualifications has not been on the agenda for any meetings of the Partnership Council, I am pleased to confirm that it was discussed at the first meeting of the SID Committee on 11 October.

Specifically, the discussion focused on the practical arrangements to implement Article 158 of the TCA. Article 158 outlines a framework through which UK and EU regulators and professional bodies may agree recognition arrangements, which may then be adopted under the TCA. At the SID Committee meeting, the UK and EU acknowledged the importance of technical exchanges and expertise within this process. The EU outlined proposals for formal steps towards the adoption of recognition arrangements under the TCA. The UK took note of these proposals, noting the need for a flexible and efficient process for the adoption of recognition arrangements. The full minutes from the first meeting have been published, and are available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)¹.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/trade-specialised-committee-on-services-investment-and-digital-trade>

Since that meeting, my officials have been in contact with their counterparts at the European Commission to continue discussions, building on the discussion at the SID Committee.

I hope my response above is helpful. However, if you have any further questions or it would be helpful to meet to discuss further any of the above, I would be very happy to do so. A copy of this letter will be deposited in the libraries of the House.

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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