



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



**Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon
Minister of State (Middle East,
North Africa, South Asia and The
UN)**

**Prime Minister's Special
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Our ref:
Your ref:

16 February 2022

Dear Lord Berkeley,

Thank you for your letter of 3 February, requesting further information on the impact of cabotage restrictions on UK artists touring in the EU.

The Government recognises the cultural and economic value of the creative industries to the UK-EU relationship. I also recognise the significant changes to the way artists can tour in the EU since the end of the transition period and the implications for hauliers who transport equipment for tours and concert venues – these 'specialist events hauliers' are market leaders in Europe.

Since the end of the transition period, the Government has worked closely with industry to understand and address concerns. In July last year, we introduced 'dual registration' for eligible specialist hauliers that have bases in both Great Britain (GB) and the EU so they benefit from market access rights in both GB and the EU – without needing to swap their specialist vehicles in the middle of a tour, or having journeys limited by the international cabotage rules within each territory. So far seven specialist hauliers have registered to use the measure which goes some way to meet the challenges that the sector is facing.

The UK Government have also confirmed with the EU that 'splitter vans' - vehicles that are carrying both equipment and up to nine passengers - will not be subject to the TCA market access rules in respect of cabotage and cross-trade, news which has been welcomed by the sector.

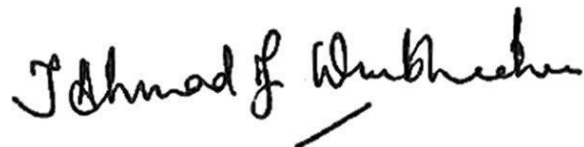
In response to your comment on Lord Frost's remarks from his speech to Europa-Institut in March 2022, the UK took an ambitious approach during negotiations with the EU. Our proposals would have ensured that touring artists and their support staff did not need work-permits to perform in the EU, and that event hauliers could move freely. These were rejected by the EU.

Our trade deal with three of the EEA-EFTA countries ensures that touring artists and their support staff do not need work permits and was based on the same offer we made to the EU.

As I said in the debate, we have also worked hard to clarify existing arrangements with Member States and the vast majority have confirmed that UK musicians and performers do not need visas or work permits for some short-term touring

A copy of this letter has been placed in the House of Lords Library as well as being issued to Viscount Stansgate and the Earl of Clancarty, both of whom raised this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON

Minister of State

Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict