2026/832

10.4.2026

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2026/832

of 30 March 2026

on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Trade Specialised Committee on Level Playing Field for Open and Fair Competition and Sustainable Development established by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, as regards the adoption of a decision to establish a list of individuals who are willing and able to serve as members of the panel of experts established under Article 409 of that Agreement

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 207(4), first subparagraph, in conjunction with Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part [1] (the 'Trade and Cooperation Agreement'), was concluded by Council Decision (EU) 2021/689 [2] and entered into force on 1 May 2021.

(2) Pursuant to Article 409(3) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the Trade Specialised Committee on Level Playing Field for Open and Fair Competition and Sustainable Development (the 'Trade Specialised Committee') established by Article 8(1), point (j), of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement is to establish a list of at least 15 individuals who are willing and able to serve as panellists on matters arising under Article 355(3) and Chapters 6, 7 and 8 of Title XI of Heading One of Part Two of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

(3) Each Party should name at least five individuals to serve as panellists. The Parties should also name at least five individuals who are not nationals of either Party and who are willing and able to serve as chairperson of a panel of experts.

(4) The Trade Specialised Committee should ensure that the list is kept up to date, and that the number of experts is maintained at a minimum of 15 individuals.

(5) In accordance with Article 409(4) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the experts proposed as panellists should have specialised knowledge or expertise in labour or environmental law, other issues addressed in the relevant Chapter or Chapters, or in the resolution of disputes arising under international agreements.

(6) In addition, the experts proposed as panellists should serve in their individual capacities and not take instructions from any organisation or government with regard to matters related to the dispute. They should not be affiliated with or take instructions from either Party and should not be persons who are members, officials or other servants of the Union institutions, of the Government of a Member State, or of the Government of the United Kingdom.

[1] OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 10, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2021/689(1)/oj.

[2] Council Decision (EU) 2021/689 of 29 April 2021 on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, and of the Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information (OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 2, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/689/oj).

(7) On the basis of the proposals of the Union and the United Kingdom, it is appropriate for the Trade Specialised Committee to agree on the two sub-lists, for the position of panellist, and on the sub-list for the position of chairperson of the panel of experts.

(8) The position of the Union within the Trade Specialised Committee should therefore be set out in the attached draft Decision,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The position to be taken on the Union's behalf within the Trade Specialised Committee on Level Playing Field for Open and Fair Competition and Sustainable Development (the 'Trade Specialised Committee') established by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part (the 'Trade and Cooperation Agreement'), as regards the adoption of a decision to establish a list of individuals who are willing and able to serve as members of the panel of experts established under Article 409 of that Agreement, is set out in the draft Decision of the Trade Specialised Committee attached to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 30 March 2026.

For the Council

The President

M. PANAYIOTOU

DRAFT

DECISION No …/2026 OF THE TRADE SPECIALISED COMMITTEE ON LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR OPEN AND FAIR COMPETITION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHED BY THE TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY, OF THE ONE PART, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, OF THE OTHER PART

of …

establishing a list of individuals who are willing and able to serve as members of a panel of experts established under Article 409 of that Agreement

THE TRADE SPECIALISED COMMITTEE ON LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR OPEN AND FAIR COMPETITION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,

Having regard to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part ([1]) (the 'Trade and Cooperation Agreement'), and in particular Article 409 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, was concluded by Council Decision (EU) 2021/689 ([2]) and entered into force on 1 May 2021.

(2) Pursuant to Article 409(3) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the Trade Specialised Committee on Level Playing Field for Open and Fair Competition and Sustainable Development (the 'Trade Specialised Committee') established by Article 8(1), point (j), of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement is to establish a list of at least 15 individuals who are willing and able to serve as members of the panel of experts on matters arising under Article 355(3) and Chapters 6, 7 and 8 of Title XI of Heading One of Part Two of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

(3) Each Party should name at least five individuals to serve as members of the panel of experts. The Parties should also name at least five individuals who are not nationals of either Party and who are willing and able to serve as chairperson of a panel of experts.

(4) The Trade Specialised Committee should ensure that the list is kept up to date and that the number of experts is maintained at a minimum of 15 individuals.

(5) In accordance with Article 409(4) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the experts proposed as panellists should have specialised knowledge or expertise in labour or environmental law, other issues addressed in the relevant Chapter or Chapters, or in the resolution of disputes arising under international agreements.

(6) In addition, the experts proposed as panellists should serve in their individual capacities and not take instructions from any organisation or government with regard to matters related to the dispute. They should not be affiliated with or take instructions from either Party and should not be persons who are members, officials or other servants of the Union institutions, of the Government of a Member State, or of the Government of the United Kingdom.

([1]) OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 10, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2021/689(1)/oj.

([2]) Council Decision (EU) 2021/689 of 29 April 2021 on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, and of the Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information (OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 2, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/689/oj).

(7) On the basis of the proposals of the Union and the United Kingdom, it is appropriate for the Trade Specialised Committee to agree on the two sub-lists for the position of panellist, and on the sub-list for the position of chairperson of the panel of experts,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The list of individuals willing and able to serve as members of a panel of experts mentioned in Article 409 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, is set out in the Annex.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at …, …

For the Trade Specialised Committee on Level Playing Field for Open and Fair Competition and Sustainable Development

The Co-chairs

ANNEX

(a) sub-list of individuals established on the basis of proposals by the Union;

Giovanna ADINOLFI

Irina BUGA

Maria GAVOUNELI

Ursula KRIEBAUM

Peter-Tobias STOLL

Geert VAN CALSTER

(b) sub-list of individuals established on the basis of proposals by the United Kingdom;

Juliet BLANCH

Hugh CHEETHAM

Kathleen CLAUSSEN

Patrick PEARSALL

Janet WHITTAKER

(c) sub-list of individuals who should serve as chairperson of the panel of experts

Ujal BHATIA

Zachary DOUGLAS

Eduardo MOTTA

Penelope RIDINGS

Thomas COTTIER

Christine KADDOUS

Anne TREBILCOCK