Question for written answer E-003503/2021

to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Recognition of Notified Bodies on UK territory after Brexit

The Notified Bodies accredited in EU Member States are currently facing a significant disadvantage on the UK market, as they are no longer recognised on UK territory after Brexit and under the new Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA).

However, the UK has Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) in place with other non-EU countries. Therefore, Notified Bodies of other non-EU countries are recognised on the UK market and vice versa, which brings an additional global disadvantage to the EU's Notified Bodies.

Furthermore, the EU included MRAs in trade agreements with other non-EU countries, such as Canada, Japan, Australia, Israel, Switzerland and the USA.

Considering that the UK proposed in its draft text for a future EU-UK relationship to negotiate an MRA with the EU, including transitional provisions to automatically recognise conformity assessment bodies that were recognised between the parties at that time and any approvals that they had already issued, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. In light of the above, why did the Commission oppose the mutual recognition provisions?

2. Is the Commission planning to negotiate an MRA with the UK in the future? If not, please specify on what grounds.