



Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
The Chair

27.5.2020

Mr David McAllister
Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs
BRUSSELS

Mr Bernd Lange
Chair
Committee on International Trade
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy on the
Recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2020/2023(INI))

Dear Chairs,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy has been asked to submit an opinion to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and to the Committee on International Trade. At its meeting of 18 February 2020, ITRE coordinators decided to send the opinion in the form of a letter and on that same date, I was appointed as rapporteur for the opinion in my capacity of the Chair of the Committee

At an in camera meeting with the Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom on 19 May 2020 ITRE coordinators considered the matter and subsequently decided on 27 May 2020 by written procedure to call on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on International Trade, as the committees responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into their motion for a resolution.

Yours sincerely,

Cristian-Silviu BUȘOI

SUGGESTIONS

1. is concerned about the fact that the respective negotiating mandates of the EU and the UK envision very different forms of a new partnership and that the negotiations so far have not sufficiently managed to narrow the gap; is furthermore concerned of the short time available to come to an agreement and that the current COVID-19 crisis has made this endeavour even more difficult;
2. expects the agreement to provide in all policy areas for a level playing field, reciprocity, non-regression and judicial oversight in order to preserve competitiveness, high social and sustainability standards and citizens' and workers' rights in the future; recalls that both parties have committed to uphold the Paris agreement;
3. believes that the agreement should establish general principles, terms and conditions for the participation of the UK in EU programmes, ensuring a fair balance as regards the contributions and benefits of the third country participating in the Union programmes; underlines that these general principles should be subject to the conditions set out in the corresponding instruments;
4. highlights however the need to finalise the next generation of MFF programmes as soon as possible in order to allow for their swift start in January 2021; insists that a conclusion of the legislative agreements should not be delayed due to the slow progress of the negotiations with the UK;
5. underlines the need to link the participation in programmes with alignment to related policies, such as on climate or cyber policies; highlights furthermore that participation in Horizon Europe or Erasmus + requires adherence to the EU rules on free movement of persons;
6. underlines that the COVID-19 crisis has shown that continued cooperation in research and innovation between the EU and the UK is vital and therefore expects the agreement to provide for general conditions for the participation of the UK in the research and innovation framework programmes, without creating any bespoke arrangements that are not available to other third-countries; expects furthermore that the modalities of the UK's participation in European R&I partnerships under Horizon 2020 which will be implemented until 2024 shall be addressed; recalls the principle that no third country should be able to obtain more financial benefit than it contributes;
7. underlines that to ensure continuity for the Single Electricity Market on the island of Ireland after the UK's withdrawal requires the continued application of the EU energy acquis in Northern Ireland;
8. is of the opinion that it is necessary to ensure common rules for offshore renewable energy and pipeline infrastructure to which UK could be a partner through commercial agreements;

9. expects the agreement to address the UK's relationship to Euratom and the ITER project and the impact of a withdrawal on assets and liabilities; expects the UK furthermore to comply with the highest nuclear safety, security and radiation protection standards;
10. considers that an agreement on energy cooperation, in line with the overall agreement on the future relations and based on a robust governance and level-playing field, would be in the mutual interest of the both parties;
11. believes that the UK could continue being a real industrial partner in strategically important sectors and expects the agreement to provide for special assistance for SMEs to take full advantage of the future partnership; underlines moreover the need for stable, reliable and sustainable value chains, in particular, but not exclusively, for medicinal products; underlines however the need to preserve a level playing field and the strategic autonomy of the European Union especially when it comes to key industries;
12. is of the opinion that the UK could continue to be an important partner in the EU space policy, underlines that the future access of the UK to the EU Space Programme needs to be addressed in the negotiations while preserving the Union's interests and in line with the applicable legal framework for participation of third countries in the EU Space Programme;
13. underlines that cooperation in the area of security and defence is beneficial to the EU and the UK and if it is to continue within the framework of the European Defence Fund or possible future initiatives, it must be based on the principles of the overall deal on the future relations;
14. expects the UK to be able to continue the established cooperation and information exchange of national authorities in the area of cybersecurity; invites the UK to actively contribute to the Union's efforts to increase cyber resilience in Europe;
15. expects the agreement to consider a participation of the United Kingdom in the Digital Europe Programme and expects that advanced cooperation in the field of Artificial Intelligence between the EU and the UK could be established; considers it furthermore beneficial for both sides to aim for the UK's regulatory alignment with regard to the Union's future single European data space and future regulatory measures in the area of AI;
16. believes it is in the interest of EU citizens for the UK to continue applying the roaming regulation and will also facilitate the cross-border movement of people on the island of Ireland; would however, in the absence of an agreement thereon, call on operators to grant equivalent conditions to both their EU and UK customers.