



2022/2188(INI)

3.5.2023

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on International Trade

on the implementation report on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (2022/2188(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Pascal Arimont

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development calls 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:

- A. whereas the impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU varies among EU regions and the impact of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) at regional and local level is still unknown;
 - B. whereas the UK's withdrawal from the EU endangers territorial and cross-border cooperation and the existing relationships between the regions and cities of the EU and the UK;
 - C. whereas the TCA fails to develop the territorial dimension of the relationship between the UK and the EU;
1. Points out that the TCA, despite its lack of a regional dimension, provides a general framework for the UK's participation in EU programmes; reiterates its call¹ to explore possibilities for the participation of parts of the UK in EU cohesion policy programmes;
 2. Believes that there is untapped potential for EU-UK subnational cooperation in areas of mutual interest, such as immigration, mobility – including of military personnel and assets, the sustainable management of the North Sea, the Channel and the Irish Sea, and climate action; stresses the need to support initiatives for bilateral and multilateral cooperation between EU and UK regions, such as the Straits Committee, possibly through a specific EU interregional cooperation fund, provided that the UK Government financially contributes to the fund;
 3. Regrets the tensions that have arisen in Northern Ireland stemming from the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol and welcomes the fact that an agreement, referred to as the Windsor Framework, has been reached to remedy the implementation issues;
 4. Welcomes the UK Government's continued commitment to the PEACE programme, which plays a key role for cooperation between Northern Ireland and the border regions of Ireland; notes the fact that the 2021-2027 PEACE PLUS programme was formally adopted by the Commission in July 2022;
 5. Underlines the importance of quantifying the effects of the TCA at regional level in order to adopt tailored measures for the most impacted regions and communities;
 6. Asks the Commission to properly involve the regional and local authorities in the process of scrutinising the implementation of the TCA; suggests that the EU and UK create a cooperation body for local and regional authorities within the framework of the TCA.

¹ European Parliament legislative resolution of 28 April 2021 on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Texts adopted P9_TA(2021)0140.

